



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Fall 2018
Vol 32, No. 4

www.pennsbury.pa.us

Supervisors Act to Protect Pennsbury Park

Good news. The Pennsbury Park is now fully protected from development. The two parcels in the park designated for future development by a previous Board of Supervisors are subject to the same restrictions as those protecting the rest of the park.

The protection was extended by action of the current Board at its August meeting. The Board voted to grant to the Pennsbury Land Trust an easement on these two parcels.

It is anomalous that any rights to develop land in a park had been reserved by the Township. However history provides the explanation. In 1968 the Layton family gave to the Township 7.5 acres " ... to be used exclusively by said Township for public purposes." The property had been used in the past as a private residence and later a children's camp. The residence had deteriorated and was derelict. The Township repurposed the residence into the current Township Building.

The Layton family retained ownership of the adjoining properties on Route 1 abutting the Township property. When those properties were to be sold, the then Board fostered a development plan incorporating those properties and the Township-owned 7.5 acres into a mixed residential and commercial development to be called Pennsbury Village.

A *determined group* in the Township opposed this proposal believing that it was inconsistent with the vision of the area shared by most residents. (More than 600 signatures were appended to a petition opposing the proposal.) The *then* Board nonetheless determined to proceed with a developer to realize the development.

Central to the plan was intense commercial development on the 7.5 acre parcel owned by the



Township. The *then* Board asserted that the required "public purposes" restriction in the deed of gift would be met because of the revenue to be received by the Township from leasing the property to banks, stores etc. The *determined group* challenged this position in court.

After trial the Common Pleas Court rejected this tortured reading of the restriction outright. ("The fact that revenue will be generated ... does not change the fact that 'public use' is clearly not contemplated")

It was in furtherance of this plan that the *then* Board of Supervisors reserved two parcels within the Pennsbury Park for development --- one for a new Township Building in the middle of the park, the second for a new Road Department with access from Hickory Hill Road. The current Board's action in putting these two parcels under the same easement which already protects the park is the final nail in the coffin of the so-called Pennsbury Village plan.

It's Township Fall Clean-up Time!

Leaf Collection — October 22 - November 30

Brush Pickup — November 12 - 16

Info on Page 3

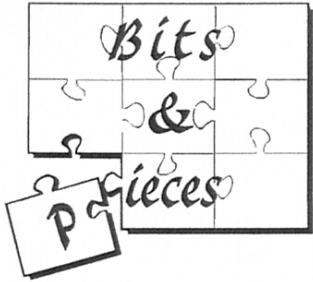


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Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

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



❖STORM WATER AND LAND DISTURBANCE

The flash flood on August 13, 2018 illustrates the importance of proper property drainage.

Residents should not alter slope or property in general without checking first with the Township to insure proper drainage is maintained.

If you disturb a steep slope or one acre or more of ground you may need a permit. Working without a land disturbance permit is a violation of ordinance and has penalties.

Taking down trees on your property can possibly adversely affect your neighbor or anyone downstream. With all the rain we have had this summer, water is a tremendous force and can do a lot of damage.

❖STANDING WATER

The Chester County Health Department has asked all residents to be vigilant about standing water on their property.

The summer has been extremely wet and the mosquito population has exploded increasing possibility of spreading

West Nile Virus. If you see standing water on your property, please address it immediately.

❖PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGN

When you see a **ROAD CLOSED** sign, it does really mean the road is closed **TO EVERYONE** whether driving walking or biking!

There were several incidents in which people walking and biking did not pay attention or chose to ignore the signs.

A walker almost got hit by equipment as a person walked around the area next to machinery and the equipment operator did not know they were there, which startled the equipment operator.

So when you see a **ROAD CLOSED** sign, please turn around and stay safe.

❖PECO WORK IN THE KNOLL

The number one cause of loss of power are tree limbs and trees taking electric wires down.

In Chadds Ford Knoll, many if not all of the electric wires are on poles located on back property lines which makes it difficult for PECO to maintain with their vegetation program.

PECO will be addressing vegetation on these lines sometime this Fall. No date has been set but it will get done by the end of the year.

❖SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

It's that time of year! For the safety of drivers and our children on school buses, please do 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 OF WAY AND DO NOT PLANT BAMBOO.

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

❖DOG LICENSES

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by Jan. 1st of each year. Violators can be cited with a max fine of \$300 per violation, plus court costs. More info at:

licenseyourdogpa.pa.gov

There is a leash law in Pennsbury Township which requires dogs to be leashed at all times. If there is a problem call the Townships Animal Control Officer, Brandywine Valley SPCA at 610-692-6113.

❖FIREWORKS

House Bill 542 was signed into law on October 30, 2017. It repealed and replaced the Fireworks Act of 1939.

Consumers, aged 18 or older, can now purchase and use Class C - consumer grade fireworks which include firecrackers, Roman Candles, bottle rockets and similar fireworks that contain a maximum of 50 milligrams of explosive material.

Display fireworks are classified as including salutes that contain more than two grains or 130 milligrams of explosive materials and professional grade aerial shells containing more than 60 grams of pyrotechnic compositions. These are still only to be used by professionals.

Fireworks can be purchased at any licensed facility, including temporary ones, between December 21 and January 2 and between June 5 and July 8.

❖ED WANDERSEE

Ed Wandersee a former Pennsbury Township Board of Supervisors Chairman for eight years and resident passed away on August 27 at Jenner's Pond where he and his wife Kathy had been living since 2009. Ed will be missed.

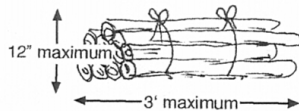
Fall Township Clean-up

Brush Collection

November 12- 16

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 22 - November 30

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

Open Burning Discouraged

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Property owners shall comply with all requirements of the local fire department.
- ◆ Violations will be subject to citing by the Township Zoning Officer.

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District News

Welcome to another school year! By now, I am sure everyone is used to the new school year routine or used to having the school busses back on the road during the morning commute. I would like to take this opportunity to point out a few highlights from this past year and a few of the priorities in the upcoming year.



The school board approved a budget in June for the 2018-2019 school year with appropriations of about \$87 million. This translates to a 0.35% tax increase for residents of Pennsbury which is the lowest tax increase in at least 10 years. In May the teachers union and the district agreed to enter an "early bird" agreement which extends the collective bargaining agreement to June 2023.

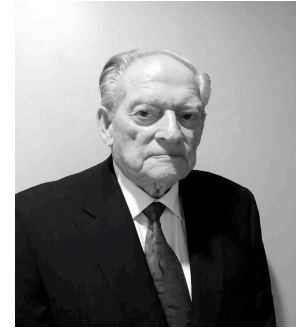
Athletically, the high school had a tremendous year with the Girls Lacrosse, Boys Tennis and Boys Golf teams each winning a state championship. Also notable was the football team winning a district title and reaching the state semifinals.

The district completed the first year with later start times and survey data from the spring indicates that our students are getting about 15-25 minutes additional minutes of sleep at night. It is too early to evaluate all of the success measures but initial indications are positive. Schedule changes are planned for the 2019-2020 school year that will rotate afternoon classes to minimize absences due to after school activities and will include an extended lunch period to allow for teacher meetings or study time.

The Chrome book initiative will be migrated to all Middle School and High School students during the 2018-2019 academic year.

John Murphy,
School Board Representative

Spotlight on Bob Crandell: Long Time Planning Commission Volunteer



Pennsbury Township has remained semi-rural and has made preservation of open space a priority in land planning. Critical to achieving this goal is the support, time and talent of our residents who volunteer to serve the Township on its committees and boards. One of these residents is Bob Crandell.

Bob and his family have lived in the township on Shadow Lane since 1984. He came to live here by way of DuPont Company who transferred him here from Houston, TX. He is a native of the Buffalo, NY area. He started out as a chemist for Dupont and ended up in marketing and sales — initially in Teflon and then plastics. He is retired and has made Pennsbury his home.

Bob has been married 63 years to Marjorie whom he met in Kenmore, NY. They have five children, four girls and one boy. The children are grown and live elsewhere. Marge and Bob visit their 16 grandchildren and one great grandchild as much as possible.

Bob loves sports — baseball, golf, football. Whatever is on TV he'll watch. But his first love is golf and he plays when he can.

Bob says what drew him to the township was that it is a small community and is well run with good politics. After living in Houston TX (big city), Pennsbury was a welcome relief. Houston has no zoning laws and that is why he got involved with the Planning Commission. Bob did not want to see Pennsbury end up anything like Houston.

After Bob retired from Dupont, he wanted to keep busy and that he did. He has served on the Planning Commission and still does, has done sewage processing research to support a Township ordinance for septic maintenance, has served on the committee dealing with

the renovation of the Township building, was a founding member of Pennsbury Land Trust, has raised money for the Balloon Fest, has served on the Kennett Pike Association. for 14 years, has been a republican committee man for 16 years and has served on the Fair Hill HOA architectural review commission.

Bob reports that his most satisfying project was helping to successfully keep development from happening around the township building on Route 1. He was a leader in the fight that lasted more than 10 years. At the end, Toll Brothers acquired the lands adjacent to the Township building for dense residential development. However the Township was able to buy the property from Toll Bros. and placed a conservation easement on the land. It will never be developed.

Bob believes the township should continue to emphasize the importance of open space preservation which continues to make Pennsbury Township a most desirable place to live. However many believe that his biggest accomplishment is his family .

In recognizing Bob's contributions to the Township over 19 years, Wendell Fenton, current Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, observed, "Without the unflagging efforts of volunteers like Bob, Pennsbury would not be the exceptional township it is. Bob has exemplified the qualities needed: willingness, commitment, expertise and flexibility. He is and has been invaluable to the Township".

Planning Commission Update



The following is an update of the Planning Commission (PC) actions and activities since the last edition of the Pennsbury Township Newsletter.

As previously reported, the PC has been engaged in the Chester County Planning Commission's process regarding Landscapes 3 which is the county's plan for future land use. The PC wrote a letter to CCPC expressing our priorities and concerns for potential development along Route 1 in the Township. The planning process will continue into the first quarter of

next year. CCPC will attend our September 25 meeting to discuss Landscapes 3. Residents are of course, invited to attend.

The PC has been working on the development of an ordinance to cover the use of event space in the township.

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

WalkWorks Chester County!

The WalkWorks program is the Chester County Health Department's entry in the National Healthiest Cities and Counties Competition. This competition seeks city and county based health promotion programs that can be replicated throughout the country.

The success of WalkWorks will help improve the chances of winning a \$500k grand prize or other runner-up prizes. The Health Department has a County-wide goal of walking 5 billion steps with 5 thousand walkers by the end of 2018, and are well on the way to meeting their goal, but more people are

needed to contribute their steps. Your support of our program will help improve Chester County's chances of winning the National Healthiest Cities and Counties Competition! If we win, the prize money will be reinvested in improving the health of the County.

The program offers a wealth of resources on their website www.chesco.org/walkworks including safety tips and a list of places to walk. It also offers free registration for WalkerTracker, a tool that can be used to track steps, join teams, and participate in friendly walking challenges.

Erin Brown, Public Health Planner,
Chester County Health Department



WalkWorks ChesCo!



5 BILLION STEPS & THOUSAND WALKERS IN 2018!

Get Walking



Register

Register for FREE to make your steps count:
chesco.org/walkworks



Track your steps

Sync an activity tracker to automatically track your steps or manually enter your steps each day to contribute to the county goal!



Connect with others

Join competitions, become part of a team, and connect with other walkers to stay on track!



Every step counts. Every person counts.

It's Time to Close the Door on Fast-Moving Home Fires

Each day across Chester County our local Fire Departments respond to a variety of calls. Occasionally the call comes to respond to a working house fire. During a working house fire, often times the residents have managed to escape prior to the first responding apparatus. Sometimes, however, they become trapped by high heat and smoke. That's why we are leading a campaign across our community to change a simple behavior and hopefully save lives.

In partnership with UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI), we are promoting "Close Before You Doze" to encourage every family to make sure they close all of their doors – bedrooms, bathrooms, basement – at night to starve the fire of the oxygen it requires to grow and to create a survivable space that gives you more time to escape the fire.

Over the years materials used to decorate and furnish our homes have changed. Natural materials such as cotton and wool that were used in the past have been replaced by modern synthetic construction materials and home furnishings which burn faster and hotter, allowing fire to spread and become toxic much faster.

The results have been devastating.

