



False Fire Alarms are Costing You A Lot of Money

False Fire Alarms are largely caused by faulty fire and smoke detectors in your house and they are costing you a lot of money. How is that?

Pennsbury Township is serviced primarily by Longwood Fire Co (LFC). LFC receives partial funding via very large contributions by the Township. Over the past few years, the Township’s contribution for Fire/Rescue and EMS Services has increased by about a factor of THREE (3) to approximately \$236,000 per year, due in large part to false fire alarms and dramatic shortfalls in Emergency Management Services (e.g., ambulance/paramedic calls) payments versus billings. Our contribution amount equates to about 86% of the property tax revenue in the 2019 Township budget! More on the EMS problem in the next newsletter.

LFC responds to all fire alarms and calls in their coverage area. In April 2019, LFC experienced a false fire alarm rate of 34%, due in large part to faulty fire/smoke detectors. That is entirely too high and is unnecessarily running up the costs. Responding to false alarms is a major expense, which the Township has to help cover in the form of your tax dollars. You can help minimize these costs by proper installation and maintenance of fire and smoke detectors in your house.

Fires - Most common causes

- Cooking, portable heaters, smoking in bedrooms, electrical equipment, candles, barbeques
- Have multi-purpose, powder-type fire extinguisher(s) handy in the house

Detector Installation - Improper location can trigger a false alarm

- Too close to cooking appliances – detector should be at least 10 ft away
- Too close to bathrooms – steam from showers can trigger an alarm
- Too close to windows, doors or ducts – drafts can interfere with detector operation

Detector Maintenance – Many detectors are battery operated and have an internal beam that smoke will interrupt and set off the alarm

- Airborne dust and contaminants can interfere with the detector beam and give off a false alarm; vacuum inside and around your detector at least twice a year
- Change batteries before it starts to chirp (low battery signal) once a year, or at least every three years for long-life lithium batteries
- Replace entire detector at least every 10 years
- Test the smoke detector monthly by pressing the external “test” button

Did anyone notice that we did not have the Annual Yard Sale this year?



This event has taken place for the last 16-17 years and needs to be re-energized. We need more volunteers because the organization of the event has fallen on a few people who cannot continue to do it all. So, with that being said, if you are interested in taking up the baton and marching forward by either chairing the event or helping out in some way, please call the township building at 610-388-7323.

By the way, it maybe time to “repurpose” the event and have something different in the park. If you have ideas, we’d love to hear them. This is a community park and we need the “community” to run the event!



❖SUMMER ROAD WORK

Roads to be worked on after school lets out are Fern Hill Road, Apple Row, Sapling Drive, Fox Run, Blue Stone Court and Drive, Conestoga Court, Chaddwyck Lane, Willow Glen and Mill Pond. A fog seal will be applied a short time after oil/chip. All of Chandler Road will be paved and there will be pipe work done on Hillendale, Constitution Drive at Concord Way as well as Fairville and Cosart Roads.

Please remember to keep all plantings and trees trimmed back out of the roadway. Nothing should be planted in the right of way as well as placing

large stone/boulders which can damage township trucks trying to get work done.

❖WARM WEATHER

Nice weather brings out walkers and bikers. Please share the road and be aware of people walking. Walkers should always walk **against traffic** so you can see cars coming and step off the road if they are going too fast.

Also, with nice weather people will spend more time outside working in their yards and entertaining. Please be considerate of noise level and enjoy the beautiful area we live in.

There's room for everyone! Don't start mowers or construction projects too early in the morning and stop by evening time. Be a good neighbor!

❖ROUTE 1 CONSTRUCTION

Construction work to be done on Route 1 this Summer will include the

traffic light intersections along Route 1 in Pennsbury Township. They will be upgraded to include Intelligent Transportation technology. There may be lane restrictions so be careful driving and pay attention to work zone areas. Along with this work, Longwood Gardens will be rehabilitating their overpass on Rt. 1 near the garden entrance this summer. The work will be restricted to the hours between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. It should start June 10th and end in August. Again, there will be lane restrictions so there might be traffic backups on Rt. 1 in the vicinity. Please plan for additional travel time.

❖DOG LICENSES

All dogs 3 month of age or older are required to have a current license. Contact the County at www.licenseyourdogpa.com.

You can also contact Ann Duke, Chester County Treasurer at 610-344-6370. The Chester County dog warden is Maureen Siddons at 610-909-5666.

Remember there is a leash law in Pennsbury Township. All dogs off their property must be in full control by their owner/handler. That means they must be on a leash and at the "park" unless they are in the dog park. Please do not let your dog run loose and remember to pick up after your dog.

❖CONTROL YOUR STORMWATER

Help control stormwater runoff on your property: redirect downspouts, use a rain barrel, plant trees, use pervious pavers.



Unionville-Chadds Ford School District News

John Murphy, Representative

During the June 17th School Board meeting the 2019-2020 proposed final general fund budget will be voted on. The total budgeted appropriations will be \$90.27 million which will result in a 2.27% weighted increase in the current millage rates. Pennsbury Township residents will see a millage increase of 2.28%.

Other recent items of interest include the approval to proceed with elements of the facilities Long range Plan. The outdoor facilities at the high school and middle school campus will be updated with a double turf field and the 2 baseball fields will be relocated near the traffic circle. This work will take several years to complete. We were able to take advantage of extremely low municipal bond interest rates and our superior credit rating (Aa1) in order to finance this and other upcoming work on our long range plan.

Our school district continues to be recognized as a top performing district. Recently US News and World Reports ranked Unionville High School #7 overall in the state and #56 in the nation in terms of STEM and the Pittsburgh Business Journal's annual ranking the Unionville-Chadds School district was ranked #1 in the state for the 5th year in a row.

Please visit ucfsd.org for more information.

Historic Resources Update

Following the Pennsylvania state mandate which requires municipalities to keep an inventory of all structures fifty years of age and older, the Pennsbury Historical Commission continues to work with Jane Dorchester, Architectural Historian and Historic Preservation Consultant, to document those properties in the Township which have been built between world War II and 1970.

The post war period was one of suburban expansion, with the introduction of many different types of housing and increasing home ownership in Chester County. After all the information has been catalogued, photographs will be taken of the properties' front facades and a brief description of the main types of housing and building which occurred during this period in Pennsbury will be compiled by Ms. Dorchester for presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

The report will include any recommendations for revisions or additions to the municipal codes which could help the Township better preserve its unique rural character, a quality given extremely high priority by residents living in Pennsbury as noted in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Commission extends a special thank you to residents for their cooperation with the Resource update.

Lynn Luft, Historical Commission Chair



Planning Commission Update

The following is an update of Planning Commission (PC) actions and activities.

The PC continued its review of the Anderson's minor subdivision plan of their historically significant property located on Street Road and at a later PC meeting, we completed that work with a recommendation that the Supervisors approve the plan following the completion of an Historic Impact Study and consistent with the Township Engineer's report from Matt Houtman.

Variance Applications from owner, H&S Construction and Supply to the Zoning Hearing Board concerning properties located at 5 and 19 Raintree Road were reviewed. The PC recommended that the Supervisors take a supporting position on the proposed development of 5 Raintree Road and a neutral position on 19 Raintree Road.

The PC recommended that the Supervisors approve a proposed lot line change for the property owned by Mark and Donna Gosik located at 815/805 Baltimore Pike.

A joint planning seminar was held with the Supervisors and PC to review 2018 progress and set priority goals for 2019.

We reviewed a Zoning Hearing Board variance application by Athanasia Schaller seeking a variance for impervious coverage in order to install an in-ground swimming pool on their property at 1205 Kinterra Court. The PC recommended a neutral position to the Supervisors.

A sketch plan (informal) discussion regarding a possible three lot minor subdivision involving properties at 1295 and 1151 Stockford Road was held. After discussion, the applicants' agent indicated that they intend to proceed with their plans and submit them for review.

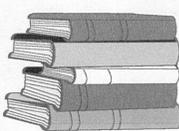
The PC reviewed plans for a solar panel installation application made by Emily Smith on the Smith's property located at 17 Fairhill Drive. The application requires a Conditional Use hearing and decision by the Supervisors. Bordering residents present objected to the size and placement of the panels. The applicant decided to postpone the process and will return to the PC to conclude our meeting at a later date.

Mike Clements was appointed to the Planning Commission at the May Supervisor's meeting. Welcome Mike!

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 at the township building.

Dennis Smith, Chair

Kennett Library News



The Kennett Library is buzzing with activity as we get ready to kick off an incredible line-up of free summer programs for children, teens, and adults. From Maker Camps to Family Movie Nights to the ever-popular Video Game Club, we've got something for everyone at the Kennett Library!

Registration for our summer session begins on June 1st through our website: www.kennettlibrary.org. There you will find information, dates and times for all of our summer programs.

There are programs and activities for our youngest patrons (newborn to four years old), school age patrons, teens, and adults

Join us for an action-packed summer of learning, exploring, and fun!



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

ALL SUMMER

Sat 1 to 6 pm — **TOURS OF BARNS-BRINTON HOUSE** Guided tours by colonial guides. Fee. More info: www.chaddsfordhistory.org

JUNE

21 FRI., 9 am - 3 pm — **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION (no e-waste)** Coatesville Learning Center, 1425 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville

SEPTEMBER

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

14, 15 Sat, Sun — **CHADDS FORD DAYS** Sponsored by the Chadds Ford Historical Society. More info: www.chaddsfordhistory.org

OCTOBER

4, 5, 6 Fri, Sat & Sun — **UNIONVILLE COMMUNITY FAIR** 101 East State St., Willowdale, Kennett Square More info: www.ucfair.org

7 Mon — **LAST DAY TO REGISTER BEFORE THE NOVEMBER ELECTION**

4 Fri, 7-9 pm — **TAVERN TALK: Very Superstitious** Chadds Ford Historical Society's living history experience at the Barns-Brinton House for attendees over 21. Fee www.chaddsfordhistory.org

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

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sara corbishley, editor

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