

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Winter 2010
Vol. 24, No.1

www.pennsbury.pa.us

The Year in Review

No General Fund Tax Increase for 2010

The Board of Supervisors has held the line on Real Estate Taxes and Earned Income Taxes for the General Operating Fund for 2010. There will be no increase. The Real Estate tax will remain at 0.7 mils and the EIT will remain at 0.312%. Unlike our township, some townships and boroughs in the area have raised taxes for 2010.

Townships Act 537 Sewage Plan Updated

Some years ago, the Pennsylvania Department of Environment Protection requested that the Township provide a better plan for the Highway Commercial (and MU) Districts, largely along Route 1. The need for a central sewage system for that area is largely driven by the proposed developments of Pennsbury Village at Chadds Ford, and Penns Village, which include compact residential components. A modern technology, Membrane Bio-Reactor plant has been proposed that would be entirely enclosed in a residential-type structure to be located on the Chadds Ford West property. The effluent from the plant will be of very high quality and disposed of in subsurface infiltration beds on the Penns Village property. There is no plan for a township-wide central sewage system. The Township Act 537 Sewage Plan has been updated accordingly.

Chadds Ford Knoll Storm Water Management Project Completed

An important storm water management project in Chadds Ford Knoll was completed within budget and on schedule.

The subcontracted cost of the project was just under \$200,000. The original cost estimate was considerably higher, but materials costs had declined with the general slow down in the economy and the bidding was more competitive for the work. Storm water management, along with sewage management, is among the most important issues for any township to address.

Fenton Petition Decision Overturned by the Commonwealth Court

In early 2008, a Petition was filed with the Chester County Court of Common Pleas by Pennsbury Village Associates (PVA) to prohibit Supervisors Fenton and Scottoline from participating in any discussions or votes that would affect the Pennsbury Village at Chadds Ford which is owned by PVA. The Petition claimed that Supervisors Fenton and Scottoline were biased against the development. The lower court had ruled that only Fenton should be barred, but not Scottoline. The Township appealed to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court and that higher court overturned the decision of the Court of Common Pleas, vindicating both Supervisor Fenton and the decision of the Township to appeal. The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) filed legal briefs supporting the Township appeal, indicating its support of the position taken by the Township. Wendell Fenton can now participate and vote on any matter relating to PVA, which he was elected to do by the residents of the Township.

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Pennsbury Picnic in the Park

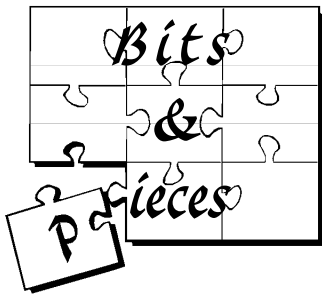
See pictures of this fall event on page 4

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

610-388-7323
Fax 610-388-6036
email:
khowley@pennsbury.pa.us

Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Monday - Thursday
Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

SUPERVISORS
Scotty Scottoline
Wendell Fenton
Aaron McIntyre



❖ TAX BILLS

Chester County tax bills will be sent out February 1, Pennsbury Township tax bills will be mailed on March 1, School Tax bills will be mailed on July 1.

The township tax rate will be 1.49 mills real estate and .312% earned income tax.

❖ CORRECTION

The website for Chester County Citizens for Climate

Protection (4CP) is www.chescocooler.org where you can find out about their educational programs.

❖ RECYCLING

Corrugated cardboard boxes may be recycled, but please **DO NOT PUT IN THE BINS UNLESS THEY ARE FOLDED**. They take up too much room if not collapsed, especially since we are now using single-stream recycling where all recyclables are mixed together.

For a fee, individual residents may take auto tires, truck tires, appliances, refrigerant appliances and computers to SECCRA for recycling. For information call them at 610-869-2452, visit www.seccra.org, or email info@seccra.org.

❖ TRAFFIC COUNTING ON TOWNSHIP ROADS

Spring 2009 was the first time PennDOT collected data on municipally owned roads. From March through June of 2010 they will again be counting traffic on local roads. The information will be reported annually to the Federal Highway Administration, which will use the data in a federal funding allocation formula to determine the amount of money the state receives from the Federal Government.

❖ PECO GRANT

The Township is applying for a grant to clear the walking trail in Parker Preserve. This is a matching grant from PECO for up to \$10,000 and it will be awarded early in 2010.

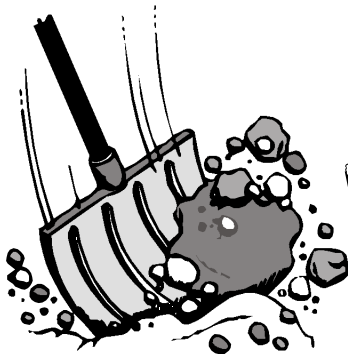
❖ FARMER'S MARKET COMING TO PENNSBURY PARK

This summer you will be able to get fresh vegetables, fruits, cheese, breads and flowers at the new farmer's market in the Park. Much more information will be in the next newsletter.

The Park can use more volunteers for upcoming events in the park. If you are interested, call the Township office at 610-388-7323.

❖ APPLAUSE PLEASE

Roadmaster, Dave Allen, and all the members of the road crew get a big round of thanks for the tremendous job they did during the December 20th snow storm. Pennsbury is lucky to have such a dedicated crew!



WINTER ROAD REMINDERS

❖❖ **Do not put leaves in the street or gutter.** It is dangerous for cars and impedes water run-off.

❖❖ **Trim trees and shrubs along roads.** Make sure they do not impede visibility or make passage difficult.

❖❖ **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.

❖❖ **Keep the right-of-way clear.** Any installation of plants, mailboxes, etc. is done at the owner's risk.

❖❖ **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.

❖❖ **Do not park on the street.** 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. If vehicles are still on the street, the Township will have them towed at the owner's expense.

❖❖ **Main subdivisions will be plowed first.** Less populated areas later.

The Year In Review (continued from page 1)

Gate House at Parker Preserve

Pennsbury Township took ownership of a "gate house" within the Parker Preserve development next to the Nature Preserve. Developer Tony Dambro had gifted the house to the Township. The Township has leased the home and as part of the rental arrangement, providing monitoring and security of the Preserve is included.

Open Space Tax Referendum Passed

The Township placed an Open Space Tax referendum on the November ballot to replace the existing open space tax structure that had been imposed without a referendum in 2003 and which had taken effect in 2004. That structure sunsets at the end of this calendar year. The expiring tax structure consisted of 0.45 mils real estate tax and 0.188% Earned Income Tax (EIT). The voters by a 62% YES authorized the Board of Supervisors to enact an open space tax of 0.79 mils property tax. There will be no EIT for Open Space next year. The vote indicated that the majority of the residents in the township value our rural character, open spaces and the highly desirable environment that we all enjoy, and were willing to pay for it even in difficult economic times. The Board of Supervisors salutes the township residents!

Picnic-in-the-Park Successful

The Park Committee organized a Picnic-in-the-Park this past September, which included a live band and it was a success. The Committee is looking into the possibility of establishing a "Bark Park" area for dogs and also setting up a Farmers Market for next year. Another picnic is also planned for 2010.

Zoning Ordinances Being Updated

As a follow-up to the Comprehensive Plan Update of 2006, the Township Planning Commission, teamed with the Chester County Planning Commission, have been systematically going through all of our zoning ordinances to better connect them to the Comprehensive Plan. This effort is nearly complete at the Planning Commission level. The task for next year is for the Board of Supervisors to review the product, seek public input, make such changes as deemed appropriate, and then advertise the revised zoning ordinance for adoption.

Emergency Management Leadership Changes

The Township Emergency Management Coordinator, Charles Dietzel, has resigned because of increasing demands on his time of the position and consequential conflicts with his employment. Reese Reynolds has also resigned his post within the Emergency Management organization after serving the Township in various capacities over the past 20+ years. Both of these positions were volunteer we thank Charles and Reese for their years of service to the Township!

Because of the increased requirements for training and certification by the State for the Coordinator position, the Township is considering sharing the job with neighboring townships.

Pennsbury Township Board of Supervisors

Welcome New Supervisor Aaron McIntyre



Aaron is presently Vice Chairman of Pennsbury's Planning Commission and has been a Pennsbury resident for 10 years.

His involvement with township affairs includes efforts to protect Penns-

bury public land from private development and his service on Pennsbury's original Open Space Committee. He is President of the Hanover Hunt Homeowners Association and also President of Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines, the nation's oldest horse sanctuary. He serves as Treasurer for two national animal welfare organizations.

Professionally, McIntyre is Vice President of Wealth Management for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. He enjoys long distance running through area trails and spending time with his wife Diane, and son Ethan, who attends Hillendale Elementary School as a first grader.

The 2010 Census is Coming to Your Mailbox in March!

What is the Census?

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution (Article I, Section 2) to take place every 10 years. In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States.

When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form. Any personal data you provide is protected under federal law.

You can get more information and view the questions at the website - 2010.census.gov.

How does it affect you?

When we all answer the Census, our needs are heard. The data collected by the census determines the number of seats Pennsylvania has in the U.S. House of Representatives. It also affects the number of State Senators and Representatives (and influence) that our region has in Harrisburg.

Our community also benefits from getting an accurate count of residents because Federal and State spending is influenced by the number and needs of our residents. The 2010 Census will help to determine how communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like: hospitals; job training centers; schools; senior centers; bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects; and emergency services.

Plus, people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and much more.

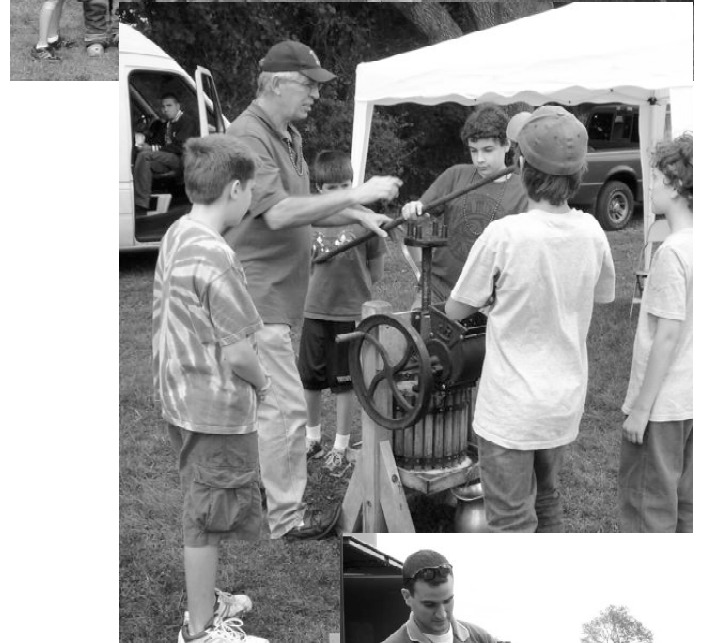
That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Your participation isn't just important—it's mandatory!

Job Opportunities

Workers are needed between March and July 2010. The pay is \$17.75 per hour. For information call 1-866-861-2010 or www.2010censusjobs.gov

Pennsbury's First Picnic in the Park

A good time was had by all! Top to bottom: Longwood Fire Company shows off their truck, pressing apples for cider, enjoying fresh roasted corn, dressing up like a fire fighter.



Historic Resource Survey is on View at the Township Building

The Historic Resource Survey is now available to the public at the Township building. This report of 1100 plus pages shows the rich heritage of the Township with over 400 resources documented. The resources include houses, barns, spring houses, outbuildings, commercial buildings, bridges and churches.

The survey includes multiple pictures of the resources along with an architectural history of each, as well as a comprehensive architectural history of the Township. There are 39 resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and 93 resources that have national, state or local significance using National Register criteria.

The Township's earliest building, a stone house dating from 1703, may be the oldest stone structure in the County and is profiled here. The Commission plans to highlight a Historic Resource in upcoming newsletters to give the widest possible exposure to our rich and varied cultural heritage.

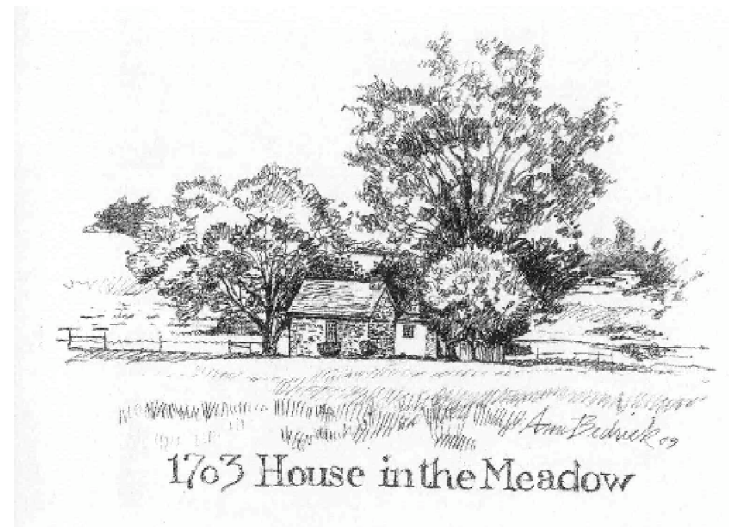
We invite you to visit the Township building to review the Survey and hope residents will assist the Commission in developing specific historical narratives for our resources by sharing information you may have on your or other historic structures.

Pennsbury Land Trust...

...thanks all who supported us with memberships during the 2009 drive. Your support enables us to secure new conservation easements, monitor existing ones, advise landowners on property management, provide public education programs and many other services.

All residents are invited to our annual meeting on April 8, 2010 and watch our website [HYPERLINK "http://www.pennsburylandtrust.org"](http://www.pennsburylandtrust.org) for further details on spring meetings and workshops.

The Township's Oldest Structure

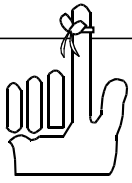


The drawing of the House in the Meadow was created by Ann Bedrick for the Chester County Historic Preservation Network.

The Meadow House

The Frances Smith House, or The Meadow House as the Darlington family calls it, is located in the northeast corner of Pennsbury Township along the banks of the Pocopson Creek. The house is identified on a surveyor's map dated 1703 so is believed to be the oldest documented house in the township. Emlen Darlington purchased the house in the early 20th century from a neighbor, W.J. Pratt, and it is currently owned by David (grandson of Emlen Darlington) and Sarah (granddaughter of W.J. Pratt) Darlington. The core section is a one-story fieldstone colonial style house with a cellar and a large brick chimney. There is evidence that a bake oven was located on the southeast end wall.

A one-story frame section was added on the northeast side of the core, and later, in the 1950's, a bathroom addition was added to the southeast end of the larger addition. At this time the house was equipped with indoor plumbing. The house served as a tenant house for the farm and today it is a rental property.



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. However the February meeting will be on the 4th Wed.

Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Township Building.

SCHOOL BOARD

Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board meetings begin at 7 pm. on Jan. 25 at Hillendale Elem., Feb. 22 at Pocopson Elem., March 15 at Unionville Elem.

DECEMBER 2009

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

JANUARY 2010

4 Monday, 7pm — **Board of Supervisors Organization Meeting** at the Township Building.

5 Tuesday, 7 pm — **Board of Auditors Organization Meeting** at the Township Building.

12 Tuesday, 7 pm — **Planning Commission Organization Meeting** at the Township Building.

29 Friday — **Christmas Tree Recycling Ends**

FEBRUARY

16 Tuesday, 7:30 pm — **Winter Lecture Series**
Sponsored by the Chadds Ford Historical Society at the Barn Visitors Center. Various topics of interest to residents. Fee for non-members. For speakers and topics, 610-388-7376 or www.chaddsfordhistory.org

MARCH

2 Tuesday, 7:30 pm— **Winter Lecture Series**
Sponsored by the Chadds Ford Historical Society at the Barn Visitors Center. Various topics of interest to residents. Fee for non-members. For speakers and topics, 610-388-7376 or www.chaddsfordhistory.org

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31 Wednesday, 7:30 pm — **Townwatch Annual Meeting** at the Chaddsford Winery.

APRIL

8 Thursday — **Pennsbury Land Trust Annual Meeting** at the Township Building.

19 Monday — **Last day to Register for the May 18 Primary Election**

sara corbishley, editor

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