



Winter 2009

# CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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

*Published by the Board of Supervisors:*

*Paul J. Hogan Kevin R. Kuhn Charles A. Philips Michael J. Rodgers  
Hugh D. Willig*

## ***PRESERVING CHARLESTOWN'S OPEN SPACE: The Year In Review***

-Aliena J. Gerhard, Director of Open Space



2008 was a year marked by many exciting events. In Charlestown, it was marked by the remarkable commitment by you, our residents, to protect the beauty and rural character of your Township by voting overwhelmingly to dedicate Earned Income Tax funds exclusively for open space preservation. Not only will your action result in our ability to protect hundreds more acres, including the beautiful Thompson family land, but also you will benefit from more trails, cleaner drinking water, beautiful views, less traffic, and financial savings.<sup>1</sup>

Specifically, the Township extends its gratitude to two families who have donated conservation easements this past year, the Zantzingers and the Sicklers. Your generosity will benefit generations to come.

- Over 1,537 acres have been preserved in total!
- In 2007 alone, nearly 300 acres were preserved!
- In 2008, over 75 acres were preserved, with nearly 400 more acres in the works for 2009!
- Your neighbors have donated over \$11,000,000 in land value!
- The Township has received over \$2,000,000 in State and County funds that would not have been awarded without our joint financial commitment to open space preservation!

Conserving land has so many benefits, and taking these steps now will not only preserve your legacy, but also may help you in estate planning and tax matters. Since Congress's tax benefits for donating conservation easements is set to expire at the end of 2009, I hope many more of you will join your neighbors and take advantage before it's too late.

As for me, I continue to be humbled by the foresight, commitment and generosity of our residents. The best part of my job is working with all of you, and my son, who often accompanies me, has greatly enjoyed meeting so many new friends and seeing such beautiful lands. So, a personal "thank you" for opening up your homes and giving of your time to me and to William- his appreciation for nature and for the beauty of Charlestown will last him a lifetime. 2009 holds much promise, and I look forward to telling you even more exciting news in next year's Report!

<sup>1</sup> As explained in the Open Space Report circulated prior to the April Primaries, our residents will see reduction in new houses built, meaning a reduction in costs associated with increased municipal services needs, including higher education costs. Municipal services required by open space costs approximately \$0.03 per tax dollar collected while those required by residential development cost approximately \$1.15 per tax dollar collected. Additionally, fewer developable acres increases property value as supply is reduced and demand is increased.

# Tax Information – Important Change for 2009

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

## Earned Income Tax

**Important Change for 2009:** Charlestown Township’s Earned Income Tax is 1% beginning January 1, 2009. Since it was first imposed in 2004, all EIT funds that have been spent were used for open space projects. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in January of this year to do the same with the 2009 proceeds.

You’re required to file an annual tax return for 2008 by April 15, 2009. 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 610-497-6030.

Forms can also be downloaded from: [www.centaxgroup.com](http://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](http://www.centaxgroup.com).

## Real Estate and Per Capita Taxes

Your real estate and per capita taxes for 2009 are collected by the Central Tax Bureau. Tax bills are mailed the week of February 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

***The Central Tax Bureau of PA, Inc. (“Centax”) is Charlestown’s tax collector for all taxes: real estate, earned income, per capita and local services. All tax related questions should be directed to Centax at 610-497-6030.***



## ***Addressing for Emergencies***

- Fred Alston

Your house number is very important. If you have an emergency, that is one of the first things you will be asked for: WHERE is your emergency???

Where you put your house number is also very important as it must indicate which house it is, especially on roads where the mail is delivered on one side only. Please make sure that your house number is clearly visible from either direction of travel, not obscured by shrubbery and that it clearly indicates which house that it belongs to. Placing the number at your driveway is a good way to identify your home. Remember that emergency personnel need to see your number in foggy and rainy weather as well as on a clear day.

# Summary of the Township Budget 2009

The full budget is available on line at [www.charlestown.org](http://www.charlestown.org), or upon request from the Township Office.

Category	Total All Funds	General Fund	State Fund	Open Space Fund
<b>CARRYOVER AND REVENUE</b>				
Carryover from Previous Year	2,203,000	325,000	78,000	1,800,000
Bond Issue for Open Space Acquisition	4,000,000			4,000,000
Real Property Taxes	474,500	474,500		
Local Tax Enabling Act (Act 511) Taxes	2,136,500	336,500		1,800,000
Business Licenses & Permits	63,220	63,220		
Non-Business Licenses & Fees	9,100	9,100		
Fines & Forfeits	4,800	4,800		
Interest on Investments	59,500	7,500	2,000	50,000
Total Rents & Royalties	14,400	14,400		
State Capital and Operating Grants	55,000	55,000		
State Shared Revenue and Entitlements	187,200	74,700	112,500	
Local Govt Units Capital & Operating Grants	105,500	500		105,000
Sale of Fixed Assets (Jenkins property)	750,000			750,000
Charges for Services	4,000	4,000		
Public Safety	102,360	102,360		
Culture & Recreation	600	600		
Applicant Escrow Deposits	44,000	44,000		
<b>CARRYOVER AND REVENUE</b>	<b>10,213,680</b>	<b>1,516,180</b>	<b>192,500</b>	<b>8,505,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Legislative Body	7,500	7,500		
Financial Administration	7,250	7,250		
Tax Collection	45,700	8,200		37,500
Solicitor/Legal Fees	127,500	127,500		
General Administration	134,751	134,751		
IT-Networking Services-Data Processing	12,000	12,000		
Engineering Services	34,200	34,200		
General Government Buildings & Plant	13,000	13,000		
Fire Protection	181,900	181,900		
UCC & Building Code Enforcement	131,860	131,860		
Planning & Zoning	68,000	68,000		
Emergency Management	2,000	2,000		
Other Public Safety	800	800		
Animal Control	2,500	2,500		
Public Works: Administration	126,500	126,500		
Cleaning of Streets and Gutters	20,000	20,000		
Winter Maintenance - Snow Removal	140,000	80,000	60,000	
Traffic Control Devices	15,500	15,500		
Traffic Studies	4,000	4,000		
Machinery & Equipment	6,000	6,000		
Road Construction	200,000	117,500	82,500	
Parks	90,000	8,500		81,500
Historical Resources	49,500	19,000		30,500
Conservation of Natural Resources	4,231,325			4,231,325
Subdivision & Hearing Expenses	44,000	44,000		
Employer Paid Benefits and Withholding	28,920	28,920		
Insurance, Casualty and Surety	25,000	25,000		
Bonds & Notes	1,043,816			1,043,816
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>6,793,522</b>	<b>1,226,381</b>	<b>142,500</b>	<b>5,424,641</b>
<b>BALANCE - CARRYOVER TO 2009</b>	<b>3,420,158</b>	<b>289,799</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>3,080,359</b>

# Charlestown Township Directory 2009

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

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Linda M. Csete, Administrator	<a href="mailto:admin1@charlestown.pa.us">admin1@charlestown.pa.us</a>	(610) 240-0326
Jan C. Bird, Assistant Township Secretary	<a href="mailto:admin2@charlestown.pa.us">admin2@charlestown.pa.us</a>	(610) 240-0326

## PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC SAFETY STAFF:

Fire Marshal: Frederick C. Alston	<a href="mailto:publicworks@charlestown.pa.us">publicworks@charlestown.pa.us</a>	(610) 656-9315
Public Works Superintendent: Frederick C. Alston	<a href="mailto:publicworks@charlestown.pa.us">publicworks@charlestown.pa.us</a>	(610) 656-9315
Animal Control Officer: Mark Cabot	<a href="mailto:MkRtCt@aol.com">MkRtCt@aol.com</a>	(610) 909-6403

## OPEN SPACE DIRECTOR:

Aliena J. Gerhard	<a href="mailto:agerhard@charlestown.pa.us">agerhard@charlestown.pa.us</a>	(610) 636-7292
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## TOWNSHIP ENGINEER, ZONING OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR:

Surender S. Kohli	<a href="mailto:ssk42@msn.com">ssk42@msn.com</a>	(610) 644-5591
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## BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Brightside Farm Manager: Alix Coleman	<a href="mailto:alixc@voicenet.com">alixc@voicenet.com</a>	(610) 827-1577
Historical Commission/HARB: Fran Rodgers	<a href="mailto:rodgersmom@msn.com">rodgersmom@msn.com</a>	(610) 827-7817
Horseshoe Trail: Sue Staas	<a href="mailto:suestaas@verizon.net">suestaas@verizon.net</a>	(610) 933-9766
Open Space Commission: David Greer	<a href="mailto:davidgreer@verizon.net">davidgreer@verizon.net</a>	(610) 860-2497
Parks & Recreation: Bob Jones	<a href="mailto:Bob_jones@slvfx.com">Bob_jones@slvfx.com</a>	(610) 363-2166
Planning Commission: Andy Motel	<a href="mailto:Motellaw@msn.com">Motellaw@msn.com</a>	(610) 933-4921
Zoning Hearing Board: John C. Martin	<a href="mailto:Jmartin460@aol.com">Jmartin460@aol.com</a>	(610) 296-5638

## TAX COLLECTORS

Earned Income Tax – Businesses: Central Tax Bureau	(610) 497-6030
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

# *Earth Day April 18, 2009*

- Linda Csete, Township Administrator



## *Charlestown Township Seeks Volunteers for Spring Roadside Clean-up April 18, 2009*

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 2009. So for this April, the Board of Supervisors seeks volunteers to help organize and undertake a clean-up of the township roads on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

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. Filled bags may be left at the side of the road for the Township and PennDOT crews to pick up later. 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 18<sup>th</sup> but still wish to participate on a different day, contact the Township Office to obtain supplies and safety instructions.

Call or e-mail Linda Csete at the Township office if you'd like to participate or for more information: (610) 240-0326 or [admin1@charlestown.pa.us](mailto:admin1@charlestown.pa.us).

## *New On-Lot Septic System Ordinance*

- Linda Csete

Our Official Sewage Facilities Plan requires a sewage management program to effectively prevent and abate water pollution and hazards to the public health caused by improper treatment and disposal of sewage. To address this requirement, the Board of Supervisors enacted Ordinance #150-2008 on November 3, 2008, which provides for the regulation, inspection and maintenance of on-lot sewage disposal systems in the Township.

Owners of lots that utilize an on-lot sewage disposal system must have the treatment tank pumped out by a liquid waste hauler and the contents disposed of at a licensed sewage disposal facility at least once every three years or whenever an inspection of the tank reveals that it is filled with solids or liquid in excess of 1/3 the liquid depth of the tank. Your hauler is required to submit proof of the required pumping and disposal to the Chester County Health Department for input into their Septage Management Data System.

Our Recommendations to owners of on-lot septic systems:

- ❑ If you have not had your septic system pumped out within the last three years, have it done as soon as possible. Confirm with your septic hauler that they are reporting to the Chester County Health Department.
- ❑ If you have had your system pumped out within the last three years, call your septic hauler to confirm that they reported to the County Health Department that your system was serviced.
- ❑ Maintain your receipts in the event there are any questions about your compliance with these new regulations.

Information is available on the Chester County Health Department's website, [www.chesco.org/health](http://www.chesco.org/health). Search "Sewage" and you will easily find a handy reference, On Lot Sewage System Owners Manual.

A complete copy of the ordinance may be obtained by contacting the Township Office via phone or email.

# Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Charlestown Township is a 2009 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 five events as listed below.

## Tentative Schedule of 2009 Drop-off Dates & Locations: (all 9 AM - 3 PM)

Saturday, April 4, 2009  
CAT Pickering  
1580 Charlestown Road  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Saturday, September 19, 2009  
New Garden Township Building  
8934 Gap Newport Road  
Landenberg, PA 19350

Saturday, May 16, 2009  
Owen J. Roberts High School  
981 Ridge Road  
Pottstown, PA 19465

Saturday, October 10, 2009  
Government Services Center  
601 Westtown Rd  
West Chester, PA 19380

Saturday, June 19, 2009  
CAT Brandywine Campus  
1635 East Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, PA 19320

**(Computer recycling on April 4, June 19  
and October 10 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

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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.



# *Celebrating Charlestown Artists Now and Then Art Show and Sale Coming this May*

The Charlestown Historical Society invites you to our second Art Show at the Charlestown Elementary School to celebrate **Charlestown Artists Now and Then**. The Art Show is on Saturday, May 16, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 17, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Our 2008 Art Show "Scenes of Charlestown" was so successful that the Charlestown community asked us to hold another art show. Also, we were requested to have art available for sale.

The 2009 Art Show and Sale, **Celebrating Charlestown Artists Now and Then**, will feature **fine art** work including paintings, three dimensional art (wood, ceramics, etc.), and photography. The 2009 Art Show will welcome all Charlestown artists including elementary, middle and high school students to display their art for all to enjoy. The requirement to show art is that you must currently live in Charlestown or lived in Charlestown at one time.

We also invite people who own art created by Charlestown artists current or deceased to share their art by participating in the show.



The art does not have to depict scenes of Charlestown but must be suitable for family viewing. Join us on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Charlestown Elementary School for our art show and sale to help celebrate **Charlestown Artists Now and Then**.

*Three of many Charlestown Artists (L-R) Alexandra Coleman, Alexander Derkas and Deborah Kuhn.*

Join the excitement and visit the web site, [www.charlestown.org/art](http://www.charlestown.org/art), to learn more about participating in the show as an artist or owner of art works by Charlestown artists. You will be provided with details on how to participate, a form to register and details about selling your art.



*A black & white reproduction of the beautiful color painting of the Charlestown Woolen Mill by John R. Peirce*

You may also e-mail Debbie Kuhn at [Debbie@progsolution.com](mailto:Debbie@progsolution.com) for additional information.

The Charlestown Historical Society welcomes all residents to help us produce this art show. **The deadline for registration to participate in the Art Show is March 30, 2009.** We are planning two additional events to be held this spring to **Celebrate Charlestown Artists Now and Then**. Please e-mail [dewilde2249@yahoo.com](mailto:dewilde2249@yahoo.com) to learn how you can join the excitement and help.

**Also: Please Join Us at Upcoming CHS Meetings:**

Early April – Slide Show Presentation "Scenes of Charlestown"  
Early May - Meet with Charlestown Artists

Check the Citizens' Website [www.charlestown.org](http://www.charlestown.org) for more details as they become available.

# 2009 Township Meeting Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Board of Supervisors	5	2	2	6	4	1	6	3	8	5	2	7
Planning Commission	13	10	10	14	12	9	14	11	15	13	10	8
Historical Commission	20	17	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	15
Open Space Comm.	29		12		14		9		10		12	
Parks & Recreation	15	19	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	17

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.

## *Reminder for our Residents Living Along State Roads:*

For maintenance issues, including snow removal, call the PennDOT maintenance number at 800-FIX ROAD.

State Roads include:

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

Charlestown Township

P.O. Box 507

Devault, PA 19432

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED