



CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

4030 Whitehorse Road, Devault, PA 19432 - (610) 240-0326 phone (610) 240-0328 fax

Winter 2008

*Published by the Board of Supervisors:
Paul J. Hogan Kevin R. Kuhn Charles A. Philips Michael J. Rodgers
Hugh D. Willig*

The Greatest Gift for our Residents – 2007 ends with over 286 acres preserved!

- Aliena J. Gerhard, Open Space Director

The month of December is filled with the excitement of holidays and gift-giving. This past December, many of your neighbors, friends, and fellow Township residents have given each of us a present that will last forever: protected open space.



Longtime Charlestown residents Bob and Mary Ellen Joos donated a conservation easement on 79 acres along Church Road. Containing woodlands, waters of the Pickering Creek, rolling pastures and a historic farmhouse, the Joos property provides many scenic and environmental rewards.

Top Row: Supervisors Mike Rodgers and Kevin Kuhn, French & Pickering Creeks Trust President L. Stockton Illoway, Open Space Director Aliena Gerhard; Bottom Row: Supervisor Hugh Willig, Robert Joos and Mary Ellen Joos, Photo by Pam Brown.

The Koenig-Marulli family has donated a conservation easement on the Buckwalter Farm lands. This lovely 3.5 acre property contains not only the historic farmhouse of Mr. Samuel Buckwalter but also peaceful woodlands through which tributaries of the Pickering Creek flow.

Tom and Joanne Fillippo have donated a conservation easement on over 50 acres on Mine Road. Bucolic "Mine Run Farm" contains historic buildings, a tributary of the Pickering Creek, ponds, and over 25 acres of woodlands.

George and Susan Bullard have preserved historic Spring Lane Farm, on Hollow Road by placing a conservation easement on their land. 38 acres surround a beautiful Oakie house, with majestic sycamore trees lining the driveway. The Horse-Shoe Trail which traverses their property, will provide residents with leisure time for hiking and horseback riding alike.

The McDevitt family has preserved over 92 acres. Historic Hillsover Farm on Conestoga Road surrounds the waters of the Pickering, supports nearly 60 acres of woodlands, and will provide residents with two trails for horseback riding or hiking, as well as nature study and birdwatching areas.

Finally, the Kling family has preserved nearly 62 acres on Pikeland Road. This gorgeous property is nestled in the valley below the twin churches and sits near the already preserved Valhalla Farm and Joos property. Since it can be seen from many locations throughout the Township, the Kling farm's preservation adds an important piece to the viewshed! Once connecting trails have been established, residents will be able to enjoy hiking and horseback riding as well.

As your Open Space Director, I am thrilled to welcome the above residents to the ever-growing extended “family” of visionaries who love the land and whose generosity will serve us all for generations to come. Your Township thanks you.

***** Look for a special open space report coming in February. *****

Tax Information

All Township Taxes are collected by the Central Tax Agency, "Centax".

Earned Income Tax

Charlestown Township has a ½% Earned Income Tax. Since it was first imposed in 2004, all EIT funds that have been spent were used for open space acquisition and open space improvement. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in January of this year to do the same with the 2008 proceeds.

You're required to file an annual tax return for 2007 by April 15, 2008. For retirees and others with no earned income, we recommend that you return the form stating that you had no earned income, then sign your form.

The Central Tax Bureau is our Earned Income Tax Collector. If you have a question or need forms sent to you, please call them at 570-822-0555 or 610-497-6030.

Forms can also be downloaded from: www.centaxgroup.com, then click on "Centax Forms".

Local Services Tax

This \$10.00 tax is deducted from the first paycheck of the year from those who are employed in Charlestown Township. Their employers are responsible for making this deduction and filing the appropriate forms, LST-1 and LST-2. If you have a business in Charlestown and have a question or need forms sent to you, please call Central Tax Bureau at 610-497-6030 or download the forms from www.centaxgroup.com.

Real Estate and Per Capita Taxes

Your real estate and per capita taxes for 2008 are collected by the Central Tax Bureau. Tax bills were mailed the week of February 1st to the property owner's address of record. Please check the address on your tax bill. These bills are printed with the address on record with the Chester County Assessment Office. If your address is incorrect, you are the only one authorized to correct it by sending a letter to:

the Chester County Assessment Office, 121 North Walnut Street, West Chester, PA 19380.

Reminder for our Residents Living Along State Roads:

For maintenance issues, including snow removal, call the PennDOT maintenance number at (610) 349-7623.

