

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Fall 2009
Vol. 23, No.4

www.pennsbury.pa.us

Vote **YES** for Open Space Funding Protect Your Quality of Life

On November 3rd Pennsbury residents will be asked to vote on an Open Space Referendum. If approved, the Board of Supervisors will be authorized to enact a property tax of \$79 per \$100,000 of assessed value (0.79 mills) to be dedicated to protecting the Township's open spaces. The existing component of the property and earned income taxes dedicated to open space expire at year end.

Since the expiring Open Space property tax is 0.45 mills, the increase in proper-

ty tax proposed in the referendum is 0.34 mills or \$34 per \$100,000 of assessed value. The earned income tax component of the expiring Open Space tax will not be renewed.

The existence of a dedicated source of revenue to protect open space gives the supervisors a means to protect the rural nature of the Township. As opportunities are presented, the Open Space Funds will be used, in conjunction with County and State funds, to acquire development rights in the Township.

Numerous studies have shown that it costs more to develop land than to save it. For every \$1.00 in revenue from residential land, it costs \$1.13 to provide services to that land use. In contrast, agricultural land use requires far less than \$1.00 in services for \$1.00 in revenue generated.

The major impact of new residential development is on need for schools for the children of the new residents. The revenue gap results in approximately \$5,000 revenue shortfall per student, which must be made up by taxes on the existing residents.

Similar Open Space referendums have been approved in neighboring townships and in Chester County. Using dedicated funds to protect open space could mitigate increasing taxes, keep Pennsbury's rural character and protect important natural resources in the Township.

Board of Supervisors



Look inside for information about FALL EVENTS

-  **Historic Survey Presentation**
Wednesday, September 23
-  **Picnic in the Park**
Saturday, September 26
-  **Fall Branch & Leaf Collection**

Question as it will appear on the Ballot on November 3

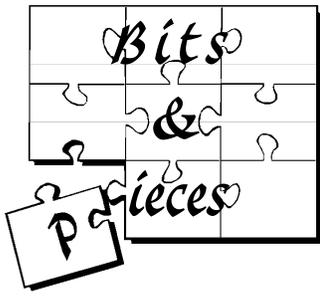
"Do you favor the imposition of a tax on real estate of 0.79 mills to be used to acquire real property for the purpose of preserving open space and securing open space benefits under the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Preservation Act"
YES OR NO

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
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Chadds Ford, PA 19317

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email:
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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
Karen Wood



❖ PENNSBURY PARK NEWS

The Park Committee has been very busy working on a special event, *Picnic in the Park*, which will be held on Saturday, September 26. Check out all the details in on page 6.

In other park news, the Township has contracted with the Southern Chester County Soccer Association to use our open space in the park as a practice field for recreational soccer. No games will be played in the park and the association will help to maintain the fields.

The availability of fields in our area is at a premium and we are happy to partner with this group to provide recreational opportunities for our residents. The fields will be used for practice every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 pm to dusk and Saturday mornings from 9 to noon.

The park continues to be used by dog lovers and we appreciate those who observe our leash laws. If you

see someone abusing this law, kindly remind them how much it would be appreciated if they kept their dog on a leash.

❖ SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING

Please note the new signs on the recycling bins at the Township Building. All the bins will now accept every type of material which is recyclable. There are some changes.

You may recycle: newspaper, office paper, junk mail, cereal boxes, corrugated cardboard, aluminum and metal cans, jars and bottles, plastics #1 & #2.

You may NOT recycle plastic bags, plastic caps, shredded paper, aluminum siding, window glass, diapers, hazardous waste and scrap metal.

If you have questions, contact Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority at 610-869-2452.

❖ COURT DECISION

The Commonwealth Court in a decision filed August 20, 2009 reversed the Court Of Common Pleas decision which prohibited Supervisor Wendell Fenton from participating in any discussions and/or decisions by the Board of Supervisors relating to Pennsbury Village

Associates (PVA). PVA is the owner of two parcels of land flanking the Township parcel and has preliminary plan approval for a residential and commercial development. A copy of the decision is available at the Township building.