The pace in which a fire races through a home has increased at a deadly rate. Today, a person has about three minutes from the start of a fire to escape a burning structure. That's a significant difference from the 17 minutes you had 40 years ago.

In a recent story out of Texas, Lexi King survived a house fire, aided by a simple habit. Lexi liked to sleep with her bedroom door closed. When an overnight fire destroyed her home she was able to survive the high heat and smoke and escape. "The door to my room was closed. I had oxygen. I had time to collect my thoughts. I had time to prepare myself," said King.

Over a decade of UL FSRI research has shown that rooms with closed doors during a fire had average temperatures of less than 100 degrees and 100 ppm of carbon monoxide. This is a much more survivable environment when compared to 1000+ degrees and over 10,000ppm of carbon monoxide in the rooms with open doors. A closed door can slow the spread, reduce toxic smoke levels, improve oxygen levels and decrease temperatures dramatically – and that could make a life-saving difference in your home.

After a fire starts, there's little time to act. Take these fire safety steps today and you'll sleep easier at night. For more info visit www.closeyourdoor.org

Here are some steps you can immediately take to increase your chances of survival in fast-moving house fire.

- Close your doors at night. In the event of a fire, the closed door will provide a safety barrier for you and your children.

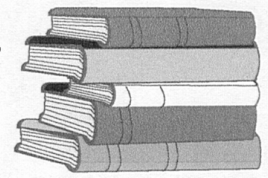
- Make sure your smoke and CO alarms are in working condition. Test them monthly.

- If a fire occurs and you can get out of a burning structure, get out and close doors behind you as you exit. If you can't, put a closed door between you and the fire to buy yourself valuable time. Stay low and go and don't ever go back inside a burning home.

- Have an escape plan, identify multiple escape routes from every room and practice them as a family at various hours.

Michael Hochhaus, Firefighter/EMT
Pennsbury Emergency Management Coordinator

Kennett Library News



The Kennett Library has a busy fall planned with lots of activities, including events for adults, children and teens. Check the Kennett Library website at kennettlibrary.org for the full schedule.

The Library is also holding its annual fall fundraising dinner on October 11, 2017 at the

Mendenhall Inn. This year's theme is Through the Looking Glass.

Funds raised support library operations as we move forward on the goal of bringing a new modern library to the area.

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.

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 building permits for historic structures.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Pennsbury's Historic Mill — is looking for volunteers to help with maintenance of the mill and semi-annual school tours

My present occupation is _____

Qualifications that may be of help to the Township _____

Please note: this form will remain on file until notice from you or for a period of two years (9/20)



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

SEPTEMBER

8 Sat, 9 am - 3 pm — **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (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 Barnns-Brinton House for those over 21. Fee www.chaddsfordhistory.org

OCTOBER

6 Sat, 10 am - 5 pm — **CHESTER COUNTY DAY** Homes in the Northeast Quadrant of Chester County are featured. Sponsored by the Chester County Hospital. Fee. www.cchosp.org

5 - 7 Fri - Sun — **UNIONVILLE COMMUNITY FAIR & FARM SHOW** Landhope Farms, Rts. 82 & 926.

Schedule and info at www.ucfarinc.org

9 Tues — **LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE NOVEMBER MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

11 Thurs, 7 - 9 pm — **TAVERN TALKS: FERMENTED & TORMENTED** Chadds Ford Historical Society's monthly experience at the Barnns-Brinton House for those over 21. Fee www.chaddsfordhistory.org

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

22 Mon — **LEAF COLLECTION BEGINS** See page 3

18-20 Thurs - Sat, 5 to 9 pm — **THE GREAT PUMPKIN CARVE** at the Chadds Ford Historical

Society. Fee. www.chaddsfordhistory.org

30 Tues — **LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

NOVEMBER

6 Tues, 7am - 8 pm — **MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

8 Thurs, 7 - 9 pm — **TAVERN TALKS: SUGAR & SPICE** Chadds Ford Historical Society's monthly experience at the Barnns-Brinton House for those over 21. Fee www.chaddsfordhistory.org

12-16 Mon - Fri — **BRUSH COLLECTION** See page 3.

30 Thurs — **LEAF COLLECTION ENDS**

DECEMBER

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

sara corbishley, editor

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