



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • FALL 2024 • VOL. 26 N° 2

Township Taxes

Your township property tax bill was mailed by March 1, 2024. 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 and can be reached at 866-539-1100.

You can find all this information on our website at www.pennsbury.pa.us. The budget for 2025 will be posted the beginning of November and will be considered for adoption at the December Supervisor's meeting.

Election Day November 5, 2024

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



Bamboo!!!

Bamboo at or near the road causes a potentially hazardous problem. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain all vegetation, including bamboo.

Overgrown bamboo can obstruct visibility, create safety hazards for motorists, and damage township property. In addition, during heavy rainstorms and snowfall, the bamboo becomes susceptible to falling, which could have serious implications.

To ensure the safety of all who use the road, we kindly request that you trim back or remove the bamboo. We understand the importance of trees, shrubs, plants, etc., and their aesthetic value. However, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources considers bamboo an “invasive species.” •

Go to page 3 for more information or see the following resources:

- extension.umd.edu/resource/containing-and-removing-bamboo/
- hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/bamboo-control/

Leaf Pick-Up

October 21 to November 30, 2024

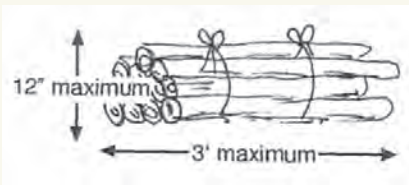
Bagged leaves can be dropped off at the township building in the designated space starting October 21st to November 30th.

Fall Branch Pick-Up Week

November 11 to 15, 2024

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 the update of the Planning Commission's (PC) primary meeting topics and activities since the last edition of the Pennsbury Township News.

- Mr. Steve Kopp was present to discuss his possible ideas for development of a property at 414 Baltimore Pike. Mr. Kopp had not yet purchased this property. He later did so but has not yet returned to the PC.
- Mr. Chris Castaneda was present to discuss possible interest in purchasing a lot off of Old Baltimore Pike for manufacturing and retail uses. This was an informational exchange with the PC and no action was taken.
- As previously reported, the PC continued to work with Brandywine Conservancy under a grant from Chester County regarding potential ordinance changes to improve the protection of specimen trees and riparian buffers. The project also includes required ordinances for growing and dispensing medical marijuana.
- The PC reviewed a Zoning Hearing Board Variance Application for changes to the signage at The Gables restaurant. The application received a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for conditional support.
- A Conditional Use Application by FRU Property Management LLC, Middle Brother Coffee Roasters LLC for a coffee shop with drive through service to be located at 4 Pond's Edge Dr was reviewed. The PC recommended that the Board support the application.
- The PC held an initial discussion on a lot consolidation and land development plan submitted by Robert and Kathleen Siegfried for their property at 1451 Fairville Rd. Follow up items are to be discussed with the Township prior to returning to the PC for review.

All Township residents are welcome to attend Planning Commission meetings which are scheduled for the second Wednesday on the month at 5:30 PM in the Township Building. •

Grants

Pennsbury Township, through the assistance of the Brandywine Conservancy, received a Chester County Vision Partnership grant to assist the Planning Commission drafting language to protect specimen trees, riparian buffer zones and adding regulations addressing medical marijuana. **The project is near completion and a public meeting will take place on October 29, from 5pm to 7pm in the Harris room for public comment.** •



Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania

Golden, Yellow Groove & Giant Timber bamboo

Phyllostachys aurea, *P. aureosulcata* and *P. bambusoides*



Golden bamboo
James R Allison, Georgia DNR

Background:

Bamboo species are enormous members of the grass family *Poaceae*, and are often introduced as an ornamental or visual screen. They can be classified as either clumping or running, with running species producing long rhizomes that spread aggressively. Golden, yellow groove, and timber are all running bamboo species.

Range:

These bamboo species are native to Asia. Unfortunately, they can now also be found throughout the Southeastern region of the United States, and are being planted more often in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Habitat:

These three bamboo species thrive in full sun, but will grow well in sparsely wooded secondary forests. The most vigorous growth occurs in moist, deep, loamy soils, where these bamboo can spread rapidly.



Timber bamboo Frank
Jurcik, Bugwood

Description and Spread:

At a height of 30 to 75 feet, these bamboo species tower over most other grasses. The hollow culms (stems) often have 2 stems per node, while native switch cane has only one stem per node. Golden bamboo often turns yellowish in sunlight; timber bamboo is often a dark green; and yellow groove bamboo have a distinctive stripe along the culm. Running bamboo species spread predominately through vegetative growth. Despite containment efforts, their rhizomes will often find their way out of confinement to infest nearby areas.

Ecological Threat:

Due to the thick, tall nature of the colonies it produces, bamboo virtually eliminates all understory plants that stand in its way. In effect, it leaves little appropriate habitat for wildlife, sharply decreasing biodiversity. Once established in an area, it is quite difficult to remove.



Yellow groove bamboo
Caryn Rickel, Institute of Invasive Bamboo
Research

How to Control this Species:

Physical

Small infestations, or areas where herbicides are not permitted, can be controlled mechanically by cutting and mowing as close to the ground as possible. This will need to be repeated several times throughout the growing season since bamboo readily re-sprouts. Monitoring and retreatment over the course of several growing seasons is essential in order to ensure that energy reserves in the rhizomes are exhausted.

Chemical

Large areas of bamboo, where risks to non-target species are minimal, can be treated with foliar applications of five percent glyphosate mixed in water. Canes should first be cut and herbicides applied to newly expanded leaves. Alternatively, a 25 percent solution of glyphosate mixed in water can be applied to freshly cut stumps.

#988 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.

Sign Proliferation

Avendor/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.



Driveway Permits are REQUIRED 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 on what to consider when planning for your driveway upgrade. You can call them at 610-388-9180. 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.

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.

New “Snow Emergency Route Signs” in Chadds Ford Knoll

– these signs are installed at strategic points along the streets advising of “no parking” during weather events. Cars will be towed. Residents must park in their driveway.

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.** •





A Diamond in the Rough – Creating a Landmark for Pennsbury Township

Restoration of the John Hope House on Route 1 next to the township building will create a historic landmark. The c.1790-1802 stone house will join the continuum of distinguished, preserved historic buildings on Route 1 in the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark that includes Washington’s Headquarters/the Benjamin Ring House, Lafayette’s Quarters/the Gideon Gilpin house, the Chadds Ford Inn, the John Chad House, the Barns Brinton House, the Daniel Pierce House, the Pennsbury Inn, and the Kennett Meeting House.



Phase 1 of the restoration is underway. Phase 1 includes stabilization of the structural components of the building (complete), removal of the west wing and south shed additions (complete), and installation of a new cedar shake roof (scheduled for completion in October 2024).

Also in the works is the creation of the Preservation Garden to preserve the footprint of the demolished 19th century west wing. The foundation/basement walls will be stabilized, capped, and then filled with dirt.

Phase 2, restoration of the exterior facades, is scheduled for 2025. Construction will include removal of the stucco, restoration and repointing of the stone, and new windows, shutters, and exterior door(s). •

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District

Greetings from
the Unionville
Chadds Ford
School District
and welcome to
the 2024-2025
school year!



As always, visit the district’s website at www.ucfsd.org to learn about what is going on in the district and we appreciate the community support for our athletes and performing artists.



Kennett Library

The new Kennett Library & Resource Center has become a community hub for all!

Early in the morning you can find our regulars reading the daily paper in the Bayard Taylor room, mid-day the upstairs is full of children and teens participating in a program or creating and coding in the maker spaces. All day you can find people working on computers, meeting friends, or sitting in comfortable chairs reading a book.



This is YOUR library. The Kennett Library is a place to meet, a place to learn, to teach, to share, to connect, a place to build, to expand horizons. This new building gives us the opportunity to reach more people and expand our essential services and programs. Programs like ESL classes, art workshops, family story times, nature camps, book groups, webinars, author talks, and more.

FALL 2024 PROGRAMS

Kennett Library is stepping into a new season with a calendar full of programs and activities. This Fall season is filled with programs and events that fuel the community's passions and inspirations.

Chris Manna, Executive Director, said, "To coincide with our one-year anniversary, we are launching some firsts, like our new Astronomy club and our author conversation series. Additionally, returning favorites like the Kennett Arts Festival, our Environmental Literacy lecture series, our first Thursday art gallery openings, and FrancoFun all dot this exciting fall season. We look forward to seeing you at the library!"

The Makerspace will highlight a variety of hands-on learning and workshops for all ages, including robotics, 3D-printing,

laser cutting, and coding. Environmental programs include *Sew Green*, featuring sewing projects that upcycle old clothes for a new purpose and *Responding*, an environmental literacy lecture series. Live Better, the library's health awareness initiative is offering several programs for veterans, including art therapy workshops and a Q&A panel discussion about the Veteran's Experience.

Families can expect a full roster of children's programming from Mr. John, but they can also look forward to craft nights and movie nights this fall as the library plans to offer more evening programming.

Cat Stenta, Community Engagement, said, "With a year under our belt, we're thoughtfully evolving in our new space.

This fall, we will have increased our Makerspace activities that will entice ALL ages, added two new author series, significantly grown the Adult Literacy Program, added more family-friendly film screenings in the auditorium, and so much more. Keep checking the calendar! It brings me joy to see so many familiar and new faces filling these programs and events... See you soon."

We have a little something for everyone so please stop by and see what the Kennett Library has for you. Learn more about our Fall Programs online at kennettlibrary.org or scan QR code. Our Winter programs will be announced at the end of November. •



Historic Commission

Pennsbury Township has recently joined the "CC250." Chester County 250 is a commemoration of our 250th anniversary in 2026 with inclusive programs that inspire Americans to renew and strengthen our 'daring experiment in democracy.'

The idea is to explore the many ways Chester County participated in and influenced our nation's founding and elevate everyone's understanding of our continuing journey to build a more perfect Union. For more information, visit: america250chesco.org.

Pennsbury Land Trust

Route 1 Corridor Discussion Planned

What's happening along Route 1 in our area—construction projects, conservation efforts. The Pennsbury Land Trust has invited representatives from Chadds Ford Twp., East Marlborough Twp., Kennett Twp., and Pennsbury Twp. to join a discussion of projects along the Route 1 Corridor at 7pm, Thursday, Nov. 14. Each representative will share information about current and/or future projects under consideration in their township. There will be a Q & A segment.

The Route 1 Corridor serves an increasingly vital route for commerce and commuting within Chester and Delaware Counties and provides access to Maryland and points south. It also plays an important historic role in the description of troop movements of the Battle of the Brandywine, which helps boost area tourism and is a source of local pride for residents and businesses. Townships along the Corridor are frequently challenged as they strive to accommodate both roles. Come learn what our local townships are planning. The event is open to the public. Admission is free. The location is the Harris Room of the Pennsbury Township Municipal Building. •





About Kennett Regional Fire Department

The tradition of the fire service has always included a strong emphasis on company pride. People have always identified with a station name and a number. Over time, as the industry has become more expensive and staffed by fewer people, pressures have been placed upon fire companies to move or consolidate their companies without really understanding the impact to the fire companies. In many areas of the Commonwealth, core groups of volunteers have hung up their gear because they were no longer considered the “hometown” fire company. To many—it feels like erasing a crucial part of who they are.

What we are doing operationally—and have been branching out to do administratively with things like the fund drive and the fall festival—is a truly unique collaborative approach. We are trying to enhance the standards and professionalize our departments while maintaining each fire company's station identities.

We hope the public will show us support for these ventures. Every year, it becomes harder and harder for service providers to meet the contemporary expectations of quick response times, station staffing, training requirements, and community engagement. Our goal has always been to provide the best service and protection to the community—now, we are just doing it together by pulling our resources together with this common goal.

We thank Pennsbury Township for its support of our first responders. •

Township Recycling Bins are NOT for Garbage

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. •

HOLIDAY WASTE:

- **RECYCLING BIN:** Non-metallic wrapping paper and greeting cards without batteries
- **COMPOST:** Evergreens, tea bags, coffee grounds, leaves, twigs, fresh cranberries
- **GARBAGE CAN:** Cellophane, tissue paper, musical greeting cards, plastic ware



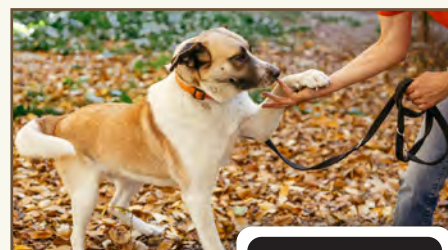
**DO NOT RECYCLE
PIZZA BOXES!**

READYChesCO.org

ChesCO.org – ReadyChesCo is the official notification system for weather emergencies, missing persons alerts, prison incidents, evacuation, and shelter-in-place orders and more. Users can choose which types of information to receive and can also note any special needs information that may be useful for emergency responders.

- Receive messages by text, email or phone call, or any combination of the three
- Get messages for more than one address (home, office, relatives' homes, schools)
- You can set up a quiet time so as not to receive messages during sleep hours.

For more information and to register, visit www.readychesco.org.



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

IT'S THE LAW

**DOGS
MUST BE
LEASHED
AT ALL
TIMES**

Once again there has been several incidents where dogs have been off leash in the park and the township has received complaints. You must have your dog on a leash when they enter the park AND when walking in the park. It is the LAW. If other dog walkers see this violation, please speak up and gently remind people that there is a leash law.

The township is getting new signs throughout the park reminding owners their dog **MUST BE ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES**. It's great to see dogs and their owners enjoying the park. The township would like to keep it that way.



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.



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY 2025

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(elected 6 yr term)

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

Wendell Fenton, *Vice Chair*
(term ends 2029)
610-388-6861

Aaron McIntyre, *Chair*
(term ends 2027)
610-505-3002

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

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Kathleen Howley
Township Manager
610-388-7323

Christina Church
Office Staff

Barbara Biedekapp
Financial Director

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

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
Alternate - David MacMain

VACANCY BOARD

Robert Luft

HISTORIC COMMISSION

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets 2nd Wednesday of
every month at 5:30pm

Dennis Smith - *Chairman*
Kay Ellsworth - *Vice Chair*
Corinne Murphy - *Secretary*
Mike Clements
Alan Matas
Karen Meloney
George Trammell

SECCRA & RECYCLING

Will Sappington

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)

Jody Allen
Brian Schartz
Erin Talbert
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

John Fetterman
320 Market St, Suite 475E,
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717 782-3951
fetterman.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives District 6:
Chrissy Houlahan
709 E Gay St., West Chester, PA 19389
610-883-5050
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
Craig.Williams@PAHouseGOP.com