

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Winter 2015
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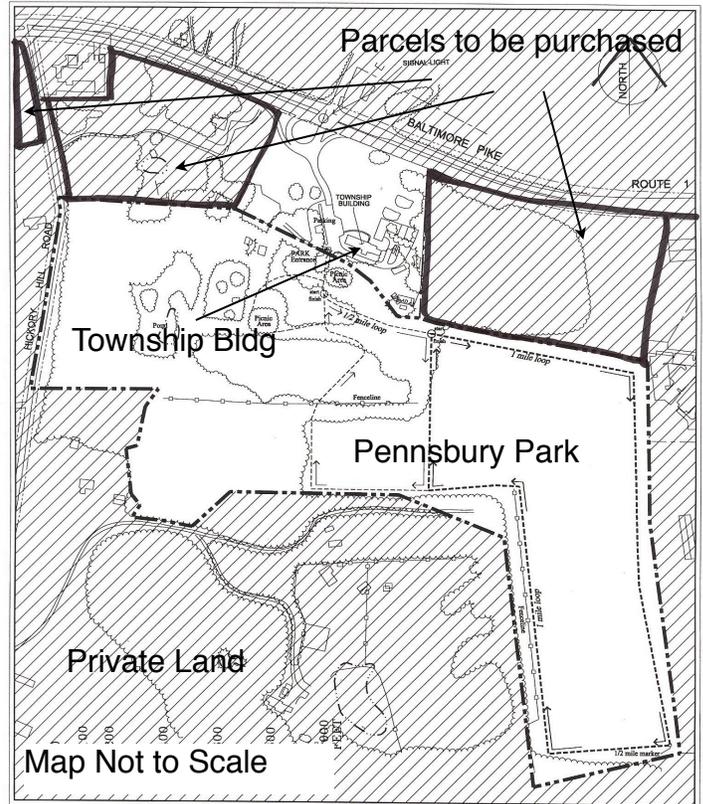
TOWNSHIP PRESERVES 23 ACRES

by The Board of Supervisors

The crowd of residents applauded when the Supervisors at their November 19 meeting approved the purchase of the so-called Pennsbury Village properties from a subsidiary of Toll brothers. The three properties, adjacent to the Township building and Park and at the corner of Hickory Hill Road and Rt. 1, consist of 23 acres. They were proposed to be developed by Pennsbury Village Associates (PVA), and subsequently Toll Brothers, with 116 dwelling units, of which 111 were to be carriage homes and five stand-alone residences.

This decision culminated a ten plus year struggle by Township residents (including residents that subsequently were elected to the current Board of Supervisors) over the appropriate use of this property. The funds for the purchase will come from the Township's open space funds (including borrowings to be serviced by the annual open space tax receipts). The properties will be conserved and not developed. Particular uses, active or passive recreation for example, will be determined in the future.

The PVA proposal, which initially included leasing of the land owned by the Township for commercial development and intensive residential development of the parcels adjacent, was first publicized over ten years ago. Many residents of the Township were opposed to the proposal (over 600 signed a petition against it). Lease of the Township parcel for commercial development by the then Board of Supervisors violated the terms of the gift of the parcel to the Township. The deed restricted use of the parcel to "public purposes". Litigation ensued. The first decision by the court was that the Township land could not be leased for commercial use because of the deed restric-



tion. The battle then shifted to the density and scope of the residential development on the adjacent parcels. Litigation was instituted by the developer against some of the new Supervisors, who had fought against the development before being elected, and several residents. The resolution of these suits delayed the development of the properties. PVA eventually went bankrupt, and the

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Recycle your Undecorated Christmas Tree at the Township Building between December 26 and January 30

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

610-388-7323

Fax 610-388-6036

email:

knowley@pennsbury.pa.us

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Monday — Thursday

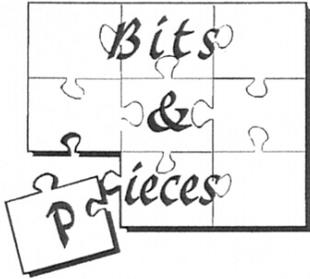
Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

SUPERVISORS

Scotty Scottoline

Wendell Fenton

Aaron McIntyre



❖ 2015 BUDGET

The Board of Supervisors passed a balanced budget of \$1,560,434 on December 9, 2014. There will be **no** tax increase for 2015. The Township tax bills for 2015 will be delivered by February 1. The Chester County tax bill will be mailed in January. The school tax bill is delivered by July 1.

The Township Open Space Tax will service the loan for the purchase of the properties on Route 1 next to the Township Building.

