



# PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Summer 2016  
Vol 30, No. 3

www.pennsbury.pa.us

## New Railroad Crossings Proposed for Pennsbury Township

East Penn Railroad is working with PennDot seeking grant money to fund the upgrade of the railroad crossing at Hillendale Road and also the crossing at Fairville Road near the Village Warehouse. Both crossings will have flashing red lights and bells added. Agency approvals are being obtained for the upgrade. When funding is received, the work will be scheduled.

The Hickory Hill Road crossing is first on their list of future upgrades.

East Penn Railroad, LLC carries freight through Pennsbury Township on the former Octoraro Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. It also uses the former Reading branch of the Wilmington & Northern Railroad which operated a station at Chadds Ford Junction.

The Octoraro Branch was laid in 1855 and went from Baltimore to Philadelphia where it carried passengers and later mushrooms. The Wilmington and Northern was constructed in 1868 originally to haul coal from Reading to the port of Wilmington (it never worked out) and later was taken over by the Reading Railroad.

In its heyday of passenger service, as many as 17 trains passed through the area daily. Better roads and more cars led to the decline and eventually end of passenger service. Freight use continued sporadically until recently when East Penn began operations in the area.



Photo - courtesv East Penn

## Capture a Swarm — Help Mother Nature



A honeybee cannot live alone but depends on the colony for survival. To propagate the species, a swarm (about half the colony and the queen) moves to a new home. The other half of the colony remains in the hive and raises a new queen. In Southeastern Pennsylvania, most swarms emerge in April, May and June.

After exiting their former hive, the swarm may settle on a tree branch, a bush or the side of a building. The swarm normally forms a football-shaped cluster of bees that may be up to three feet long. Scout bees fly from the swarm to look for a new home in a hollow tree or in the eaves of a building. When a suitable spot is found, the scout bees direct the swarm to it. The bees then construct a new honeycomb nest with wax they produce themselves, begin to gather nectar and pollen for food and to raise their young.

Honeybees are a valuable part of nature because they pollinate crops, produce honey, beeswax, pollen and their stings are widely accepted as an aid in the treatment of arthritis.

If you find a swarm of honeybees on your turf and don't want it there, members of the Chester County Beekeepers Association (CCBA) are willing to remove it.

Time is of the essence. Once the swarm has entered its new home, removal of the honeybees is much more difficult and may involve opening the wall of a house to get to the bee colony. This is generally beyond the capability of most beekeepers, so contact one of them while the bees are still clustered in a swarm.

The members of CCBA will remove honeybee swarms, usually at no cost. To find a beekeeper in your area willing to capture a swarm, go to their website [chescobees.org](http://chescobees.org).

**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



## ❖ CHANGES

• If your mailing address has changed, notify the Chester County Tax Assessment Office at 313 W. Market Street, Suite 4202, West Chester, PA 19380-0991 IN WRITING. Your address is generated by the County. If you do not notify them of any changes your bill cannot be delivered, you run the risk of being delinquent and possible penalty.

• If your email address has changed, or if you wish to be added to the Township list, email [khowley@pennsbury.pa.us](mailto:khowley@pennsbury.pa.us)

## ❖ YARD SALE UPDATE

The Pennsbury Township Yard Sale is a key part of the Township Spring Clean-up Week and is designed primarily to facilitate residents in disposing of unwanted items through sales, donations to charity and dumpster disposal.

As a good neighbor, some non-residents may also participate. Commercial vendors are discouraged. Modest participation fees cover the costs.

While the event on April 23rd was severely imperiled due to the

weather, most of the day vendors set up, some buyers came, charitable donations were made and items were disposed of in the dumpsters. And yes, everyone felt a drop or two of rain, including the numerous volunteers.

While the outcome left much to be desired, the event met its basic objectives. It is our expectation that next year, the weather will be as favorable as it has in the past years and the event will be more satisfying to all who choose to participate.

## ❖ CLEAR THAT RIGHT-OF-WAY

Property owners are reminded that nothing should be planted or installed in a road right-of-way. Trees in a right-of-way are NOT owned by the Township but by residents.

Also residents are responsible for keeping trees and bushes trimmed back from roadways so they won't impair sight distance, mowing or winter plowing.

**Do not plant bamboo.** It is very invasive and extremely difficult to eradicate.

If you are not sure where your right-of-way is call Road Master, Dave Allen, at 610-388-9180.

## ❖ REMEMBER!!!

A Township permit is required for driveway resurfacing but not for seal coating. Form is available on the web site.

## ❖ REDUCE STORM WATER RUN-OFF

• Raise your mower height to 3 inches for summer months. Taller grass shades and protects the soil, is less prone to disease, pests and weeds, and captures more excess rain water.

- Wash your car on the grass.
- Water plants and lawns during cool times of the day.

## ❖ VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

The Planning Commission, Historic Commission and SECCRA are all looking for interested Township residents. Please contact the Township office if you would like more information or would like to sign up!

• The Planning Commission meets twice a month and reviews subdivision plans, ordinance amendments and any other land planning issues.

• The Historic Commission meets on the third Tuesday of the month to review plans for historic structures in the Township.

• The Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), of which Pennsbury is a founding member, meets once a month to conduct business regarding the operation of their landfill in London Grove Township. As part of their solid waste management

they operate a green power plant as well as a recycling program.

## ❖ PECO INFO

• Always call in your electric outage to **800-841-4141**. Each property must be accounted for in their totals and addressing the problem.

• Always call 811 before you dig on your property. Underground wiring and any dangers to digging can be addressed.

• PECO Smart Ideas is funded for another year. This program offers information about ways to save energy.

## ❖ FOR SENIORS

• FREE Shingle vaccine shots for Chester County residents 60 years and older will be available at the Kennett Square Senior Center on Monday, June 20 from 9 am til noon. This is sponsored by the Chester county Health Department.

• A Health and Wellness Fair will be held on Thursday, June 2 from 1 pm to 5 pm at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on Pleasant Grove Road in West Chester. Rover will provide transportation to and from this event for \$1.00 each way. To register for the ride call 610-594-3911

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# A Pennsbury Historic Building — The Abram Pierce House



The Abram Pierce House, located close to the north side of the Baltimore Pike at the Parkersville Road intersection, dates to the 18th century according to period maps. Abram was the property's owner in the late 1800's, his name found on a Pennsbury map in Breou's 1883 Chester County Atlas.

Provincial Tax Records from the 1770's showed Joshua Pierce II, paid property taxes prior to 1775 and filed claims for damages to his property by the British after the Battle of Brandywine. Joshua's oldest son lived in the Baltimore Pike stone house when it was first built. Joshua lived in the Hope House on Hickory Hill Road, which he purchased along with 170 acres in 1770 (see 2015 Winter Newsletter).

Descendants of the Pierces lived in the Baltimore Pike house until the end of the 19th century. Afterward, the property changed hands several times. From the 1950's until the 1980's, an antique dealer owned the house. Three structures now occupy the four acre parcel: the main house, a stone carriage house, and a frame tenant house. All are currently residences.

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## Kennett Library Summer Programs

This summer is shaping up to be one of our best ever here at the library! We're thrilled to be offering a variety of engaging, creative, and fun programs for all ages. Be sure to stop in and pick up our Summer at the Library booklet, which gives a full listing of everything we have to offer for children, teens, and adults this summer. You can also find programming information online and sign up instantly at our website, [kennettpubliclibrary.org](http://kennettpubliclibrary.org).

No matter what you're interested in, you're sure to find something to enjoy at the library this summer.

The beige fieldstone farmhouse, hidden from view by a stockade fence, has entrances from the Baltimore Pike and Parkersville Road. The house's appearance looks much the same as in its Colonial days, although the main entry now is in the rear. Oral history from the antique dealer described the one story kitchen wing with a beehive oven as the building's original core.

The first floor south facade has two windows and two front doors, indicating two families or a business occupied part of the house at some time in its history. A pent eave still separates the first and second floors. The north facade has a first floor off center entry door flanked by two windows, one larger than the other, a functional asymmetry often found in 18th century homes.

Information on the Abram Pierce House and the Pierce family can be found in the 2009 Pennsbury Township Historic Resource Survey, the Chester County Historical Society, and the Chester County Archives.

Mr. William Freas is the current owner of the property.

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## Planning Commission Update

Since the last update, the news and activities of the Planning Commission (PC) have included:

Working with the Township Engineer, Matt Houtman, the Commission completed its review of the final plan for Windmill Hollow subdivision.

As previously reported, the PC continued working on a cooperative planning project involving Pennsbury, Kennett and East Marlborough Townships and Longwood Gardens which is being facilitated by the Chester County Planning Commission.

The PC began its review of an application for a two lot subdivision for Springdale Farm and expects to continue the process at one of its May meetings.

All Township residents are welcome to attend Planning Commission Meetings which are scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:00PM in the Township Building.

Dennis Smith, Chair



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

#### ALL SUMMER

Sat 10 am to 3 pm — **TOURS OF JOHN CHADDS & BARNS-BRINTON HOUSES** Guided tours by colonial guides. Fee. More info: [www.chaddsfordhistory.org](http://www.chaddsfordhistory.org)

#### JUNE

20 Monday, 9 am - noon — **SHINGLE SHOTS FOR SENIORS** Kennett Senior Center (see page 2)

#### SEPTEMBER

10, 11 Saturday & Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm — **CHADDS FORD DAYS** 50th annual fair celebrating the Battle of Brandywine. Held on the CFHS grounds on Creek Road. Fee for non-members.

10, 11, Saturday & Sunday — **MUSHROOM FESTIVAL** in Kennett Square. Fee. Info at: [www.mushroomfestival.org](http://www.mushroomfestival.org)

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

#### OCTOBER

11 Tuesday — **LAST DAY TO REGISTER BEFORE THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION**

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

20, 21, 22 Thursday - Saturday, 5pm to 9 pm — **GREAT PUMPKIN CARVE** at the Chadds Ford Historical Society on Creek Road. Fee for non-members.

sara corbishley, editor

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