



# PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Winter 2018  
Vol. 32, No. 1

[www.pennsbury.pa.us](http://www.pennsbury.pa.us)

## TWIN BRIDGES RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER

This past September, the Twin Bridges Rural Historic District was formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The District includes nearly 2,000 acres on both sides of the Brandywine River in the southern parts of Pennsbury and Chadds Ford Townships. Its name refers to the multiple arched, concrete bridge over the Brandywine River, located about one and a half miles south of the Baltimore Pike on Creek Road. However, the name itself is a misnomer. "Twin Bridges" in fact refers to two covered tandem bridges which existed prior to the current structure! Despite its age of nearly 100 years, the 'new' bridge is still called Twin Bridges by area residents, many of whom remember stories and photos of the original crossing.

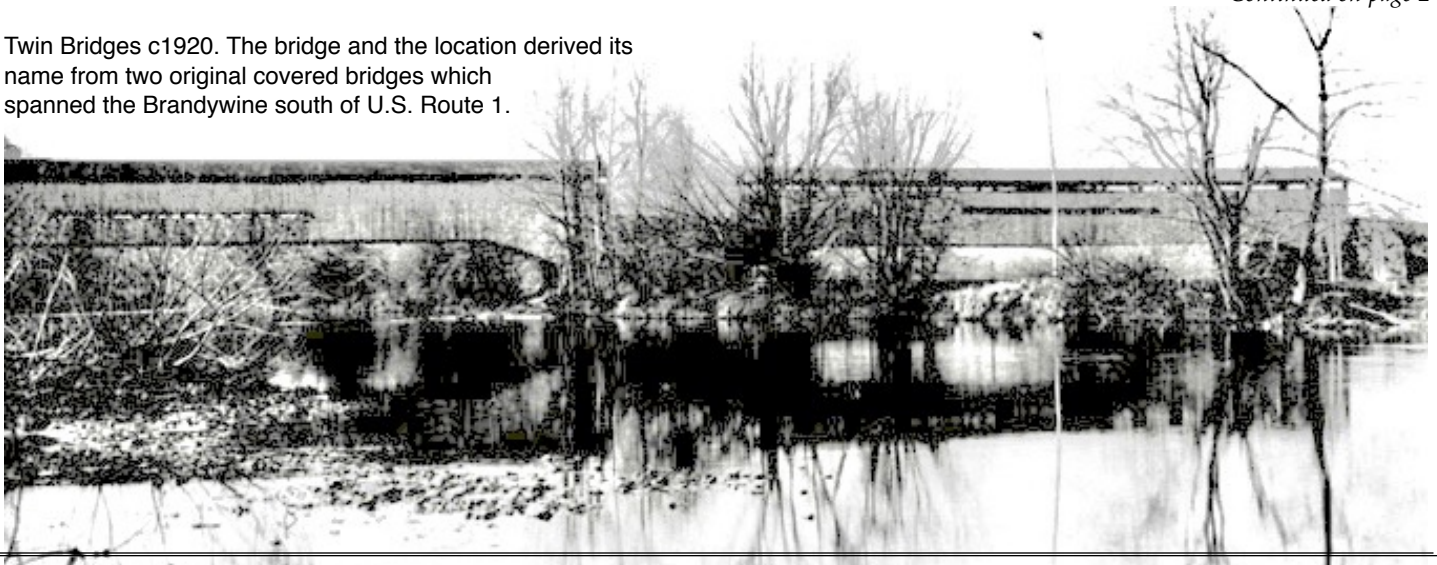
Nominated for its preservation of rural character and historic architecture, the Twin Bridges District uniquely typifies the early 20th century movement to establish country estates that conserved agricultural and forested lands. The original three estates – the Beverly Estate east of the Brandywine, Hill Girt Farm, and the Bissell Estate west of the river – remain largely open and visually intact properties, as they have been since the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Twin Bridges c1920. The bridge and the location derived its name from two original covered bridges which spanned the Brandywine south of U.S. Route 1.

A portion of Hill Girt was purchased by Frolic Weymouth, a founder of the Brandywine Conservancy, and restored as Big Bend, in keeping with the district's historic character. Beverly, owned by the Draper family, still encompasses most of its early farm land. The Haskell Farm, another part of Hill Girt, also remains in the family, operating as a working farm with a wonderful summer produce market. Although some of the Bissell Estate has been subdivided, much is still owned by family members. The vast majority of the district is permanently protected through conservation easements, thanks to the preservationist principles and generosity of local landowners.

Exceptionally noteworthy is that the initial three conservation easements recorded by the Brandywine Conservancy fifty years ago were lands within the Twin Bridges Rural Historic District. Conservancy staff members and West Chester architectural historian Jane Dorchester have worked on the Twin Bridges' project for several years, beginning with application for recognition by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC). Funding was helped by donations from

*Continued on page 2*



**PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP**

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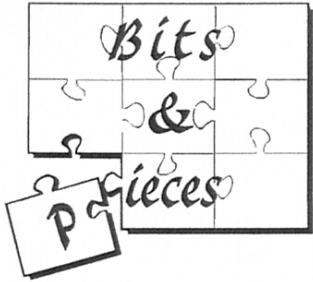
**Office Hours:**

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Monday – Thursday

Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

**SUPERVISORS**

Scotty Scottoline  
Wendell Fenton  
Aaron McIntyre



## ❖ 2018 BUDGET

The 2018 budget was adopted at the Dec. 13, 2017 Board of Supervisors public meeting. It is a balanced budget of \$1,643,420.00. There is no tax increase. The property tax stays at 1.49 mills, earned income tax at 0.312%.

The Supervisors made the decision to pay down existing debt. 2001 and 2004 Notes have been paid off as of Nov. 27, 2017. The only existing debt is the 2014 Note which was used to purchase the Toll property in 2014.

## ❖ 2018 TAX BILLS

Tax bills for 2018 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 16, 2018 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.

## ❖ TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION FOR 2018

The Board of Supervisors organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 2 in the Township Building. The regular monthly meeting will follow.

The elected Auditor's organizational meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 7 pm and the Planning Commission organizational meeting will be Monday, Jan. 8 at 5 pm. Both will be at the Township Building.

## ❖ PENNSBURY'S HISTORIC MILL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Pennsbury Historic Preservation, Inc a 501c3 affiliate of the Township invites you to participate in a unique community service — the care and use of the Pennsbury Mill, a 100 year old hydroelectric generating mill located on Fairville Road.

Our commitment currently is to serve the local elementary schools by providing an educational program for spring field trips.

Partnering with the Williamson College of the Trades, we present hands on demonstration of natural cycles, conservation, renewable energy, and power generation and usage as part of the 4th grade curriculum.

We would be interested in anyone with a background in education,

engineering, the power industry or in helping with new ideas and initiatives of our ongoing programs.

This is a fun experience with a minimum time commitment. If you would like to be a part of our team or for more information, please contact Matt Ochs at: [matthew.ochs@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.ochs@gmail.com).

## ❖ NEW OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pennsbury Township and Pennsbury Land Trust are working with the Brandywine Conservancy to draft an open space management plan for the land along Route 1 next to the Township campus that was purchased in Dec. 2014.

The parcel east of the Township Building will be cleared. Trails, meadow grass and sitting areas are included in the concept plan.

The other two parcels just west of the building will also remain open and

no structures built per the easement. Maintenance of the open space will be addressed in the document which will be received by year end.

## ❖ DOGS

The Brandywine Valley SPCA is the Township's animal control officer. The Township has a contract with them to respond to animals that are left unattended or loose.

By law, dogs MUST be on a leash and under your control at all times when in Pennsbury Park unless they are in the Bark Park.

It is very disconcerting to come upon a dog that is not leashed when walking in the park, on the road or in your neighborhood.

Also, please pick up after your dog.

## ❖ CHECK WINTER WATER RUNOFF

As the wintry mix of snow and rain come along, monitor the runoff and see where improvement might be made next year to keep runoff on your property.

## TWIN BRIDGES *Continued from page 1*

members of the Friends of Twin Bridges. According to the PHMC, the legacy of conservation efforts is of major significance in the National Park Service's decision to list the Twin Bridges Rural Historic District on the National Register. Congratulations to the Conservancy on its fiftieth anniversary and an extraordinary effort well done!

The Pennsbury Historical Commission thanks John Snook, Brandywine Conservancy Senior Advisor, for providing information from Conservancy articles and reports.

Lynn Luft



## PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

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

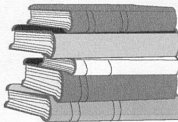
As previously reported the PC, led by Jim Ware, has been working on ways to strengthen the Township's ordinance protecting our groundwater from commercial exportation. This included seeking extensive and helpful input from: Save Our Water organization; Ms. Jan Bowers, Director of Water Resources for Chester County; Alma Forsyth and Mr. Tom Oeste, Township Solicitor. At our October 10 meeting, the PC voted unanimously to recommend that the Supervisors authorize Mr. Oeste to draft amendments to our Zoning Ordinance which will provide additional groundwater protection from commercial exportation.

The PC continued its work on the Brenn's application for a two lot subdivision of their property located at the intersection of Street and Parkerville Roads. As the property is of historical importance, the Historical Commission, led by Lynn Luft, has been involved in a separate review. The PC previously recommended that the subdivision plan be approved subject to several conditions and we have scheduled our final review of the matter for our December 11 meeting.

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

Dennis Smith, Chair

## NEWS FROM THE KENNETT LIBRARY



The Kennett Library has a busy winter planned with lots of activities, including events for adults, children and teens. Check the Library website at [kennettlibrary.org](http://kennettlibrary.org) for the full schedule.

The Library reached agreement with Kennett Square Borough to purchase what is known as the Weinstein lot at the corner of State and Willow streets. A sign is in place noting this as the future home of the new library. Plans for a new building are under way with the Architects for an exciting new space allowing for expansion of the library's programs as well as new opportunities to serve our communities.

## Winter Road Reminders

- **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.
- **SECURE YOUR MAILBOX.** The Township is NOT responsible for damage caused by snow or ice that is thrown from the snowplow blade. 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.
- **DO NOT PUSH SNOW INTO THE STREET.** Wait until the roadway is cleared before shoveling your driveway. Shoveling snow 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.

## Wildflowers and Mills on the

### Susquehanna

SAVE THE DATE

Friday April 27, 2018  
9 am - 3 pm

Pennsbury Land Trust Spring Field Trip

As the mighty Susquehanna River created rich, sheltered habitats for a wealth of wildflowers and wildlife, it also provided waterpower for mills and transportation. Walk along a section of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal through drifts of Dutchman's breeches, bluebells, toothwort, phlox and an unusual white trillium. See evidence of the pioneer settlers' mills and canals. Learn about the region's ecology while watching for migrating warblers and resident eagles.

Bring lunch and beverage, binoculars if you have them and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at the Pennsbury Township Building to carpool the easy one hour drive to Susquehanna State Park.

Trip is limited to 15 people. To reserve space call the Township Building at 610-388-7323 or email [khowley@pennsbury.pa.us](mailto:khowley@pennsbury.pa.us)

Cost is \$10 per person/ \$5 for Pennsbury Land Trust members. Fee will be collected on the day of the trip.



# 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 Monday 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](http://www.ucfsd.org)

#### DECEMBER 2017

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

#### JANUARY 2018

2 Tuesday — **Board of Supervisors Organizational Meeting** at the Township Building.

2 Tuesday — **Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting** at the Township Building.

3 Wednesday, 7:00 pm — **Elected Auditors Organizational Meeting** at the Township Building.

8 Monday, 5 pm — **Planning Commission Organizational Meeting** at the Township Building.

31 Wednesday — **Christmas Tree Recycling Ends.**

#### FEBRUARY

15 Thursday, 7:00 pm — **Tavern Talks: Chocolate & Courtship** at the Barns-Brinton House sponsored by the Chadds Ford Historical Society. Fee. Info at [www.chaddsfordhistory.org](http://www.chaddsfordhistory.org)

#### MARCH

15 Thursday, 7:00 pm — **Tavern Talks: Mind Your Pints & Quarts** at the Barns-Brinton House sponsored by the Chadds Ford Historical Society. Fee. Info at [www.chaddsfordhistory.org](http://www.chaddsfordhistory.org)

#### APRIL

5 Thursday, 7 pm — **Pennsbury Land Trust Annual Meeting** at 7 at the Township Building. Presentation on Water Protection and Preservation

27 Friday, 9 am-3 pm — **Pennsbury Land Trust Spring Field Trip** *see page 3*



sara.corbiskley, editor

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