

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Fall 2016
Vol 30, No. 4

www.pennsbury.pa.us



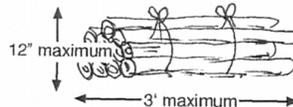
FALL TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP

Branch Collection

November 14 - 18

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 17 - November 30

Bag your leaves and take them to the designated area at the Township Building.

Open Burning

- ◆ Residents are urged to take advantage of the Township leaf and branch collection programs to eliminate the need for open burning.
- ◆ Open burning is NOT permitted on weekdays between 4 pm and 9 am and all day Saturday and Sunday.
- ◆ It is not permitted if it will disturb your neighbors.
- ◆ During permitted periods, property owners shall comply with all requirements of the local fire department.
- ◆ Violations will be subject to citing by the Township Zoning Officer.



John Murphy,

Pennsbury Township's
Representative on the
Unionville-Chadds Ford
School District Board

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am an 11 year Pennsbury resident and was honored to be elected by the voters in Chadds Ford and Pennsbury Townships last year to represent you on the school board. I am currently the only Pennsbury resident on the school board and I would like to use this space in the newsletter to keep you informed on events at the school board.

Some highlights of board decisions made during the last school year were:

Budget Approval

The budget for the 2016-2017 school year was

Continued on page 4

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



❖ SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

For the safety of drivers and our children on school buses, please to not park vehicles, especially landscapers trucks, on roadways. It often impairs the line of sight which creates a hazard.

Make sure trees and shrubs are trimmed and not blocking sight distances, especially at corners and driveways. The Township has the right to trim if residents do not.

DO NOT PLANT IN THE RIGHT OR WAY AND DO NOT PLANT BAMBOO.

Watch for children and NEVER pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights.

❖ AVAILABLE AT THE TOWNSHIP

Need wood chips or dirt? Both are available at the Township Building. Call Road Master Dave Allen at 610-388-9180 for information.

❖ EARLY WINTER STORMS

It's not too early to think there might be a late fall or early winter ice or snow event! Please remember not

to park in the roadway during a storm. The road crew will skip your street if they cannot properly or safely apply road salt or plow.

❖ KIDS EXPO

State Senator Tom Killion is sponsoring a Kids Expo on Saturday, September 17 from 11 am to 2 pm. It will be held at the Brandywine Youth Club Fieldhouse at 43 Thorton Rd. in Glen Mills. Info at 610-358-5183.

State and local agencies will offer educational and entertaining exhibits for the whole family.

❖ VOTER INFORMATION

If you need to change your name or address for voter registration or if you will be 18 by November 8 and need to register it can be done online at:

www.Votespa.com

For any questions about voting or where to vote contact Bob Crandell at 610-388-7488 or leedell3@verizon.net

❖ APPRISE

Medicare annual open enrollment time is coming up soon. APPRISE is a free health insurance counseling program offered by the Chester Cty. Department of Aging.

If you are thinking about changing your Medicare Advantage or Part D Drug Plan, they can

PECO Meets with Homeowners

Fair Hill Home Owners Association met with PECO representatives on June 13 to discuss the frequency of power outages in their neighborhood.

Items discussed were:

- Recent upgrades in maintenance programs to help with outages.
 - How circuits work and how outages are handled by PECO.
 - PECO must get permission from a property owner to trim a tree that is not in their right-of-way. In problem areas the company has stepped up the tree trimming program from a five year cycle to three years in order to try to stay ahead of problems.
 - A new type of electric cable is being used that would prevent outages when a branch comes in contact with it, which would decrease the number of outages.
 - When an outage occurs, EVERY homeowner must call PECO so that the system logs you in as a "problem area".
 - Underground cable is more difficult to trouble shoot than above ground cable. Cables today have a life expectancy of 50 to 60 years. The loss of power in underground cable tends to be in "sections" which is why everyone does not lose power.
 - PECO does provide gas but it is not a priority in every area.
- Residents asked for updates on improvements in their area which PECO said they would be happy to supply.

help you determine what program is best for you

Call 610-344-6035 for an appointment.

❖ KENNETT AREA SENIOR CENTER

The center is located at 427 South Walnut Street and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. For information about their programs and health screenings call 610-444-4819 or check their web site at www.kennettseiorcenter.org

Starting in the new year, the Center will provide income tax return assistance for seniors.

❖ PLANT A TREE, HELP CONTROL STORM WATER

Fall is the best time of year to plant trees and shrubs. The more trees and shrubs on your property the less stormwater can find its way into our streams.

A Pennsbury Historic Property — Springdale Farm

Right: The view from
Hillendale Road
Below: The farmhouse



Springdale Farm, the oldest continuously operating farm in Chester County, is located at the southeastern intersection of Hillendale and Hickory Hill Roads. A modern horse stable and indoor riding ring occupies a large portion of the farmstead's hilltop meadow. To the east, down a narrow lane, the circa 1748 two story field stone farmhouse nestles into the hillside, flanked on the west by a three story bank barn and frame scale house.

Behind the residence, hidden from view on Hillendale Road, are a stone spring and tenant house, several other frame outbuildings, and a collapsed stable. The house was totally renovated in 1836, and a porch was added to the north facade in the 1870's. The house's exterior has not changed since then except for a gable roof replacement on the east side, which holds a separate third floor staircase.

Owned by the Mendenhall family from the early 1700's until bank foreclosure in 2012, Springdale Farm was part of a several thousand acre Penn Land Grant, initially purchased by two brothers. Their holdings stretched from the west bank of the Brandywine to the Kennett Pike and the village of Mendenhall, named after the

prominent early colonists. Many of the historic resources located in southern Pennsbury Township were once farmed or leased by members of the Mendenhall family and gradually sold to other settlers over the years.

Pennsbury's and the nation's history are intertwined with the Mendenhall property. Springdale was part of the Revolutionary War Battle of Brandywine in 1777, when British supply wagons halted at the farm on Hillendale Road during the fighting on September 11th, taking on provisions.

In the 1850's, it was associated with the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War due to the actions of Ellwood Mendenhall, Justice of the Peace and owner of Springdale at the time. He sent messengers to warn his abolitionist brother on the adjacent farm whenever bounty hunters requesting search warrants for runaway slaves were in the Township.

Once a very successful dairy farm with a retail outlet in Kennett Square, Springdale transitioned to a horse farm in 2007, but was not able to survive the 2008 economic recession. The present owners have decided to subdivide the property into two lots and have submitted an application to the Township, which is currently under consideration.

Springdale has been listed as a National Register Historic Site property since 1972. It is also listed in the Pennsbury Township 2009 Historic Resources Survey.

Lynn Luft

John Murphy Continued from page 1

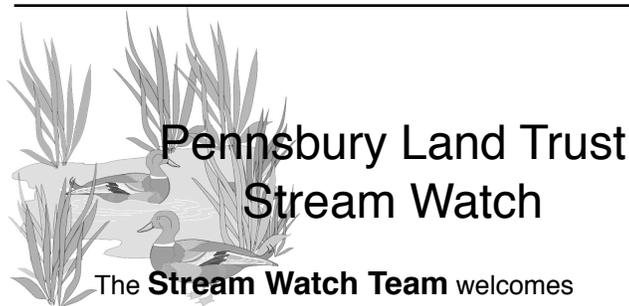
passed at the June meeting. The budgeted expense amount is \$85.5 million. Chester County residents will see a 2.63% increase in property taxes while Delaware County residents will see a 2.93% increase for a blended increase of 2.66%.

Chromebook Program Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, all middle school students will be provided with a Chromebook. Students will have the opportunity to purchase the device or the device will be on loan. This is a roll out of the pilot program that was conducted during the 2015-2016 school year. Following the pilot program evaluation, the board decided to roll out the program to all Middle School students and continue to evaluate options with the high school students.

Elimination of Decile Rankings The board voted to change our current practice of providing a student's decile ranking along with the transcript that as part of the college application submission. Based on the findings of a committee consisting of students, parents, and administrators, we determined that the existing practice was harming non-top decile students. Many of our peer top performing schools do not report rankings and colleges attempting to improve their. US News and World Reports rankings may turn away students who are not in the top decile.

The administration and school board have not yet finalized the goals for the upcoming school year but some areas of focus will be student wellness, the evaluation of a later start to the school day for the middle school and the high school and the evaluation of implementing an International Baccalaureate (IB) or Capstone program.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns. I can be reached at john.peter.murphy@gmail.com or at 610-793-1891.



Pennsbury Land Trust Stream Watch

The **Stream Watch Team** welcomes volunteers to help monitor our four local streams. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**—we will train. Perform chemical analysis and survey the organisms living in the stream.

