

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Winter 2017
Vol. 31, No. 1

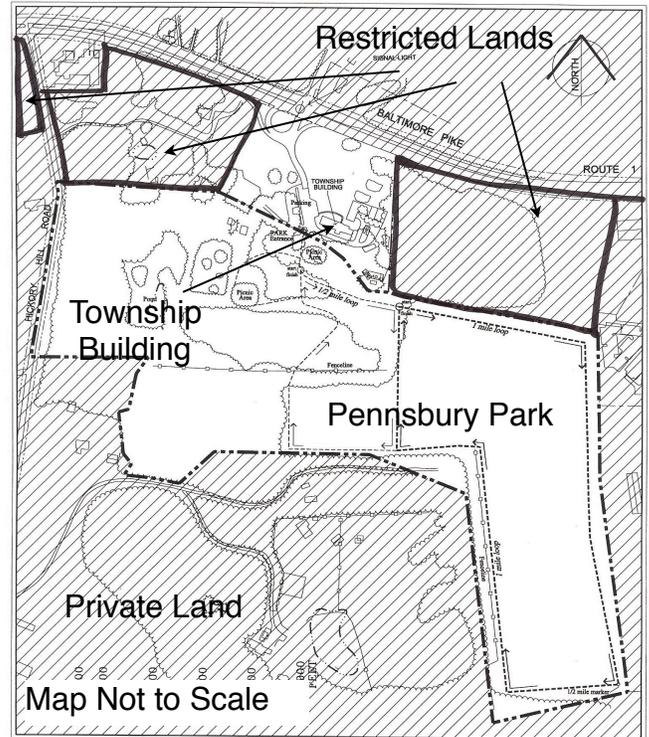
www.pennsbury.pa.us

TOWNSHIP LAND TO BE PRESERVED IN PERPETUITY

On December 14 a Conservation Easement was placed on three parcels totaling approximately 23 acres surrounding the Township Building. In December 2014 the Township settled with Toll Brothers and purchased the land from them to avoid a very dense development of townhouses and carriage homes.

The Brandywine Conservancy worked with the Township as well as the Pennsbury Land Trust to put together an easement restricting further development on those lands in perpetuity. Restricting it from further development has been a goal of the Township and this has now been realized.

Next, the Township plans to put together an open space management plan for the maintenance of the land and will work on getting grant monies for this.



WINTER ROAD REMINDERS

Township equipment is ready and waiting for the winter ahead

• **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.

• **SECURE YOUR MAILBOX.** The Township is NOT responsible for damage caused by snow or ice that is thrown from the snowplow blade or passing vehicles. Standard mailboxes and posts are replaced by the Township ONLY if either or both are actually struck by the plow and if these are installed to the specification of the US Postal Service. The Township neither replaces or reimburses residents for custom mailboxes or ornate posts.

If you believe a properly installed mailbox or post was struck by a Township vehicle, contact Road Master, Dave Allen at 610-388-9180

• **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.** Wait until the roadway is cleared before shoveling your driveway. If you must clear these areas, know that Township trucks will likely throw snow back onto your property when plowing the road. This is unavoidable. Shoveling snow back into the road creates a safety hazard and could cause an accident.

• **MAIN SUBDIVISIONS WILL BE PLOWED FIRST.** Less populated areas next. The Township plows ONLY municipal roads — not state highways. PennDot plows Baltimore Pike, Route 52, Route 926, Pocopson Road and the part of Parkerville Road which is not Township..

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

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
Wendell Fenton
Aaron McIntyre



❖ 2017 TAX BILLS

Tax bills for 2017 will be arriving in January and February.

Chester County tax bills will be mailed in January and the Township tax bill will arrive in February.

Please be aware there is an Earned Income Tax of .312% in Pennsbury Township which is collected by Keystone Collections. It is your responsibility to make sure this tax is paid by April 18, 2017 if this tax has not been deducted. If you have questions, contact Keystone Collections at 888-328-0565

School tax bills are sent out by the school district July 1 of each year.

❖ REORGANIZING FOR 2017

The Board of Supervisors organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3 at 7:pm in the Township Building. The regular monthly meeting will follow.

The Board of Auditor's organizational meeting will be Wednesday, January 4 at 7 pm and the Planning Commission organizational meeting will be Tuesday, January 10 at 5 pm. Both will be at the Township Building.

❖ FENCE PERMIT

A zoning permit is required to install a fence in the Township. Regulations for fencing can be found on-line under Zoning Ordinance Sec. 162-1915. Permits are on the website at www.pennsbury.pa.us.

Fence placement and height are important to know. Make sure you understand the definitions of *front yard* and *side yard* as the requirements are different.

Underground pet electric fences do not need a permit.

If you have questions, call the Township office at 610-388-7323.

❖ SAVE THE DATE

THE ANNUAL YARD SALE WILL CONTINUE!

Barry Heacock will be stepping up to the plate and taking over for long time volunteer organizer Bill Reynolds. Many thanks to Bill for his leadership over the past 14 years. During his tenure the event had grown and become a staple for our residents to enjoy.

The 2017 Yard Sale will be on Earth Day, April 22 from 9 am to 2 pm. The rain date will be the following Saturday. Start collecting items to sell!

Information and registration will be sent out by April 1. There are over 70 sites available, lots of free parking and good food, so mark your calendar now.

BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD TASK FORCE AWARD COINCIDES WITH TOWNSHIP EASEMENT

Preservation Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth's only statewide private, nonprofit organization dedicated to historic resource protection, has awarded the Chester and Delaware County Planning Commissions' Brandywine Battlefield Task Force its 2016 Chairman's Award. The Task Force was selected due to six years of research and preservation planning with municipalities included in the areas of known troop movements during the 1777 Revolutionary War battle, one of the largest and most important engagements fought during the American colonies struggle for independence.

Beginning in 2010, funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Task Force identified fifteen Townships located within the known battle area. Task Force goals included: verifying troop movements; identifying Revolutionary period resources still in existence; developing educational programs for schools, residents, and tourists; and assisting municipalities in preservation planning for Battlefield resource areas endangered by development.

Coincidentally, as a result of ongoing separate municipal efforts, Pennsbury Township will finalize property conservation easements for three land parcels fronting Route 1 in December. These particular Township property purchases, made with Township Open Space and Pennsbury Land Trust funds, along with the completed easements, will help preserve parts of the Brandywine Battlefield previously scheduled for high density housing.

The Township municipal building property and the three parcels were part of an 18th century Penn Land Grant. The Land Grant's two main historic private residences, which are not included in the easements, still rest on either side of the Baltimore Pike at the junction with Hickory Hill Road. These old stone houses, outbuildings, and surrounding woodlands sheltered Colonial soldiers who attempted to deter Hessian troops with gunfire as they marched from Kennett Square toward Chadds Ford on September 11th, 1777.

The easements will leave historic land for Pennsbury residents to enjoy as Open Space, thanks to Township initiatives. The Pennsbury Historical Commission extends its congratulations to everyone involved with both projects and is grateful to be part of such a community.

Lynn Luft



PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Since the last edition of Pennsbury Township News, the news and activities of the Planning Commission (PC) have included the following:

- Continued and later concluded its review of the application and plans for the two lot subdivision of Springdale Farm and recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the application. As has been previously reported by Lynn Luft, Chair of the Pennsbury Township Historical Commission, Springdale Farm is the oldest continuously operating farm in Chester County.

- In an on-going effort over numerous meetings and led by Jim Ware, the PC has been working on protecting the groundwater within the Township from exportation.

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

Dennis Smith, Chair

PENNSBURY LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY



The 2017 Pennsbury Land Trust Membership Drive is well underway and we thank those who have already generously responded with membership donations and offers to volunteer for future projects, events and clerical help. Your support strengthens our ability to serve the needs of our community in the preservation, conservation and stewardship of open land, natural areas and water protection now and for the future.

If you have not yet returned your reply card, we encourage you to do so. Donations are tax-deductible. Additional reply cards are available at the township building. Further details of membership can be found on our website, www.pennsburylandtrust.org. Click on Join Us – and we hope you do!

Sarah Dayton

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS



The school district had a very busy fall. Here are a few highlights from the first few months of the school year.

We are progressing on one of our board goals which is to evaluate changing the school start time for our middle school and high school students. The School Start Time Committee composed of board members, administrators, faculty and parents, is actively researching options for the administration to consider. We were fortunate to learn more the topic and the underlying science when Dr. Judith Owen provided a presentation titled "The Science Behind Later School Start Times." Please visit the district web site to view the presentation and to keep abreast of the committee's efforts. We expect to have a decision in the March-April time frame.

In September the district was able to refinance about \$61 million in bonds and generated over \$8 million in current dollar savings. We were able to take advantage of extremely low rates in the municipal bond market and the savings will be reinvested into our long term capital needs.

In November, the six Principals provided their annual achievement report. Though there is always room for improvement, each school reported very high levels of academic achievement. Five of our 6 buildings are ranked in the top 10 in the state of Pennsylvania and the high school recorded the highest School Performance Profile score in the state.

Please visit www.ucfsd.org for more information on district activities and feel free to contact me with any concerns. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Murphy, UCH School Board Representative



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 5 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 2016

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

JANUARY 2017

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

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

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

10 Tuesday, 5 pm — **Planning Commission Organizational Meeting** at the Township Building.

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

6 Thursday, 7 pm — **Pennsbury Land Trust Annual Meeting** at 7 at the Township Building.



Remember to recycle your undecorated Christmas tree at the Township Building

sara.corbiskley, editor

PRESORT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Chester, PA
Permit #66

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