❖ ROADMASTER'S WINTER REMINDERS

• **DO NOT PARK ON THE STREET DURING STORMS.** If our drivers do not think they can salt, cinder or plow a street or cul-de-sac safely, they will SKIP it or plow it last if vehicles are still on the street, the Township will have them towed at the owner's expense.

• **Do not put leaves in the street or gutter.** It is dangerous for cars and impedes water run-off.

• **Trim trees and shrubs along roads.** Make sure they do not impede visibility or make passage difficult.

• **Secure your mailbox.** The Township is NOT re-

sponsible for damage to mailboxes. The box and base should be strong enough to withstand flying snow and slush from traffic and snowplows. To prevent damage, the front should be at least 12" and the supporting post at least 3' from the edge of the road.

• **Keep the right-of-way clear.** Any installation of plants, mailboxes, etc, is done at the owner's risk.

• **Do not push snow into the street.** It is in violation of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code and also it is a danger to passing motorists.

• **Main subdivisions** will be plowed first. Less populated areas next.

❖ DEAD DEER

To report road kill on Routes 1, 926 or 52 call PennDot at 484-340-3200.

To report road kill on all other roads, call the PA Game Commission at 610-926-3136.

The Township is not responsible for removing road kill

❖ WINTER FIRE SAFETY

When using alternative heat sources this winter use care to prevent a fire emergency.

• **Clean chimneys** each year before you start to use your fireplace.

• **Never put hot ashes** into the trash. Put them in a metal container, wait until cool, and then properly dispose of them.

• **Follow the manufacturers recommendations** when using a kerosene heater.

• **Never leave burning candles unattended.**

• **Be sure to monitor live decorations,** as dry trees and wreaths burn at extreme speed and heat.

• **Do not run generators indoors** or in any attached structure.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Habitat for Humanity of Chester County is looking for large household items (furniture, appliances or cabinets). Call 610-466-1890 to arrange for a pick-up. Proceeds help build affordable housing throughout the County.

Kennett Area Senior Center provides programs and services to many seniors in our area. Two benefits are free online submission of tax returns and the regularly scheduled "55 Alive" driver refresher course which qualifies for a discount on car insurance. Contact the Center at 610-444-4819

APPRISE is a state-wide program of free health insurance consultation under the auspices of the Chester Co. Dept. of Aging. Counselors can be reached through the APPRISE help line at 610-344-5004

Township Preserves 23 Acres

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property was acquired by a subsidiary of Toll Brothers via sheriff sale.

At the outset, the issues were focused on density of the proposed residential area, the appropriate location for access roads (which were proposed to cut through township property and through the maintenance building), and the location of a sewage plant and disposal sites. The Township's acquisition of the property to conserve it was not a possibility the original developer would consider. It was only after Toll Brothers had acquired the property that this alternative could be considered. The current Board of Supervisors immediately seized on the opportunity to try to acquire the properties from Toll Brothers by agreement or condemnation. Negotiations for the acquisition have taken well over a year. The Pennsbury Land Trust (PTL) is participating in the funding of the purchase. The Board of Supervisors thanks the PTL for supporting this extremely important open space protection action.

In response to a questionnaire to Township residents where maintaining the rural character of the Township was the predominant view expressed, a resident cited Pennsbury as a rural oasis between Kennett and Concord Townships. This acquisition will assure that for the future.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

The primary focus of the Planning Commission for the past three months has been the following:

- Led by Margo Leach, we completed a review of the Zoning Ordinance, Section 162-2002 - Accessory Uses, Buildings and Structures.

- We completed a review of the Land Development Plan for the property located at 1699 Fairville Road.

- Led by Lynn Luft and with helpful input from the Pennsbury Historical Commission, we completed research and review of the Village Commercial Area and Bulk Regulations.

- We reviewed two Zoning Hearing Board applications and made our recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

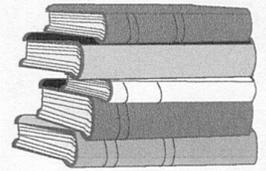
A major portion of the Planning Commission's time this year has been spent on the important project of reviewing and upgrading the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO).

In addition to Planning Commission members, the team is made up of Township Manager Kathy Howley, Township Engineer Matt Houtman, and consultant John Snook.

We are on target with our progress and expect to complete the Planning Commission's portion of the project in mid-2015.

