



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Fall 2019
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www.pennsbury.pa.us

Logging Operations on Rt. 1

As many have noticed, there have been intensive clear cutting and logging operations ongoing on the property located at Rt. 1 and Chandler Rd. Because this is an unusual occurrence in the township, particularly in a residential area, there have been many questions about those operations. The following is some information.

The Township had very strong concerns about the clear-cutting of wooded land on the property in question with regard to its effect on the environment in general and the Township ordinances controlling clear-cutting, storm water management and riparian buffer zones in particular.

The Township has strong ordinances governing Clear Cutting, Storm Water Management and Riparian Buffers (e.g., keep-out zones near streams) that were developed to PA state requirements. The Township requires a land disturbance permit and controls for land disturbances exceeding a specified area for disturbances/excavations in order to manage the environmental impact. The Township intended to apply these ordinances to the subject property and the proposed logging operations.

The property is zoned R-2, which is a residential district. "Forestry" is a "by-right" permitted Use in any zoning district, including residential, which means no special approvals are needed from the Township for that Use. However, the Use has to abide by the general ordinances of the township, except those that conflict with PA state laws governing agriculture, and hence forestry or logging.

"ACRE" (Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment) is such a PA law. Since its enactment in 2005, the "ACRE" law has been used to ensure that ordinances adopted by local governments to regulate normal agricultural operations are not in violation of state law. Logging is considered a normal agricultural

operation.

The long-time, property-owner family filed a complaint with the State Attorney General that they should not have to abide by our particular township ordinances, and not have to obtain a township permit, because they had filed a logging/land use plan and had

Pennsbury Township consists of 6,443 acres, of which 2,270 are open space protected (35%) .

Trees contribute to our environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe. For each large tree felled a day's supply of oxygen for four people is lost.

obtained approval from the Chester County Conservation District. The PA Attorney General issued a written opinion to the Township in favor of the property owner. Therefore the logging operation could proceed without direct Township oversight and without a permit. The Township had considered legal action, but did not proceed in view of the PA Attorney General opinion. The Township's only recourse is to complain to the Chester County Conservation District if it sees a problem that is counter to the county-approved plan. The County performed a recent inspection with no issues raised. The property could be developed per the Township's R-2 zoning regulations in the future.

Board of Supervisors

It's Township Fall Clean-up Time!

Leaf Collection — October 21 - November 29

Brush Pickup — November 11 - 15

Info on Page 3

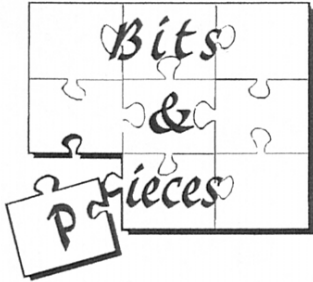


**PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
OFFICE**
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Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Monday — Thursday
Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

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



❖ TOWNSHIP ROADS RIGHT OF WAY (ROW)

Depending on the width of the road, a Township Right-of-Way is 5 to 10 feet from the edge of the road. Nothing shall be planted or placed in the ROW, which includes fences, rocks, bushes and trees. The Township is NOT responsible for damage to things planted or placed in a ROW.

❖ TOWNSHIP PARK

The Pennsbury Township Park is closed on Monday's for mowing and maintenance throughout the growing season. It is open every other day from dawn to dusk.

❖ DOG PARK

Dogs must be on leash at all times unless confined to the area of the dog park.

Owners have been parking and letting their dogs out of a car without a leash while walking them to the park.

This is not acceptable as it can cause anxiety in other people if unknown and unleashed dogs approach them. The dog park is self-patrolled. If you find there is a problem, call the Animal Control Officer at 610-692-6113 (SPCA) and file a complaint.

❖ BRIDGE CLOSING

PennDot has closed the Lenape Bridge on Rt. 52 in Pocopson and Birmingham Townships as of August 19, 2019 through May 2020 for repairs. Detours will be posted. Plan on adding time to your commute if you have to travel in this direction.

❖ 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.

❖ LIBRARY SEEKS INPUT

The Kennett Library wants to know what Pennsbury residents would like to see in programming as well as building facilities in the new library. To offer your opinions go to the library website, kennettlibrary.org and offer suggestions.

❖ TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Township has several committees that are staffed by volunteers.

If you are willing to serve on any of these,

contact the Township office at 610-388-7323.

Committees are:

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. *Need Yard Sale Chair for 2020!*

Planning Commission — reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding development proposals and ordinances.

Pennsbury's Historic Mill — uses volunteers to help with maintenance of the mill and semi-annual school tours

❖ CHESTER COUNTY COLOR 5K RUN/WALK

Come out on Saturday morning, October 5 and help us battle the opioid and heroin epidemic by raising funds and awareness!

The Chester County Color 5k is a family-friendly, timed 5k run/walk. Runners, walkers and children of all ages are welcome! Get tickets

at <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/WestChester/Color5k>.

Register now and save \$5. Discount ends Saturday, August 31.

❖ REPORT ON ECONOMIC VALUE OF PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

Chester County recently joined with the County Assoc. of Township Officials, the Chester County Economic Development Council, local conservation organizations and others to study the economic impact of our preserved open spaces, parks and trails.

The results showed these community assets pack a powerful economic punch.

For example, preserved open space adds \$1.65 billion to the value of the county's housing stock and, as a result, generates \$27.4 million annually in property taxes.

More findings and the resulting report and summary document can be found at

chescoplanning.org/OpenSpace/ROE.cfm.

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- ✓ Flexible hours
- ✓ Weekly pay
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1-855-JOB-2020

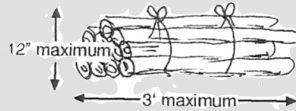
Fall Township Clean-up

Brush Pickup

November 11- 15

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 21 - November 29

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.

Recycling is Alive in Chester County

But the issue with recycling today is **CONTAMINATION**. When recyclables are clean and separated from trash correctly there is a market for those items. **BUT ONLY ITEMS ASKED FOR**. Wishful recyclers who want to recycle everything need to be educated. They have polluted the market with trash.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District News

As I am sure everyone is aware from the additional bus traffic, school is back in session as the 2019-2020 school year began on August 26th. As I am writing this update school has been in session for one week and our fall athletes have been busy with their season after 3-4 weeks of tryouts and practice. There are 2 things that I would like to provide more information on in this newsletter.



The first is the rollout of "Lunch and Learn" at Unionville High School. In the past, high school students have been assigned to one of three 30 minute lunch periods. This year all of the high school students will have an entire lunch hour at the same time. The purpose of the initiative is to give students flexibility and free time in their schedules so that they can meet with teachers, collaborate on assignments, study or even work out in the gym. The administration prepared for the roll out by learning from neighboring districts who already implemented this type of schedule to help ensure a smooth transition.

Second, I wanted to invite community members to attend a presentation on September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium by John O'Sullivan, author of "Changing the Game: The Parents Guide to Raising Happy, High-Performing Athletes and Giving Youth Sports Back to Our Kids." Mr. O'Sullivan will provide his perspective on the current state of youth athletics and recommendations on how to improve the experience for our children. All are welcome.

Please visit www.ucfsd.org for more information about the school district.

John Murphy, School Board Representative

The Invaders are Here!

Three relatively new non native insect/tick pest species are now in our area. They threaten to cause economic, ecological and aesthetic damage to our landscape.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle that eats its way through the inner bark of ash trees eventually killing it. Usually by the time it is noticed the tree is beyond saving. While it is not realistic to save all the ash trees in our area individual specimens can be protected by the application of a systemic pesticide by a licensed tree service. The beetle was thought to have been brought in from Asia on wood packing material.



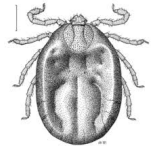
More of a problem is the Spotted Lanternfly because it attacks 70 species of landscape and agricultural trees. These include fruit trees and even grape vines. Chester County is now a quarantine site for this brightly colored insect. We are cautioned not to bring in firewood from unknown sources and check vehicles for hitchhiking Lanternflies. Adults and egg clusters will hitchhike on brick, stone and metal as well as wood. For pictures and more details about this insect please go to www.extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly.



A detailed website which includes information on identification, prevention and treatment for both the

Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lanternfly is <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis>. Check under "pests and diseases".

The newest pest to arrive is the Asian Long Horned Tick. It swarms on pets, livestock, wildlife and people. While it does not seem to transmit disease to people in this country as it does elsewhere this may change in the future. More of a problem currently is the locally-prevalent Black Legged (deer) Tick which carries a number of serious illnesses including Lyme's disease. When going into shrubby, wooded or long grass areas wear long pants and sleeves, spray with DEET and /or treat clothing with permethrin. Check body carefully daily for ticks.



For more tick information see <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/longhorned-tick>

Like many pathogens the three new invasive pest species discussed were accidentally introduced from Asia either in packing material or on nursery plant stock. This is just one excellent reason to plant native rather than non native plants into your garden. Our native plants and animals have coevolved over long periods of time and generally keep each other in check. When aggressive non native species arrive there are often no predators to keep them under control so they quickly become a major problem

Pennsbury Land Trust

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.

A zoning variance application by Mr. and Mrs. Vince Moro concerning their property on McFadden Road was reviewed by the PC. They planned an addition to their historic home. With one member abstaining, we unanimously voted to recommend that the Supervisors support the Moro's variance application to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Lynn Luft, Historical Commission Chair, apprised PC members on the ongoing update of the 2009 Township Historic Survey which is planned to be completed late Fall of this year.

The PC reviewed and commented on the Special Event Ordinance and Special Events Permit drafts received from Township Solicitor, Tom Oeste and referred them back to Mr. Oeste for advertising.

We reviewed and discussed a three-lot subdivision plan for the properties located at 1151 and 1295 Stockford Road. With several conditions and consistent with the recommendations from Matt Houtmann, Township Engineer, the PC voted to recommend that the Supervisors approve the plan.

All Township residents are welcome to attend Planning Commission meetings which are scheduled the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 5:30 PM in the Township Building

Dennis Smith, Chair



Become a Volunteer at the Longwood Fire Station!

Fire stations across Chester County are in need of volunteers like you who are ready to help save lives and protect property right in their own backyard. That's why last year the Chester County Fire Chiefs Association launched HelpFightFire.com to help make it easy to understand the many volunteer opportunities available. Plus there's a volunteer inquiry form you can fill out that will allow members of your local fire station to contact you about your interest in becoming a volunteer and answer any questions you may have.

There are several ways to serve your local station, with open positions that will perfectly match your talents:

Firefighters: As a volunteer firefighter, you'll learn skills like how to advance a hose line, perform search-and-rescue operations, and position ladders strategically. We'll give you the training and equipment needed to stay safe at no cost to you..

EMTs: Our volunteer EMTs help save lives by transporting the sick and injured to the hospital. You'll be there to respond to specialized calls like auto

accidents, carbon monoxide alarms and other rescue calls. Again, the training and equipment will be provided for free.

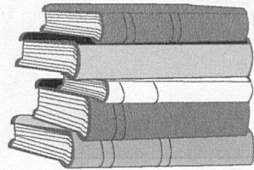
Fire Police: Help keep an emergency situation safe by directing traffic and crowds and providing general assistance to other first responders.

Junior Firefighters: Teens at least 14 years old can gain experience around a fire house as a junior firefighter. You'll lend a hand and begin fire training that will prepare you to become a full member at 18 years old. Volunteering as a junior firefighter is also a great way to secure community service hours and looks great on a college resume.

Administrative Volunteers: Non-emergency volunteers can also play a huge role. They help teach fire safety, assist in fundraising events, help with bookkeeping, human resources, website maintenance and other responsibilities. Whatever your skill set, we can use it!

By joining our team, you'll help make us stronger and your community safer. So what are you waiting for? Go to HelpFightFire.com. Volunteer today. Chester County lives depend on it.

Kennett Library News



Shiver me timbers! This summer at the Kennett Library was a success! We had so many great programs that we offered the community like our popular Maker Camp. This year we had two different sessions broken up into age groups. The older kids designed and manufactured their own ukuleles and the younger group teamed up to make sumo robots (SumoBots). We also had Culinary Literacy where everyone got to make food that related to a book and building your own birdhouse for bluebirds. We had movie nights, book club discussions, family chocolate bingo night and so much more! Phew! We did a lot!

We are a treasure trove of information and resources for our community, which is why we love our Adult Literacy Program that provides English as a Second

Language classes, GED tutoring and assistance with American citizenship. In the past three months we have had 6 individuals that have passed their citizenship tests. This year the Adult Literacy Program is celebrating its 40th anniversary and we are so proud of what this program has offered to the community through the years. Here's to 40 more!

We definitely feel that "X Marks the Spot" at the Library, which is why our theme for the 3rd Annual Kennett Library Benefit on October 17th is based on Treasure Island. Victoria Wyeth will be the speaker at this event and for a sneak peek she did a Treasure Island storytime in August. We appreciate Victoria's support of the library and we appreciate all of our supporters within our community. If you or someone you know is interested in tickets for our Fall Benefit or if you want to check out our awesome programs that we offer please go to kennettlibrary.org. We hope to see you soon,



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 5:30 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

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

14, 15 Sat, Sun 10 am - 5 pm — **CHADDS FORD DAYS** Chadds Ford Historical Society's celebration of the history of Chadds Ford at the Barn Visitors Center on Creek Road.. Fee
www.chaddsfordhistory.org

OCTOBER

4 - 6 Fri - Sun — **UNIONVILLE COMMUNITY FAIR & FARM SHOW** Landhope Farms, Rts. 82 & 926. Schedule and info at www.ucfarinc.org

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

7 Mon — **LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE NOVEMBER MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

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

17-19 Thurs - Sat, 4 to 9 pm — **THE GREAT PUMPKIN CARVE** at the Chadds Ford Historical Society. Fee.
www.chaddsfordhistory.org

21 Mon through Nov. 29 — **LEAF COLLECTION BEGINS** See page 3

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

NOVEMBER

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

11-15 Mon - Fri — **BRUSH COLLECTION** See page 3.

30 Thurs — **LEAF COLLECTION ENDS**

DECEMBER

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

sara corbishley, editor

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