Help make a difference and keep our environment clean. Sign up on-line at www.pennsburylandtrust.org and a member will be touch with you.

Planning Commission Update



Since the last update, the news and activities of the Planning Commission (PC) have included:

- Corinne Murphy joining the Planning Commission after being appointment by the Board of Supervisors at their June meeting. We are pleased to welcome Corinne.
- Proceeding to review two subdivision applications. Both properties are seeking to subdivide into two lots – Springdale Farm and Brenn's 5 acre lot at the corner of 926 & Parkersville Road.
- Met jointly with the Board of Supervisors in June to discuss 2016 goals.
- Doing further work on the open space ordinance, specifically as it relates to impervious ground coverage.
- Reviewed four Zoning Hearing Board Variance Applications and made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors:

- Afshar – carport in front yard setback,
- Buccini – erect oversized shed on separate lot,
- Belkadi – install swimming pool in backyard setback as well as seeking variance for impervious coverage,
- Velazques – keep 6 ft fence in front yard setback.
- Resumed its work on protecting the township's natural resources focusing on water exportation.

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

Dennis Smith, Chair



Pennsbury Townwatch

We are looking for volunteers to help patrol Township roads and also serve on our board.

A Townwatch patrol only requires about 8 hours per year of personal time. For your time you will be rewarded with the knowledge that your efforts help to keep our Township a safe and secure place to live.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, please contact Kevin Meloney at kevindmel@gmail.com or call 610-793-0474.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Kevin Meloney, Townwatch President

Pennsbury Needs You — As a Volunteer

The Township has several committees that are staffed by volunteers. To find new members, the Township maintains a file of people that would be willing to serve. If you are interested, please fill out the following and either: **Mail to Kathy Howley, Township Manager, 702 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 or email to khowley@pennsbury.pa.us or use the volunteer form on Pennsbury's website at www.pennsbury.pa.us.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

email _____

- ◆ Historical Commission — surveys historic structures in the Township, reviews renovation and subdivision plans containing historic structures, assists the Planning Commission in the review process and Code Enforcement Officer in the issuance of buildig permits for hisoric sturctures.
- ◆ Open Space Selection Committee — works with Supervisors to identify key parcels for land preservation.
- ◆ Park Committee —oversees activities held in Pennsbury's park (i.e. the yard sale, dog park)
- ◆ Planning Commission — reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding development proposals and ordinances.
- ◆ SECCRA Representative — represents the Township on the Board of the Southern Chester County Refuse Authority which operates a landfill and related recycling activities.
- ◆ Townwatch — concerned with safety and security in the township mainly by fielding volunteer automobile patrols of Township roads.

My present occupation is _____

Qualifications that may be of help to the Townshiip _____

Please note: this form will remain on file until notice from you or for a period of two years (9/18)



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 change. More info at www.ucfsd.org

SEPTEMBER

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

17 Sat, 11 am - 2 pm — KIDS EXPO Sponsored by State Senator Tom Killion for the whole family. Free
See page 2

30, Fri & Oct 1, Sat., 9am - 9pm & Oct 2, Sun 10am - 5:30 — UNIONVILLE COMMUNITY FAIR
Landhope Farms, Rts. 82 & 926. Info: www.ucfarinc.org

OCTOBER

1 Sat, 10 am - 5 pm — CHESTER COUNTY DAY
Features homes in the Marshallton and Kennett Square areas. Fee.
www:cchosp.org

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

11 Tues — LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION
See Page 2

17 Mon — LEAF COLLECTION BEGINS
Township Bldg. *See page 1*

20-22 Thurs - Sat, 5 to 9 pm — THE GREAT PUMPKIN CARVE at the Chadds Ford Historical Society. Fee.
www.chaddsfordhistory.org

NOVEMBER

1 Tues — LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR

THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

8 Tues, 7am - 8 pm — GENERAL ELECTION

14-18 Mon - Fri — BRANCH COLLECTION
See page 1.

30 Wed — LEAF COLLECTION ENDS

DECEMBER

3 Sat, 1-6 pm — CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS Self-drive tour of homes and the Pennsbury's Barns-Brinton House. Fee
www.chaddsfordhistory.org

26 Mon — CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING BEGINS Drop off undecorated trees at the Township Bldg through January

sara corbishley, editor

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