Dennis Smith, Chair

BAYARD TAYLOR LIBRARY NEWS



I had the good fortune recently to participate in a Paris-salon type event at the lovely home of a Pennsbury resident. There were more than 20 of us in attendance, drinking wine and listening to short readings by authors including Maya Angelou and Margaret Atwood. I expected Gertrude Stein to materialize and grace the gathering. It was a lovely evening and I felt honored to be included.

At Bayard Taylor Library this winter, we have planned a broad range of events to appeal to the diverse interests in our community: from intimate gatherings reminiscent of a Paris (or Pennsbury!) Salon to foodie events to high-tech events for all ages, to a series of programs geared to keeping you on track with your resolutions for the New Year. Library programming has grown the past year with additional events and educational opportunities, a larger social media presence, and additional items available to our community, including many more eBooks, Blue Ray movies, and expanded graphic novel and large print collections.

For children, Bayard Taylor became a Family Place Library, and offered workshops, educationally appropriate toys and a play space for young children and their caregivers. Family Place Libraries support the essential role of parents as first teachers, and addresses the physical, social, emotional and cognitive aspects of child development to help build a foundation for learning during the critical first years of life. The library was awarded an \$18,000 grant for this program, which continues this winter.

Programming for children in the coming months will include a Bit & Bridle Horse Party with a guest horse trainer, books and activities; an Origami Star Wars Party; and the continuation of popular storytimes, video game club, Lego club and the Paws for Reading program.

For teens, the big development is a library-hosted Magic The Gathering casual play night every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. Meet other MTG fans and remember the last Tuesday of every month is a free draft event! Ongoing programs include Comic Book Club and a Teen Advisory Board that meets regularly to plan events, including the summer InstaCon convention.

For adults, the library had an active fall with wine tasting with an expert from Collier's of Centreville, cheese tasting with the cheese makers from The Farm at Doe Run, and a holiday cookie exchange. Coming up in January will be Tea & Tech, where anyone can learn how to operate their e-readers, tablets, cell phones and cameras while enjoying a cup of tea and a scone. Or if your resolution is to get more organized, we have a professional organizer who can help get you started!

If your resolution is to get more involved in the community, consider volunteering for the library's Adult Literacy Program, which offers one-to-one tutoring for adults, ESL classes, a citizenship class and a GED preparatory class for students hoping to take the GED test.

Check the library website or Facebook page for dates and times or to check out eBooks.

Check the library website or Facebook page for dates and times or to check out eBooks. Keep warm this winter, keep reading, and if you host a literary salon, please invite me!

Donna Murray, Director

A PENNSBURY HISTORIC BUILDING — The Parkersville Octagonal School

In about 1820, the Quakers from the old Kennett Meeting raised funds from members, and from neighbors in what is now known as Parkersville, to build and conduct a school in Parkersville. The octagonal school was built by mason, John Parker, Jr. (1786-1857), probably with the help of his nephew and apprentice, Ephraim Baily (1803-1837).

The exact location of the structure is not certain, but appears to have been at the SE corner of Street Road and Parkersville Road. The school was operated as a private one by the Quakers until the passage of a Public School Act, which turned it over to Pennsbury Township in 1837.

The 1837-1863 Pennsbury Township school board minutes of the then public school are preserved in a journal at the Chester County Historical Society. These minutes show that the salary for teachers was \$66.00 per year, increased to \$88.60 annually by 1863. There were four board members.

According to the History of Chester County, Futhey /Cope, the early school-houses were either log or stone, sometimes built in an octagonal form, and called eight-square school-houses.

The desks were placed around against the walls, and the pupils occupying them sat facing the windows. Benches without backs, for the smaller children, occupied the middle of the room. A desk for the teacher, a huge stove in the centre of the room, a bucket, and what was called the "pass" — a small paddle, with the words "in" and "out" written on its opposite sides— constituted the furniture of the building.

After the construction of a new Parkersville School in 1860, across the road from the Friends meeting house, the old octagonal school served for several years as a blacksmith shop, then as a mushroom house. Today, there is no trace of the building.

Wm. B. Parker 2014



SPRING EVENTS

Pennsbury Land Trust

Tree Care and Maintenance, March 19

Come learn about the care and maintenance of your backyard trees by attending the Pennsbury Land Trust's free presentation featuring a certified arborist at 7pm, Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the Pennsbury Township building. Attendees will learn how to care for trees that may have suffered storm damage or show signs of disease. Get ideas on what to do to protect your trees and keep them healthy.

Have a specific question related to your backyard trees or choosing a new tree? Pre-event questions will be covered during the presentation and can be submitted via email to pennsburylandtrust@gmail.com.