State Roads include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Bodine Road (between Foster & Seven Oaks) | Phoenixville Pike |
| Charlestown Road | Pickering Dam Road |
| Church Road | Pikeland Road |
| Coldstream Road | Seven Oaks Road |
| Conestoga Road (Rt. 401) | State Road (Rt. 29) |
| Foster Road | Valley Hill Road (East of Rt. 401) |
| Hollow Road (entire length) | Whitehorse Road |
| Merlin Road | Yellow Springs Road (north of
Hollow Road) |
| Morehall Road (Rt. 29) | Yellow Springs Rd (east of Morehall/Rt. 29) |
| Newcomen Road | |

Earth Day April 21, 2008

- Linda Csete, Township Administrator



Charlestown Township Seeks Volunteers for Spring Roadside Clean-up April 19, 2008

Last year the Board continued to sponsor an Earth Day clean up event. We were pleased and gratified at the level of participation we experienced and vowed to continue our efforts in 2008. So for this April, the Board of Supervisors seeks volunteers to help organize and undertake a clean-up of the township roads on April 19th.

We would love to have involvement from the business community, scouting and other organizations. Safer, off-road tasks can be planned for younger children. The Township will provide trash bags, gloves, and safety vests for volunteers.

Volunteers will start from the Township office fortified with a continental breakfast before going out onto the roads. If you are not available on April 19th but still wish to participate on a different day, contact the Township Office to obtain supplies and safety instructions.

There are many ways you can participate. We need people in the following roles:

Organizers:

- Assign a road captain to each township road who will organize his/her crew.
- Arrange with the Township staff to obtain trash bags and safety vests for the volunteers.
- Arrange for orange cones and possible temporary road closings with the Roadmaster for dangerous areas.

Road Captains:

- Be in charge of a specific road in the Township and organize his/her crew.
- Direct litter clean-up on Clean up Day using Township supplied materials.

Crew Volunteers:

- Pick up litter along your assigned road using township provided supplies.
- Filled bags may be left at the side of the road for the Township and PennDOT crews to pick up later.

Reminder: Election Day is April 22, 2008



Charlestown Residents Vote at the Charlestown Elementary School
Located at 2060 Charlestown Road

Last Day to Register to Vote before the Primary: postmarked by March 24, 2008
(registration forms are available at the Township Office)

Last Day to Apply for a Civilian Absentee Ballot for the Primary: April 15, 2008

We strongly recommend you take care of these matters at least a week before the deadlines.

Questions & Information: Call Chester County Voter Services: 610-344-6410

Hazardous Household Waste Disposal

Charlestown Township is a 2008 Participant in the Regional Southeastern Pa Hazardous Household Waste Program. Bring unwanted hazardous household automotive products, home maintenance, lawn and pest control products to the next Collection event. There are four events as listed below.

Schedule of 2008 Drop-off Dates & Locations: (all 9 AM - 3 PM)

Saturday, April 5, 2008
Center for Arts and Technology
1580 Charlestown Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Saturday, September 13, 2008
New Garden Township Building
8934 Gap Newport Road
Landenberg, PA 19350

Saturday, May 17 2008
Owen J. Roberts High School
981 Ridge Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

Saturday, October 11, 2008
Government Services Center
601 Westtown Rd
West Chester, PA 19380

(Computer recycling on April 5 and October 13 only)

General Instructions:

Do not mix Materials. Bring all substances in original containers with labels. Items must be identifiable. Tighten lids on all containers. If containers are leaking, pack in larger container with newspaper to soak up leaks.

What is Acceptable:

Paint Products: Turpentine, Wallpaper Cement, Paint Thinners, Strippers & Removers, Oil-Based Paints, Stains, Varnish, Shellac, Other Solvent Based Paint Products

Outdoor Products: Swimming Pool Chemicals, Weed Killers, Septic Tank Degreasers, Asphalt Sealers, Caulking Compounds, Joint Compound, Roof Cements

Automotive Products: Grease & Rust Solvents, Fuel Additives, Carburetor Cleaners, Transmission/Brake Fluid, Antifreeze, Gasoline

Household Products: Drain Openers, Rug Cleaners, Wood & Metal Cleaners, Toilet Bowl Cleaners, Adhesives/Solvents, Mothballs/Flakes, Spot Removers, Dry Cleaning Fluid, Household Batteries, Kerosene, Smoke Alarms

Other: Acids, Caustics, Solvents, Flammables, Oxidizers, Reactives, Organic Peroxide, Reactive Metals, Lead, Pesticides, Mercury Bearing Items, Gas Cylinders 20 lbs or less, Asbestos

The following materials will NOT BE ACCEPTED:

- Car Batteries, Dioxin, Latex (Water Based) Paint, Used Motor Oil, Explosives & Ammunition, Appliances, Infectious or Medical Waste, Radioactive Waste, Unidentified Waste, Pressurized CFC's & HCFS's, Tires.
- Latex Paint is NOT Toxic. To dispose of Latex Paint, air dry or absorb latex paint with kitty litter or other absorbent, then dispose of in your regular trash.
- Recycle motor oil, car batteries, tires and anti-freeze at your local service station.