❖ PENNDOT ROADWAY HOTLINE

Motorists are encouraged to report maintenance concerns to PennDOT at 1-800-FIX-ROAD (1-800-349-7623). This number should not be used to report traffic accidents, disabled vehicles or other emergencies.

❖ TRAIL EASEMENTS

In March, the Brandywine Conservancy gave a presentation to the Township Planning Commission and Trails Committee on trails planning. The Conservancy discussed the measures being taken by surrounding Townships to work towards trail development. These efforts fit into a larger trail system that exists within Chester County.

Pennsbury Township efforts will be to connect to these larger systems as well as to develop local trails for residents. The Township is now preparing its approach towards cultivating voluntary trail easements with the

intent of implementing the Pennsbury Township Community Trails Plan. Michael Lane, Planning Commission member and head of the Township Trails Committee, is working with the Conservancy to compile relevant information on trails and trail easements. The existing trail system is being analyzed to determine where new trail easements are desired. Once the Board of Supervisors has approved which trails are priorities and authorizes the Trails Committee to proceed, the Trails Committee and the Brandywine Conservancy will begin to contact key land owners in the vicinity of the priority trails to introduce the project and to obtain land owner feedback.

If you would like more information on trail easements or are interested in getting involved with the Trails Committee on this or other trails efforts, please contact Kathy Howley.

❖ 55 ALIVE

This two-session program on driver safety for senior citizens will be offered by Townwatch on November 14 & 21 from 8 am - noon at the Township Building. Look for the Townwatch newsletter for information on how to sign up or call the Township office.

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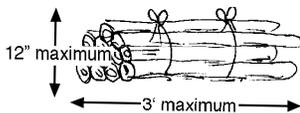
FALL TOWNSHIP DATES AND REMINDERS

Branch Collection

November 16 - 20

Brush and limbs must be properly prepared or they will not be collected.

- ◆ Brush and limbs must be from your Pennsbury Township property.
- ◆ Brush and limbs must be put out before start date as only one pass will be made through each neighborhood.
- ◆ NO roots, stumps and limbs with wire and/or nails.
- ◆ All brush and limbs must be in the right of way .
- ◆ Fresh cut (green) limbs, 2" in diameter and larger, should be left full length, placed along roadside with large ends closest to road.
- ◆ Dry, dead brush must be tied in bundles no greater than 3' long and 12" in diameter. Dry, dead tree limbs are to be cut in 3' lengths and tied in bundles no more than 12" in diameter.
- ◆ A sample bundle is on display at the Township Building along with free bailing twine and instructions.
- ◆ Limit of 8 bundles of brush and/or tree limbs and 10 fresh cut (green) branches per property.



Leaf Collection

October 26 - November 13

Drop off bags of leaves at the Township Building

Open Burning

The Township does not have a burning ordinance but encourages residents to make use of branch pickup and leaf collection. For any outdoor controlled burn the fire company should be alerted at 610-436-4700 (non emergency number).

Residents who place a burn barrel in their yard for burning household trash should be aware that a single household barrel may release as many toxic chemicals as a large municipal incinerator.

Hunting

The PA Game Commission controls all hunting. They set the dates, bag limits, rules and regulations. The hunting season calendar for our area can be found on their website at: www.pgc.state.pa.us.

To report road kill on US 1 call PennDot at 484-340-3200. To report road kill on all other roads call the PA Game Commission at 610-926-3136.

More Bits & Pieces

Continued from page 2

❖ RESIDENT AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Economy Today, How We Got Here and Where We are Headed is the title of the resident awareness program to be given on Thursday, October 15 at 7 pm in the Township Building. Look for a postcard with more info.

Speaker, Fred Dixon has a PhD in economics. In 1992,

he founded, Economic Insights, a consulting firm and is still at it. He has worked as economist for major firms like Merrill Lynch in New York and ICI in Wilmington, has served as advisor on state revenue matters under five Delaware governors and does periodic economic commentary for CNN radio news.

❖ SAVING ENERGY

Chester County Citizens for Climate Protection (4CP)

sponsors an educational series the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the West Chester Borough Hall, 401 E. Gay Street. Information about the programs can be found at www.chescooler.org

PECO Energy reminds everyone that winter is coming — time to caulk windows, clean gutters and button up against the cold. To learn ways to save energy and money, check out www.peco.com/save.

❖ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The School of Government is a free seven week course open to all Chester County residents over age 18 which explains what your local government is and does. It is offered Tuesdays at Government Services Bldg. between 6:30 – 8:00 pm from September 15 through November 10th. For information, call 344-4404 or visit the website schoolofgovernment@chesco.org



Special Needs Registry

The Pennsbury Township Emergency Management Team has a program in place to address Special Needs Residents in the event of a disaster or emergency. The existing program is manual and will be greatly enhanced by an electronic version that is being sponsored by Chester County Emergency Services.

Chester County, Bucks County and Montgomery County have jointly developed an online Special Needs Registry to allow citizens with special needs an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies. This information will be held securely and only accessed for the purpose of emergency response and associated planning.

For the purpose of this project, a special needs individual is defined as someone who cannot receive, understand, or act upon protective orders. To utilize this service, the special needs individual will need access to the internet. The information can also be entered by a family member, friend, or neighbor with access to the internet.

To access the special needs site you type specialneeds.pa.org using any search engine. Select Special Needs Registry Bucks, Chester, Montgomery Counties. Then follow the prompts. It's just that easy!

Questions or comments may be referred to Chester County Emergency Services at 610-344-5000.

Protect Yourself from Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a tick-borne bacterial infection that can be transmitted to humans and pets by infected ticks. Much of Chester County is rural and suburban, making it a prime habitat for ticks which can carry the Lyme disease bacteria. Last year alone, over 700 new cases of Lyme disease were reported to the Chester County Health Department and professional journals state that only 10% of cases are diagnosed and reported.

The best ways to avoid getting Lyme disease are:

- Wear light colored clothing because ticks are easier to spot and brush off;
- Wear clothing and a hat that covers the skin and tuck loose pants into socks;
- Walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with over-

- grown grass and brush;
- Apply insect repellent with 20-30% DEET to exposed skin (except for the face). Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions;
- Wear permethrin-treated clothing;
- Use a high-heat setting on your dryer for washing clothes. The high heat will kill most ticks.

If you live in an area that is close to woods and is frequented by deer:

- Mow your lawn;
- Clear leaves and brush;
- Place swing sets and other play equipment in mulched areas away from woodland edges;
- Create a woodchip or mulch barrier between woodlands and your yard;
- Remove brush or leaf piles accumulated around stone walls or wood piles (potential mouse nesting sites) away from house;
- Move bird feeders away from house;
- Consider a pesticide application as a targeted barrier treatment. Consult with a professional and always follow label directions;
- Most importantly, check yourself, family, and pets frequently for ticks.

If you need more information? Visit the Chester County Health Department's web site at www.chesco.org/health

Pollution and Yard Waste

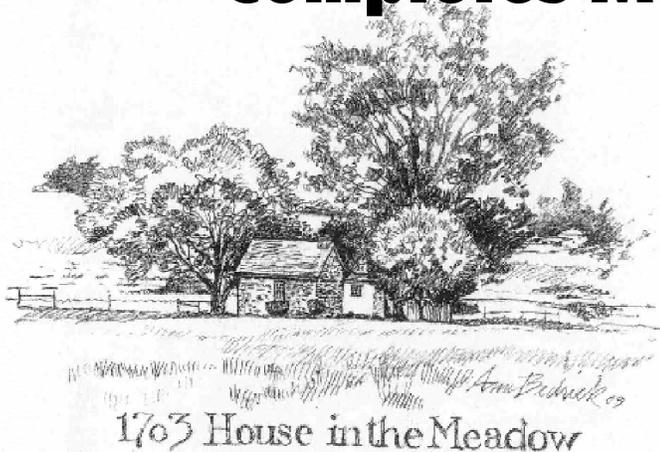
Yard debris, including leaves and other organic plant material like shrubbery trimmings and grass clippings, are a significant source of stormwater pollution. This debris can clog culvers, storm drains and pipes, causing flooding and can carry fertilizers and pesticides from your yard and deposit them in streams and

ponds. Piles of leaves and grass clippings will overload a stream's ability to process leaf litter, causing nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion.

To do your part to protect our streams and the drainage systems leading to our waterways: do not pile leaves or other yard waste near

streams or drainage channels; do not blow leaves or grass clippings off your property into streets, streams, ponds or drainage swales; recycle grass clippings and their nutrients on your lawn; and compost leaves and grass clippings along with yard waste in a location away from streams, ponds and wetlands.

Pennsbury Township Historical Commission Completes Monumental Work



Historic Resources Survey Completed!

The Township Historical Commission has completed its comprehensive survey of all resources in the Township that are 50 years old or older. They include houses, barns, spring houses, outbuildings, commercial buildings, bridges and churches. Over 436 resources were documented. All resources were visited by our consultant and a member of the Commission. They were documented, photographed on the exterior, mapped and classified using guidelines of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. When accepted by the Board of Supervisors, over 1100 pages of material will be available to the public at the Township Building and electronically.

The Township has 39 resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and an additional 93 that have national, state or local significance using National Register criteria. Our resources range from a 1703 stone farmhouse (possibly the oldest in the County) through colonial, federal, gothic, Victorian, colonial revival, craftsman, cape cod and a Frank Lloyd Wright inspired house.

The survey documents the rich heritage of our Township and is a valuable tool for planning and historic resource protection. It is also a fascinating look at our Township's development as an agricultural community with facilitating small centers of industry.

Above: The drawing of the House in the Meadow was created by Ann Bedrick for the Chester County Historic Preservation Network.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

To the inaugural presentation
of the Pennsbury Township Historic Survey

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 7 PM

at the Township Building

Presenters will be Bob Wise and Seth Henshaw

of Wise Preservation Planning

Light refreshments will be served

PLEASE RSVP

To the township office at 610-388-7323

Historical Commission Presented Two Awards

The Historical Commission recently received two awards. One from Chester County and The Chester County Historic Preservation Network for its completion of the Historic Resources Survey. The second from the County Preservation Network for its efforts in preserving, protecting and promoting the historic resources of our Township. Supervisor Karen Wood and Historical Commission Chair Susan Hauser accepted the awards at the Preservation Historic Network annual dinner in July, 2009.

Kudos to Commission Members

The Township is proud of the countless hours and years of work that have been done by Commission members and is indebted to chair, Susan Hauser, who has lead the charge and kept things moving.

Susan is the consummate Township historian and a walking encyclopedia of local knowledge plus the fact that she has always been able to write about history in an interesting way.

The Commission is to be commended that now we have a wonderfully documented history of our historic treasures. It is well worth a visit to the Township building to see the fine results of their work.



Pennsbury Park

Notes...

You're Invited to the 1st Annual
Fall Community
Picnic in the Park
Saturday, September 26th

noon until 4

Enjoy a Fun Filled Fall Day
With Family and Friends

Hay rides · Pick-up games

Parking 5.00 per car
Music for all ages
Bring a Picnic/Tailgate
Food also available
Raffles and Prizes



SCARECROW MAKING CONTEST
JOIN WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS
OR YOUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATES
AND MAKE THE BEST SCARECROW.

We hope that you will mark your calendars and save the date
and join us for the first event by *Friends of Pennsbury Park*

(Rain Date Oct 3rd)

Friends of Pennsbury Park is a diverse group of neighbors of all ages and sizes who are committed to helping Pennsbury Township develop and maintain Pennsbury Park.



Bayard Taylor Library News

Current library periodicals feature articles on things a library CAN do in a recession and heeding their advice the Bayard Taylor Library Board has been planning for the future, networking and face-lifting.

We have met with local public school librarians, preschool administrators, and the new director of La Comunidad Hispana to brainstorm future outreach programs and collaborations. A Community Green hub is being developed under the guidance of LEED AP, Amy Cornelius.

Even though the strategic planning process for a new library facility is focusing on determining the needs of a future library space, the existing facility is showing the wear of 50 years of use. With the goal of improving the present library experience, and adopting the position that NO cost is the best cost, a wish list of short-term improvements has been compiled — and several supporters of the library have already stepped up to help.

This spring, The Mushroom Festival awarded the BT Library a \$1,000 grant to cover half of the cost of carpeting over the worn out tiles in the entrance lobby and matching fund to complete that project are actively being sought.

John Razze and his crew from Chadds Ford Painting spent three mornings donating their professional skills to brighten the stairwell and entrance to the children's library. An anonymous donor has contributed seating destined for a new teen area in the library. With community support such as this, a new face to the library will be visible sometime this fall.

And looking to the fall, we are grateful to Pennsbury Township for allowing the Board of Trustees to hold their retreat at the township building this September.

All public libraries in PA are bracing for a cut in state funding and for a while the library will have to tighten its belt, along with many in our community. But we feel especially fortunate for the spontaneous generosity shown by local businesses, individuals and municipalities during these challenging times.

Susan MacDonnell, Pennsbury Library Board Representative

More Township Calendar

Continued from page 8

OCTOBER

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

15 Thursday, 7 pm — **The Economy Today, How We Got Here and Where are We Headed** A resident awareness program with speaker Fred Dixon. *See page 3*

22, 23, 24 Thursday through Saturday, 5-9 pm — **The Great Pumpkin Carve** Chadds Ford Historical Society, Creek Road. Fee

26 Monday — **Leaf Collection begins at Township Building** *See page 3*

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

NOVEMBER

3 Tuesday, 7 am-8 pm — **VOTE Municipal Election** Township Supervisors recommend a vote FOR the Open Space Tax. (*Note: Township office closed*)

13 Friday — **Leaf Collection ends**

14 Saturday, 8 am-Noon and 21 Saturday, 8 am-Noon — **55 Alive** Driver safety course for seniors sponsored by Townwatch. *See page 2*

16 Monday - 20 Friday — **Branch Collection.** *See page 3*

DECEMBER

5 Saturday, 1-6 pm — **Candelight Christmas** Self-drive tour of decorated historic homes and sites sponsored by Chadds Ford Historical Society. Fee

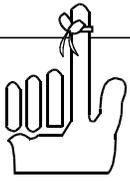
26 Saturday — **Christmas Tree Recycling** Drop off undecorated trees at the Township Building through January.

"Fairy" the Dairy Cow

The 85th Annual
Unionville
Community Fair
and Farm Show
Hosted by:
Landhope Farms
Rts 82 & 926

85 and still alive,
Down on the Farm!

October 2-4, 2009



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.

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.

ALL FALL

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

SEPTEMBER

11 Friday, 10 am-1 pm — **Senior Expo** Information for seniors sponsored by Senator Dominic Pileggi. Kennett Fire Company, Red Clay Room.

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 at www.mushroomfestival.org.

15 Tuesday, 6:30-8 pm — **School of Government** Seven week course on County government. Govt. Serv. Bldg., West Chester. See page 3

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

23 Wednesday, 7 pm — **Historic Survey Report** Inagural presentation at the Township Building. Public is invited. See page 5.

26 Saturday, Noon-4 pm — **Picnic in the Park** Community celebration to raise funds for future Township park facilities. See page 6

OCTOBER

2,3,4 Fri., Sat., Sun — **Unionville Community Fair**. Landhope Farms, Rts. 82 & 926. Free

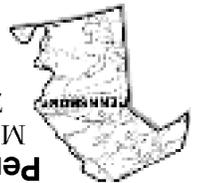
3 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm — **Chester County Day**. Annual home tour, featuring northwestern section from Exton to Elverson. Tickets \$35. Info at 610-431-5301 or www.cchosp.com.

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

Calendar continued on page 7

sara corbishley, editor

Pennsbury Township
Mary McMullan Building
702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317



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