Native Plant Selection and Design

Pennsbury Trust Annual Meeting, April 9

The Pennsbury Land Trust annual public meeting at 7pm, Thursday, April 9, 2015, at the Pennsbury Township building, will feature a landscape designer who will provide tips on how to make your yard look great using native plants.

As the benefits of native plants become more widely recognized, more gardeners are incorporating them in their home gardens. Native plants require less care because they are ideally suited to the local environment and their role in pollination is important for locally grown produce.

The speaker will guide homeowners in selecting and designing with native plants in their yards. Attendees will be provided with a resource guide listing native plants suitable for our area and nurseries that specialize in native plants.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL PROJECTS: What a Homeowner Needs to Know

What is stormwater and why is it a problem?

Stormwater is rainfall that runs off of roofs, driveways, lawns, roads, parking lots, sidewalks, farm fields, and other surfaces created or disturbed by manmade activities. This runoff picks up pollutants (such as dirt, oil, litter, pesticides, fertilizer, etc.) as it flows across these surfaces, and eventually enters local streams. While rainfall is natural, stormwater is manmade.

Large volumes of stormwater overwhelm, erode and pollute local streams, and flood low lying areas. To lessen these destructive stormwater impacts and help ensure any existing problems do not worsen, municipalities across Chester County have adopted new stormwater management ordinance standards. These new standards are a key tool in reducing these stormwater impacts, safeguarding properties from flooding and erosion, and protecting streams and local water quality.

84% of Chester County's watersheds are sources of public drinking water.



55% of Chester County's streams are listed as "impaired" (polluted) by stormwater.

Why is stormwater management important?

The purpose of **stormwater management** is to protect property, infrastructure and streams from destructive stormwater impacts by ensuring rain can be absorbed close to where it falls, thereby reducing the volume of runoff. By controlling stormwater runoff from new impervious and disturbed surfaces on individual properties, we can:

- protect downstream properties, roads and infrastructure – from increased erosion and flooding.
- protect water quality – in our streams and reservoirs to provide clean water for drinking, businesses, farming, and swimming, and for fish and other aquatic living resources.

Without effective stormwater management, problems caused by too much runoff, erosion and pollutants (such as sediment, nutrients and bacteria) become very difficult and costly for property owners and communities to fix.

How will the updated stormwater standards help reduce these problems?

In decades past, local stormwater management was designed without regard to the cumulative impact of runoff on downstream properties and streams. To address this and the future increase in population and development across Chester County's watersheds, updated stormwater management ordinance standards were necessary to meet state and federal requirements. The updated standards require new development and redevelopment projects (large and small) to be constructed in a way that maintains or reduces the amount of stormwater that leaves the site; this will help reduce the cumulative impacts of flooding and erosion on downgradient properties and streams. It will also help keep our waters clean that serve as a critical source of public drinking water.

The best approach to minimize flooding and improve water quality is to allow rain to be absorbed close to where it falls – reducing stormwater runoff.



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 except in January and February.

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 usually meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. Locations and more info at: www.ucfsd.org

DECEMBER 2014

26 Friday — **Christmas Tree Recycling Begins** at the Township Building. Drop off undecorated trees.

JANUARY 2015

5 Monday, 7:00 pm — **Board of Supervisors Organizational Meeting** at the Township Building.

5 Monday, 7:30 pm — **Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting** at the Township Building.

6 Tuesday, 7:00 pm — **Board of Auditors Organizational Meeting** at the Township Building.

13 Tuesday, 7 pm — **Planning Commission Organizational Meeting** at the Township Building.

19 Monday, 10 am to 3 pm — **Martin Luther King Day Celebration** at the Chadds Ford Historical Society. Tours of the John Chads House (fee), free activities at the visitor center. For info, 610-388-7376 or on the web at www.chaddsfordhistory.org

30 Friday — **Christmas Tree Recycling Ends.**

FEBRUARY

7 Saturday, 5 - 8 pm — **Plein Air Exhibit Opening** at the Chadds Ford Historical Society. Works by invited artists of the local scene. 5-6 pm preview, 6-8 pm general admission (fee). Exhibit will continue through March 10.

16 Monday,— **President's Day Event** at the Chadds Ford Historical Society. Tours of the John Chads House (fee). Free activities for children. www.chaddsfordhistory.org

25 Wednesday, 7:00 pm — **Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting** at the Township Building.

APRIL

9 Thursday, 7:00 pm — **Pennsbury Land Trust Annual Meeting** at the Township Building. A landscape architect will talk about native plant selection & design. All are welcome. See page 4

sara.corbiskley, editor

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