Summary of the Township Budget 2008

Category	Total All Funds	General Fund	State Fund	Open Space Fund
CARRYOVER AND REVENUE				
Carryover from Previous Year	1,413,950	415,500	108,450	890,000
Real Property Taxes	472,500	472,500		
Local Tax Enabling Act (Act 511) Taxes	1,401,000	401,000		1,000,000
Business Licenses & Permits	83,220	83,220		
Non-Business Licenses & Fees	8,200	8,200		
Fines & Forfeits	4,800	4,800		
Interest on Investments	74,000	21,500	2,500	50,000
Total Rents & Royalties	12,000	12,000		
State Capital and Operating Grants	548,000	10,000		538,000
State Shared Revenue and Entitlements	183,050	71,250	111,800	
Local Govt Units Capital & Operating Grants	810,500	500		810,000
Sale of Fixed Assets (Jenkins property)	900,000			900,000
Charges for Services	4,500	4,500		
Public Safety	152,700	152,700		
Culture & Recreation	500	500		
Applicant Escrow Deposits	54,000	54,000		

CARRYOVER AND REVENUE

EXPENDITURES				
Legislative Body	7,000	7,000		
Financial Administration	8,400	8,400		
Tax Collection	27,500	7,500		20,000
Solicitor/Legal Fees	124,000	124,000		
General Administration	133,251	3,251		
IT-Networking Services-Data Processing	2,000	2,000		
Engineering Services	34,200	34,200		
General Government Buildings & Plant	18,000	18,000		
Fire Protection	172,900	172,900		
UCC & Building Code Enforcement	131,500	131,500		
Planning & Zoning	66,000	66,000		
Emergency Management	7,000	7,000		
Other Public Safety	800	800		
Animal Control	2,500	2,500		
Public Works: Administration	165,500	165,500		
Cleaning of Streets and Gutters	35,000	35,000		
Winter Maintenance - Snow Removal	140,000	75,000	65,000	
Traffic Control Devices	12,500	12,500		
Traffic Studies	5,000	5,000		
Machinery & Equipment	5,000	5,000		
Road Construction	190,750	83,000	107,750	
Parks	100,000	50,000		50,000
Historical Resources	60,000	27,500		32,500
Conservation of Natural Resources	2,716,250	73,750		2,642,500
Subdivision & Hearing Expenses	54,000	54,000		
Employer Paid Benefits and Withholding	26,500	26,500		
Insurance, Casualty and Surety	25,000	25,000		
Bonds & Notes	738,630			738,630

EXPENDITURES

BALANCE - CARRYOVER TO 2008	1 113 730	350 360	50 000	704 370
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A Survey Seeking Art of Charlestown (Please share your treasures of Charlestown!)

The Charlestown Historical Society is planning an Art Show that will display paintings and sketches of **Charlestown scenes**. The primary source of these paintings will be the private homes of residents and former residents of Charlestown. **This is an opportunity to share art of Charlestown scenes that may be hanging on your walls and has probably never been seen by most Township residents.**

The organizers of this show are surveying our residents to see what scenes of our Township are owned by our residents and others, and whether or not you are willing to loan them for a day or two in late May or early June 2008, to be put on display alongside similar art from other residents. **The show will be indoors and your treasures will be handled carefully, protected from the elements, and displayed by experienced art show organizers. Security will be provided and art on loan will be insured.** The organizers will prepare identifying signs for each piece. Of course we hope you will come to the show and see what works are on display from the homes of your friends and neighbors.

In order to estimate how much art would be available for such a show, we ask all residents who have art depicting scenes of Charlestown Township vistas, buildings, etc. and are willing to loan art for the show to complete a questionnaire available at <http://www.charlestown.org/art>. If you wish, ownership of your paintings may remain anonymous. Note that we are also interested in the possible use of selected paintings from the show for a future Township Calendar.

If you have art of Charlestown to share, please complete the questionnaire as soon as possible, and no later than February 15. Go to <http://www.charlestown.org/art>.

Have questions? Call Barbara DeWilde at 610-827-7530, John Pittock at 610-827-1486, or email Jacob Merriwether at webadmin@charlestown.org.

***** SPECIAL PROGRAM FREE TO CHARLESTOWN RESIDENTS *****

Rain Gardens and More



Saturday, February 9th, 2008

10:00 AM to 11:45 AM

Penn State Brandywine Commons Athletic
Building, Room 203

25 Yearsley Mill Rd, Media, PA 19063 (Route 352)



“Designing and Constructing Rain Gardens”

by Catherine Renzi of Yellow Springs Farm

“Installing and Operating Rain Barrels”

by Vivian Williams, Stroud Water Research Center

Optional Site Tour of the Penn State Naturalized Basin and The Toft Woods Rain Garden Complex (weather permitting)

Presented by:

*Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association (CRC)
Habitat Resource Network of Southeast PA
and Penn State Brandywine (formerly Delco)*

Admission is \$5.00, but Charlestown Township is a program sponsor, which entitles our residents to attend free of charge. Pre-register with the CRC (crc@nni.com) or call 610-892-8731

For more information, please visit: www.crcwatersheds.org and www.habitatresourcenetwork.org.

Charlestown Township Directory 2008

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Meetings: 1st Monday of each Month, 7:30 P.M., at Great Valley Middle School

Kevin R. Kuhn, Chairman	kevin@progsolution.com	(610) 917-9960
Charles A. Philips, Vice Chairman	captwp@verizon.net	(610) 933-4154
Michael J. Rodgers, Member	Illesor@verizon.net	(610) 827-7817
Paul J. Hogan, Member	pauljhogan@aol.com	(484) 614-6434
Hugh D. Willig, Member	hugh.willig@verizon.net	(610) 935-3539

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Linda M. Csete, Administrator	admin1@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 240-0326
Jan C. Bird, Assistant Township Secretary	admin2@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 240-0326

PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC SAFETY STAFF:

Fire Marshal: Frederick C. Alston	publicworks@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 656-9315 – cell
Public Works Superintendent: Frederick C. Alston	publicworks@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 656-9315 – cell
Animal Control Officer: Mark Cabot	MkRtCt@aol.com	(610) 909-6403 – cell

OPEN SPACE DIRECTOR:

Aliena J. Gerhard	agerhard@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 636-7292 cell
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TOWNSHIP ENGINEER, ZONING OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR:

Surender S. Kohli	ssk42@msn.com	(610) 644-5591
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BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Brightside Farm Manager: Alix Coleman	alixc@voicenet.com	(610) 827-1577
Historical Commission/HARB: Fran Rodgers	rodgersmom@msn.com	(610) 827-7817
Horseshoe Trail: Sue Staas	suestaas@verizon.net	(610) 933-9766
Open Space Commission: Sue Staas	suestaas@verizon.net	(610) 933-9766
Parks & Recreation: Bob Jones	Bob_jones@slvfx.com	(610) 363-2166
Planning Commission: Andy Motel	motellaw@msn.com	(610) 933-4921
Zoning Hearing Board: John C. Martin	Jmartin460@aol.com	(610) 296-5638

TAX COLLECTORS

Earned Income Tax – Businesses: Central Tax Bureau	(570) 822-0555
Earned Income Tax – Residents: Central Tax Bureau	(610) 497-6030
Real Estate, LST & Per Capita Taxes: Central Tax Bureau	(610) 497-6030
School Tax – Great Valley School District	(610) 889-2125 ext. 2140

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

AMBULANCE, FIRE & POLICE EMERGENCY ONLY:

DIAL 9-1-1

Pennsylvania State Police – non-emergency	(484) 340-3241
East Whiteland Fire Company – Fire & Ambulance	(610) 644-8558
Kimberton Fire Company – Fire	(610) 933-9961
West End Fire Company – Ambulance	(610) 933-3110
Fire Board – Call before burning leaves or waste papers in an approved incinerator	(610) 644-1224

2008 Meeting Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Board of Supervisors	7 22	4	3	7	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1
Planning Commission	8	12 26	11 25	8 22	13 27	10 24	8 22	12 26	9 23	14 28	11 25	9 23
Historical Commission	15	19	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	16
Open Space Comm.	10		13		8		10		11		13	
Parks & Recreation	17	21	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	18

All Boards and Commissions (with the exception of Parks & Recreation) meet at the Great Valley Middle School, 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, Pa.

The Parks & Rec Board meets at the Clubhouse at Charlestown Park, located at the corner of Township Line Road and Coldstream Road, with an address of 2 Southwest Avenue, Phoenixville, Pa.

Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. Call the Township Office if you'd like to confirm a particular meeting. (610) 240-0326.

Charlestown Township
P.O. Box 507
Devault, PA 19432

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED