



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • FALL 2022 • VOL. 24 N° 2

Township Taxes

Your township property tax bill will be mailed by March 1, 2023. The County tax bill is mailed in January and the School Tax bill (the largest of the three) will be mailed by the school district July 1st. If you do not receive any of these bills, it is your responsibility to follow up and get a copy. **There is also an Earned Income Tax in Pennsbury Township (0.312%) and it is collected by Keystone Collections.** Keystone collects this tax for all municipalities in Chester County that have the EIT tax. This is NOT a collection agency. They are the tax collector.

You can find all this information on our website at www.pennsbury.pa.us. The budget for 2023 will be posted the beginning of November and will be considered for adoption at the December Supervisor's meeting.

Election Day November 8, 2022

Polls open at 7:00am and close at 8:00pm. Voting precincts are listed on our website.



“Townwatch”

Have you noticed any signs around the township for “TOWNWATCH”? Did you wonder what that organization does? Well, the non-profit organized in the 80’s has not been operating for sometime now and is looking for leadership – to resurrect the group and continue the good work that was being done by a handful of volunteers. Townwatch does just what the word implies – watches over neighbors and is the eyes of the community keeping us safe.



They conduct weekly patrols and educate the public on how you can keep your property and yourself safe. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please call the township office at 610-388-7323. It is a worthwhile organization and sorely missed. •

Driveway Permits Needed for Resurfacing Your Driveway

These can be obtained on line at www.pennsbury.pa.us or call the office at 610-388-7323. Permits are NOT needed for sealcoating your driveway—only for resurfacing. The Road Department can be very helpful in advising you what to look for in a good job. Too many driveways are done with minimal materials and fall apart quickly. **THE HOMEOWNER IS RESPONSIBLE for obtaining the permit BEFORE the work is done.** •

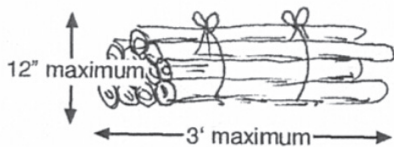


Fall Branch Pick-Up Week November 14 - 18, 2022

bagged leaves can be dropped off at the township building in the designated space starting October 17 to November 30th.

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 and tree limbs must be tied in bundles no greater than 3' long and 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.

Christmas Trees can also be dropped off starting December 26th until the end of January.

Planning Commission Update

The following is an update of the Pennsbury Township Planning Commission's (PC) main activities and news since the last edition of the Pennsbury Township News.

- Alan Matas was appointed to the Planning Commission by the Supervisors. Welcome Alan!
- A solar power installation application for 4 Whitestone Lane (Johnson) was reviewed. The PC voted to recommend that the Supervisors approve the application subject to PECO's approval.
- Members worked on a Solar Ordinance amendment for the past 1+ years which was passed by the Board of Supervisors July, 2022.
- The plans for a 4-lot subdivision at 141 and 151 McFadden Road were discussed with Mr. Wes Atkins following a review by Matt Houtmann, Pennsbury Township's Engineer. Mr. Atkins will make revisions to the plan and return to a future PC meeting to complete the review.
- A sketch plan discussion was held with Mr. Rich DeMarco regarding development of the property located at 414 Old Baltimore Pike. Mr. DeMarco will return to the PC when ready.
- A Zoning Hearing Board variance application for impervious coverage by Mr. & Mrs. Ratmanskyy for their property at 5 Colonial Drive was reviewed. The PC recommended that the Supervisors not support the application.
- A Zoning Hearing Board application by Mr. and Mrs. Attanasio on their property at 1391 Parkersville Rd. seeking a variance for a pool placement in the front yard was reviewed. The PC recommended that the Supervisors take a neutral position on the application.
- Township Engineer, Matt Houtmann discussed proposed changes to the Storm Water Management Ordinance requested by Chester County. The PC voted to recommend support of the changes.

All township residents are welcome to attend Planning Commission meetings which are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm in the Township Building. •

Sign Proliferation

A vendor/contractor sign is allowed on a property during the course of the project. When the project is completed, the sign must be taken down. If not taken down in a timely fashion, the township will remove it and the property owner can be cited. Political Signs must have landowner permission for placement, no larger than 6 sf in size, must not be placed sooner than 30 days prior to the election and must be removed within 3 days after the election. •

Kennett Library is a Hive of Activity

There is so much going on at the Kennett Library these days. As the staff make plans for the new Kennett Library & Resource Center, they are also creating an end-of-year calendar of programs that offers something for everyone in the current library.

There are book groups for those who like romance, true crime, contemporary fiction, graphic novels and more. There are programs for children, teens, and adults, like toddler music camp, singing in French, bi-lingual story time, how to creatively use old books, magic gathering, tree talks, and the list goes on. Be sure to visit the library website at www.kennettlibrary.org to stay up to date on all the happenings.

For anyone who drives or walks down E. State Street you can see the tremendous building progress that is taking place at the corner of State and Willow streets for the new Kennett Library & Resource Center. The steel structure is complete, and they are working on the walls and roof so that the building will be enclosed before winter weather is here. They will then move inside to complete the interior work in time for the Grand Opening in May.

Library staff, under the leadership of Executive Director, Chris Manna, are planning the enhanced programming that can take place in a new building that offers an adult and children's maker spaces, several classrooms, a 110-seat auditorium, an outdoor terrace – much more space than is currently available at the library.

Thanks to our many donors and supporters, both past and present, at the end of August \$15.8 million (73%) has been committed to the Library's "Imagine" Capital Campaign goal of \$21.7 million needed to build the Kennett Library & Resource Center.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the local municipalities the library serves and the Library itself have generously invested \$6.9 million. To date the Campaign has raised \$8.9 million from private philanthropy, with \$5.9 million yet to go.

There are many ways you can help. There are still rooms and special features to be sponsored. There are Theatre Seats for sale! And there are Gold, Silver and Bronze leaves to be added to the Library Tree. All gifts, large and small, are appreciated and will receive appropriate recognition.

For more information about how to donate, please email Mary Hutchins, Campaign Associate, at Mary@KennettLibrary.org or go to the Kennett Library's website: KennettLibrary.org. There is a "Donate Now" button, as well as our narrated walk-through video.

For more information about the "Imagine" Campaign, go to Campaign4KennettLibrary.org. Here you will find Donor Lists, Opportunities to Give, and updated campaign information.

As always, we are grateful for the support of Pennsbury Township. We couldn't offer our outstanding programs or build this new library without the support of our municipal partners. •



A Topping-Off Ceremony celebrating the building progress was held on July 14. About 200 members of the community were on hand to join in the festivities and sign a ceremonial beam that was lifted into place on the building.

Pennsbury Land Trust Community Naturalist Education Series

Wednesday, October 19; 2022
11:00am - 12:30am

"Native Trees in Fall"

Free. Registration not required. Wear sturdy walking shoes. Meet at the Township Park entrance.

What triggers fall leaf color? How does tree seed size and shape impact forest regeneration? What is vertical migration? As fall works its magic observe the native trees in the park's natural area and explore some intriguing ecology questions.

Be inspired by the beauty and value of our native plants and learn how to add them to your own landscape using ecologically friendly techniques.



#998 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Chester County has joined communities across the nation, to introduce "988" as the direct phone connection support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress.

People who call, text, or chat with 988 will be directly connected to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The existing Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will remain available. Callers can also connect with the Veterans Crisis Line or assistance in Spanish. Lifeline services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no cost to the caller. Trained crisis response professionals can support individuals considering suicide, self-harm, or any behavioral or mental health need for themselves or people looking for help for a loved one experiencing a mental health crisis.



Key to the Native Plant Demonstration Garden Pennsbury Land Trust, Community Naturalists

These easy to grow native plants are well adapted to southern PA and northern DE. They prefer part shade to shade in moderately moist, hummus-rich soil.

PERENNIAL WILDFLOWERS:

- 1 **Creeping Phlox*** *Phlox stolonifera*
Easy care low growing semi evergreen perennial; suppresses weeds; blue flowers in spring; good pollinator plant.
- 2 **Foamflower*** *Tiarella cordifolia*
Evergreen woodland groundcover with spikes of long lasting white flowers in spring; grows from underground runners and spreads easily.
- 3 **Golden Alexanders** *Zizia aurea*
Good for edge of the woods; yellow flowers in mid spring; excellent for bees; plant in groups for best show.
- 4 **Golden Ragwort*** *Packera aurea*
Rapidly-spreading groundcover for part shade; yellow daisy-like flowers bloom mid spring; very easy to grow in most conditions.
- 5 **Trumpet Honeysuckle** *Lonicera sempervirens*
Climbing vine good for fences, poles, trellises; showy coral flowers bloom throughout the growing season; a hummingbird magnet.

FERNS:

- 1 **Christmas Fern** *Polystichum acrostichoides*
Easy to grow, sturdy evergreen fern for shade; clumps spread slowly; good companion for wildflowers and for borders.
- 2 **Northern Maidenhair Fern** *Adiantum pedatum*
Lovely, lacy fern offers textural contrast with larger wildflowers or smaller shrubs; fiddleheads emerge in spring; fairly heat and drought tolerant but should not dry out completely.

*Good substitute for lawn in part shade

Eagle Scout Project

Benches on East Parcel Park Area

A few years ago the Township had the “east parcel” of parkland that runs along Rt. 1 next to the maintenance yard and up to the Antique Mall cleared and seeded. Grass has grown and walking trails created. There are some high points along the trails which are perfect places to rest and enjoy the view. An Eagle Scout project was suggested by Scout Simon Hjaltason to create benches for this area, pictures in this newsletter. The project was completed and the Township is appreciative of the great work done by Simon. If you walk along the path, take time to sit and enjoy the view. •



Mysteries of Medicare: Medicare’s Annual Open Enrollment Period (AOEP)

AOEP is a once-a-year opportunity between October 15th and December 7th for most Medicare beneficiaries to make changes to Medicare Advantage (MAPD) and Part D Prescription Drug Plans (PDP). In early October, you will receive a mailing with information about changes to your current plan called Annual Notice of Change (ANOC). The ANOC may appear daunting, but you really need to check for the plan’s 2023 premium, formulary changes, preferred pharmacy changes, copays and drug tiers for your medications.

Medicare beneficiaries who have access to a computer would benefit from setting up a Medicare account on the Medicare.gov website. This account with a username and password allows you to enter drug information once and make changes as they occur. Having an account with an up-to-date drug list allows you to easily search for and compare MAPD and PDP plans using the “Find Health and Drug Plans” tab. It also allows you to review any processed claims from your providers should there be any concerns.

If you would like assistance with an evaluation of your MAPD or your PDP options, PA MEDI counselors are trained and available to provide FREE, personalized, unbiased counseling. Counseling is done by calling your local Senior Center for an appointment. In addition, the Department of Aging has an AOEP scheduling line which opens September 15th (610-344-5234). You will be prompted to leave a message and your contact information. A PA MEDI counselor will return your call within one business day to schedule an appointment.

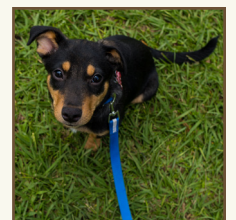
If you are new to Medicare during the AOEP, counselors are available at Senior Centers to help you with Medicare enrollment. You can also call our general Helpline 610-344-5004, option 2, for assistance.

For more answers to the “Mysteries of Medicare,” visit our website <https://chesco.org/4245/Mysteries-of-Medicare>. •

It’s Time for Those Winter Road Reminders

- 1 Do not park on the streets during snow and ice events. 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 after the road crew has finished the rest of the township. If vehicles are still on the street, the Township will have them towed at the owner’s expense.
- 2 Do not put leaves in the street or gutter. It is dangerous for cars and impedes water run-off.
- 3 Trim trees and shrubs along roads. Make sure they do not impede visibility or make passage difficult.
- 4 Do not plant trees in the township right of way as well as placing rocks or boulders alongside the road. These present a hazard to township vehicles plowing and can hinder road repairs. The Right of Way should always be kept clear of any object.
- 5 Secure your mailbox. The Township is NOT responsible for damage to mailboxes. The mailbox and base should be strong enough to withstand flying snow and slush from traffic and snowplows. To prevent damage the front should be at least 12 inches from the edge of the road and the supporting post at least 3 feet from the edge of the road.
- 6 Keep the right-of-way clear. Any installation of plants, mailboxes, etc. is done at the owner’s risk.
- 7 Do not push snow into the street. It is in violation of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to push snow into the street. It is also a danger to passing motorists.
- 8 Main subdivisions will be plowed first. Less populated areas next.

REMINDER!
Dogs must be on a leash while in the park.





Are Bicycle Batteries The Next New Thing?

Electric bikes use lithium batteries that may be recharged up to 1,000 times. Eventually, we will be hearing about the need to “dispose” of them. The Call2Recycle product stewardship organization that recycles batteries has partnered with www.peopleforbikes.org to collect bike batteries at retail bike shops.

If there is a bicycle shop in your community, please let them know about this program. Your residents can use this locator www.call2recycle.org/locator/?l=19380 to find the bike shops in your area who are partners in this program.

Lithium-ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries can explode and cause fires if they are punctured. **NEVER put these batteries in the recycling OR trash bin!**

The lithium-ion batteries that power our phones, laptops and rechargeable power tools can cause explosions and fires when improperly thrown away.

Even when there is not enough charge left to power your device, there is enough power to start a fire in a garbage truck, landfill, or recycling facility! Let's keep our garbage haulers, recycling haulers, and landfill operators SAFE! **TREAT BATTERIES AS A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE!**

View this safety video message from CCSWA: www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpwL5vBgDY8.

When it Rains, It Drains

Understand Stormwater Runoff & Water Contamination

When it rains, surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent storm water runoff from naturally soaking into the ground. Stormwater runoff carries pollutants into your waterways. Stormwater runoff carries pollutants into your waterways.

RUNOFF PICKS UP:

- Pet waste
- Fertilizers
- Motor Oil
- Detergents
- Chemicals
- Trash

The first inch of rainfall is responsible for the bulk of the pollutants in stormwater runoff.



TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT WATER CONTAMINATION

- 1 Recycle your used motor oil and other auto fluids.
- 2 Fix oil, radiator and transmission leaks in your car.
- 3 Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the toilet or in the trash.
- 4 Wash your car in the grass or at a car wash that utilizes a water reclamation system.
- 5 Dispose of hazardous home chemicals, unused medications and oil based paint products at your local hazardous waste site.
- 6 Use pesticides and other lawn chemicals sparingly.
- 7 Pick up and properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings.
- 8 Install a rain garden, use a rain barrel and reduce impervious surfaces around your home.
- 9 Plant trees and plants that serve as natural filters.
- 10 Always use a trash can to dispose of waste and recycle reusable materials.

School Bus Safety

It's that time of the year! For the safety of drivers and our children on school buses, please do not park vehicles, especially landscaper trucks, on roadways. Parking on roadways 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. **NEVER pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights.**

Recycling

The bins on the township property are NOT for garbage. There is a sign on each bin outlining what is ACCEPTABLE. Putting in the wrong items can disqualify the entire load. Remember to break down all boxes.

Unbroken down boxes can quickly fill up the space. If anyone sees someone illegally dumping in the bins, please notify the township office with a license and description of the vehicle. The state police will investigate and violator can be fined.

Chester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Campaign

In a five-year period between 2015 and 2020, Chester County reported 521 traffic accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists, including, sadly, 25 deaths (source: PennDOT). To help reduce both the number of accidents and the severity of the accidents, Chester County has created a bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign, joining with regional partners to provide simple – but impactful – safety guidance for everyone who uses the county’s roads and trails – whether walking, cycling, or driving.

Transportation choices continue to expand throughout Chester County. Vehicle traffic continues to dominate the transportation network, but additional transportation choices are increasing, which can reduce traffic congestion, as well as promote a healthier lifestyle and a cleaner environment.

The safest way to develop transportation choices is to create and maintain separate networks like bike lanes, sidewalks, and automobile lanes. But when separate lanes are not in place, or not possible, then sharing lanes while walking, cycling, or driving is necessary. It is in these instances that safety awareness is crucial.

The objective of the Walk.Ride.Drive. Safety Campaign is to promote a positive message of safety and awareness while traveling on Chester County’s roads regardless of the mode of transportation.

While recognizing the need to advance alternative modes of transportation and to improve the built environment, being aware of one’s commuting behavior and the unpredictability of others can help improve the safety of the public right of way for all users. Visit chesco.org/sharetheroad for more information. •



Longwood Fire Company

Longwood Fire Company is collecting donations through our annual fire fund drive. Residents and businesses throughout the Kennett region were sent the annual drive at the end of July. Each year this letter is sent to update our neighbors on the successes of Longwood Fire Co. This year we highlighted participating in community events and our regional partnerships with both Kennett Fire Company No. 1 and Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company. So far, we are overwhelmed with the response of over \$36,000 raised thanks to 383 supporters. This drive continues through the end of the year, your support directly contributes to the success of our operation. Please consider a donation to support our annual drive, every dollar helps. Our dedicated members and employees of the Longwood Fire Company truly thank you for your contributions.

If you want to see more of Longwood Fire Company and what we do or are interested in meeting our crew, we invite you to our annual open house on October 15th 2022 at 11:00am. This event is a great way to learn more about what it takes to be a firefighter. We will have a mock vehicle demonstration, food, activities for the kids and information tables throughout our parking lot and engine bays. We hope to see you there! •





PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

EST. 1770

702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone: 610-388-7323

Fax: 610-388-6036

Web: www.pennsbury.pa.us

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday:
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Presorted
Standard Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 50
West Chester, PA



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY 2022

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(elected 6 yr term)

Meets 3rd Wednesday of
every month at 7:00pm

Wendell Fenton, *Vice Chair*
(term ends 2023)
610-388-6168

Aaron McIntyre, *Chair*
(term ends 2027)
610-388-9795

Dan Boyle (term ends 2025)
484-757-9776

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Kathleen Howley
Township Manager
610-388-7323

Pat Carpenter
Christina Church
Office Staff

Barbara Biedekapp
Financial Assistant

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Russell Drumheller
610-388-1790

SOLICITOR

Tom Oeste, Esq.
610-436-4400 ext. 1550

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Matthew Houtmann
610-565-6363

ROAD CREW

David Allen, *Road Master*
610-388-9180

Pete Laws
Michael Quinn
Patrick Yerkes

CONSTABLE

(elected 6-year term)

David E. Cox
610-637-5621

TOWNSHIP AUDITORS

(elected 6 year term)

Patrick Barron
Adelaide Jones
Maceo Davis

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Greg McCauley
Ed Foley, Attorney
James Porter
Bill Talman
Alternate - Greg Williams
Alternate - Jerry Snyder

VACANCY BOARD

Robert Luft

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets 4th Tuesday of every
month at 5:30pm

Dennis Smith - *Chairman*
Corinne Murphy - *Vice Chair*
Jeff Streitel - *Secretary*
Mike Clements
Kay Ellsworth

SECCRA & RECYCLING

Will Sappington

HISTORIC COMMISSION

Joan Gummey
Lynn Luft
Eileen Mallouk
Brenda Mendenhall
Susan Williams
Judi Wilson
Russell Drumheller

RT 52 SCENIC BYWAY COMMITTEE

Mary G. Fahner-Short

KENNETT LIBRARY BOARD

Barbara Necarsulmer
Todd Bruce

COMPUTER ASSISTANT

Gary Summers

ANIMAL CONTROL

Brandywine Valley SPCA
610-692-6113

STATE POLICE

Avondale Barracks
(non emergency)
610-268-2022

TO REPORT ROAD KILL

On U.S 1 (PennDot):
484-340-3200

All other roads
(PA Game Commission):
610-926-3136, prompt #0

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT C

(elected 4 year term)

John Murphy
Erin Talbert
Jen Brown
District Office: 610-347-0970

ELECTED FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. Senators:

Robert P Casey
555 Walnut St., 1st Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-231-7450
casey.senate.gov

Patrick J. Toomey
8 Penn Center, Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-241-1090
toomey.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives District 6
Chrissy Houlahan
709 E Gay St., West Chester, PA 19389
610-883-5050
www.houlahan.house.gov

PA Senator District 9
John Kane
717-756-1548
610-436-3320

PA House of Representatives
District 160
Craig Williams
1 Beaver Valley Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610-358-5925
parep160@aol.com