



CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2007

Published by the Board of Supervisors:

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

Township Receives Open Space Grants

- Aliena Gerhard

Once again, Charlestown Township has received over a half-million dollars to preserve open space! Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources joins Chester County in helping preserve more Charlestown land. These funds will cover the acquisition of conservation easements on over ninety acres of natural habitat and trails, which are a part of four farms. Through township funds and landowner donation, all four farms will be completely preserved, placing more than an additional 130 acres under protection in the Township. This brings the total of permanently preserved land to well over 500 acres since Township Supervisors began an aggressive program back in 2004. The annual funding the township has committed for Open Space preservation is in the range of \$1,000,000.



Left to Right: Supervisor Mike Rodgers, Supervisor Paul Hogan, Open Space Director Aliena Gerhard, Supervisor Kevin Kuhn, State Senator Andrew Dinniman, Supervisor Charlie Philips, Resident Alexandra (Alix) Coleman, and Supervisor Hugh Willig. - photo by Pam Brown, French & Pickering Creeks Trust

The preservation of these farms is important for many reasons. The farms link up to other protected land-- one linking to the Township-owned Brightside Farm, creating a beautiful greenway for citizens to enjoy, whether walking or riding the lands or driving along Charlestown's scenic roads. Hikers and horseback riders can enjoy sections of the Horse-Shoe Trail, a historic trail running from Valley Forge National Park to the Appalachian Trail. Visitors enjoy the sight of horses grazing in the distance while bird watchers can enjoy spotting the many species who call these lands home. Furthermore, native species of plants will now have a sanctuary in which to grow and replenish. Residents will also benefit from the protection of our watershed since the Pigeon Run and the Pickering Creek flow to the Pickering Creek Reservoir. This reservoir provides drinking water for most of southeastern Pennsylvania. Additionally, these funds allow for the protection of woodlands, including many specimen trees such as sycamore and black walnut trees, as well as wildlife habitat. So don't be surprised if you spot an owl, fox, or even a bluebird while on your travels!

By purchasing the development rights and placing conservation easements on the farms, Charlestown Township will ensure that they will remain as beautiful and unspoiled as they are now for generations to come.

Contact: Aliena J. Gerhard, Director of Open Space at 610-636-7292 or agerhard@charlestown.pa.us for further information and conservation opportunities.

An Invitation from the Charlestown Historical Society

- Ellen Behrle



*The Wisner Rapp House, Yellow Springs Road
- Photo by Fred Alston*

CHS is a non-profit organization charged with the task of protecting the documentation concerning historical properties and matters here in Charlestown Township.

Additionally, the members maintain two historical properties which have been donated to the society by residents of Charlestown Township, including the Wisner Rapp House (shown at left) and the Stinson Markley House.

The society meets regularly at the Charlestown Elementary School for business meetings and wonderful, significant presentations followed by fellowship and refreshments.

There are a few ways you could help support this worthwhile organization:

- Visit our exhibition table and pay the nominal annual dues at the polls each November at the General Election
- Join in on one of the quarterly work parties at the Stinson Markley property
- Attend our annual fundraising Patrons' dinner and party

Our Patrons' dinner and party has turned out to be quite the event. Each year we provide a catered dinner, complete with beverages and dessert, at a different venue each year. We have seen some of the most beautiful historic properties in our township at this annual event. Lastly, in the event you are an owner of a historic property with a barn large enough to host an event, you can support our initiative by allowing the society to use the outside of your property and your barn for this very important fundraiser. We promise it to be painless for the owner - the society fundraising committee does everything.

We need membership! Annual family membership is \$25.00 per year. Please contact us via mail at P.O. Box 344, Devault, PA 19432 if you are in need of any further info or for membership details.

Charlestown Now and Then Charlestown Historical Society 2008 Calendar

Where was the beautiful pond in Charlestown? The picture appears in the new Charlestown Historical Society 2008 Now and Then calendar. Order your CHS 2008 calendar at the CHS Patron's dinner September 15th or when you vote on Election Day.

You may win a year membership in CHS if you are the first to tell us where the pond was located and why it is no longer there.

Swimming Pools

- Linda Csete

With the 2007 Pool Season coming to an end, we would like to remind pool owners of their responsibilities concerning the discharge of pool water. The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law and Charlestown's NPDES MS4 permit prohibits the discharge of non-stormwater, such as pool water, to the municipal storm sewer system. Every year, there are incidents of fish kills relating to either the discharge of pool water at the end of the season, at the beginning of the season, or the running of tap water or pool water hoses into storm sewers. Pool water discharged with residual chlorine at even the low level found in tap water has had adverse impacts on nearby creeks and ponds. Pool owners/operators can be liable for any damage to aquatic life or the stream that occurs as a result of their pool discharges.

Pool water should not be discharged to storm drains, or streets that run to storm drains, but rather over a grassy area at a rate that optimizes infiltration and aeration and will not cause erosion. According to DEP guidelines, pool water should have zero chlorine residual, and be within the acceptable ranges for temperature and pH as specified. It is not permitted to discharge filter backwash water to storm sewers or streams; this water must also be infiltrated to the ground. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our streams healthy!

Charlestown Park – Past, Present & Future

- Bob Jones, Parks & Recreation Board Chairman

History

Charlestown Park and the Valley Forge Christian College came from what was the Valley Forge General Hospital, a former military hospital in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. It was the only United States Army General Hospital named for a place. It was one of seven installations of its kind operated by the Surgeon General and was the only Army General Hospital, in addition to Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, D.C., that lay east of the Mississippi River

The hospital was built in 1942 on 182 Acres of farm land, and opened on Washington's Birthday in 1943 to care for the wounded of World War II. It became the largest military hospital in the United States. Eventually, the hospital had well over 3,000 patients and more than 100 separate buildings. The Army planned to shut down V.F.G.H. in 1950, but the Korean War began, and it stayed open. The final closing came in 1975, although it had stopped functioning as a hospital the previous year. The Hospital cared for over 200,000 patients over a 31 year period.

Charlestown Township acquired 52 acres in July 1977 under a 30 year lease agreement that deeded the land to the Township at the end of the term. The acquisition of the land ended four years of negotiations during which time the state and county backed off on taking the land. Special uses, such as for a prison or private development, were all discussed before the township's request was granted. Joe O'Brien, James Devine and Harold Pyle were the Township Supervisors who completed the acquisition for the township.

Charlestown Township Park Today

This year Charlestown Park will have about 1800 positions available for kids to play sports. These positions are staffed administered and funded by two great 501(c)3 organizations who are the Phoenixville Area Soccer Club (PASC) and the Phoenixville Marian Youth Club (PMYC). Each of these organizations sports is available to the kids Free of charge.

Phoenixville Area Soccer Club (PASC)

PASC was organized in 1961 and has extensive Soccer programs for boys and girls. Practice and many games are held at Charlestown Park. PASC moved into Charlestown Park in 1973 where they developed several fields.

The Phoenixville Area Soccer Club charter is to provide a positive experience for boys and girls of all ages in learning, developing and understanding the game of soccer. Based upon the age of the player, everyone learns the basic fundamentals of the game, develops field skills and learns the laws of the game. PASC promotes and instills good team building behavior along with sportsmanship and fair play. Players will grow within the program at a pace they are comfortable with and will meet levels of competition based upon their experience and skill level. We encourage all children to attend our multifaceted program located at our soccer complex in Charlestown Park.

For 2007, PASC expects enrollment of over 700 soccer players in their fall program coming from the Great Valley and Phoenixville Area School Districts along with other players from surrounding townships. Our players consist of the following groups:

Groups:	Ages:
Pee Wee	3-5
Minors	6-7
Majors	8-10
Suburban	10-16
Travel (U10-U19)	9-18

For More Information go to
www.pasc.1.org

Phoenixville Marian Youth Club (PMYC)

Phoenixville Marian Youth Club, PMYC, was established in 1956 as a non-profit, volunteer organization that serves the betterment of the youth of the Phoenixville Area. The Phoenixville Marian Youth Club's goal is to provide the youth of the area, regardless of race, religion or economic situation an avenue to participate in numerous organized sports programs FREE of charge.

From the PMYC's inception in 1956, it has been the governing policy not to charge the youth a fee to participate in any of the sports programs. They are funded from local businesses, individuals and the Chester County United Way.

The PMYC offers the following youth programs:

Flag Football - Football (2 Divisions) - Field Hockey (3 Divisions) - Girls Basketball (2 Divisions)
Boys Basketball (2 Divisions) - Girls Lacrosse (3 Divisions) - Boys Lacrosse (4 Divisions)

Contact names for the various programs at the PMYC:

Football David Gyuris cell: 215-651-2706 d.gyuris2@verizon.net Karen Taphorn home: 610-948-0299 karen@j-lbuilding.com Field Hockey Tom Moore home: 610-935-9339 TOMOFALLTRADES@aol.com	Boys Basketball Rob Spitz cell: 215-416-5414 R.Spitz@fireproind.com Girls Basketball Jeanne Schantzenbach home: 610-983-9074 JBSchanz@aol.com	Boys Lacrosse Jim O'Brien home: 610-933-5694 oblax11@comcast.net Girls Lacrosse Beth Hook bingohook@comcast.net
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The Future of Charlestown Park

The Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation Board worked with our Town Planner Thomas Comitta to develop a Master Plan for the Park. The Charlestown Township Park Master Plan was completed and adopted by Supervisors John Sauser, Irene Ewald and Robin Kohn in 1999. (see copy of master plan on page 6).

The Master Plan consisted of constructing a couple of new sports fields, a walking trail, Amphitheatre, Activity Center, Basketball Courts, playground area, new picnic pavilions with restroom facilities and new parking areas to support these new areas within the park.

The first phase of the master plan was to complete a walking trail through the park, which was finished in 2001. The adjacent Valley Forge Christian College constructed a spur off our path onto their property with plans to complete a three mile loop around the entire two facilities. Please take the time to stop by and walk the trail. The township office has gotten many calls from residents exclaiming how nice a walk it is through the park. One section meanders alongside a natural trail along the waterway.

This month the current Board of Supervisors will award a contract to construct a new Lacrosse field for the PMYC organization which will be used for their new Lacrosse program in the Spring. In the fall, this field will benefit both the football and field hockey programs at the Park.

Future projects at Charlestown Park will consist of:

- Additional parking area for 135 cars as seen on the plan at the corner of “F” street and Township Line Road
- Construction of new picnic pavilions along “F” street to include bathroom facilities.
- Enlargement of the existing football field to accommodate lacrosse play in the spring along with lighting for both of the new fields.
- Replacement of the existing snack bars and storage facilities for both the PMYC and PASC which will also add bathrooms to both areas of the field.
- Construction of an Amphitheatre for outdoor concerts
- Activity Center for the township residents

We are always looking for interested Charlestown Township residents to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board. If you have a willingness to pitch in and work, call the township office at 610-240-0326.

I would like to thank the people who helped to contribute to this article. Former Board of Supervisor John Martin, Lacrosse Coach Jeff Bodo, Parks and Recreation Board member and President of PMYC Chuck McQuiston, and Ed Theurkauf from Thomas Comitta and Associates. Historical information on the Park was excerpted from a 1998 article written by Galloway Morris – Bob Jones, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Board.

Update on Improvements at the Historic Woolen Mill

Paul J. Hogan



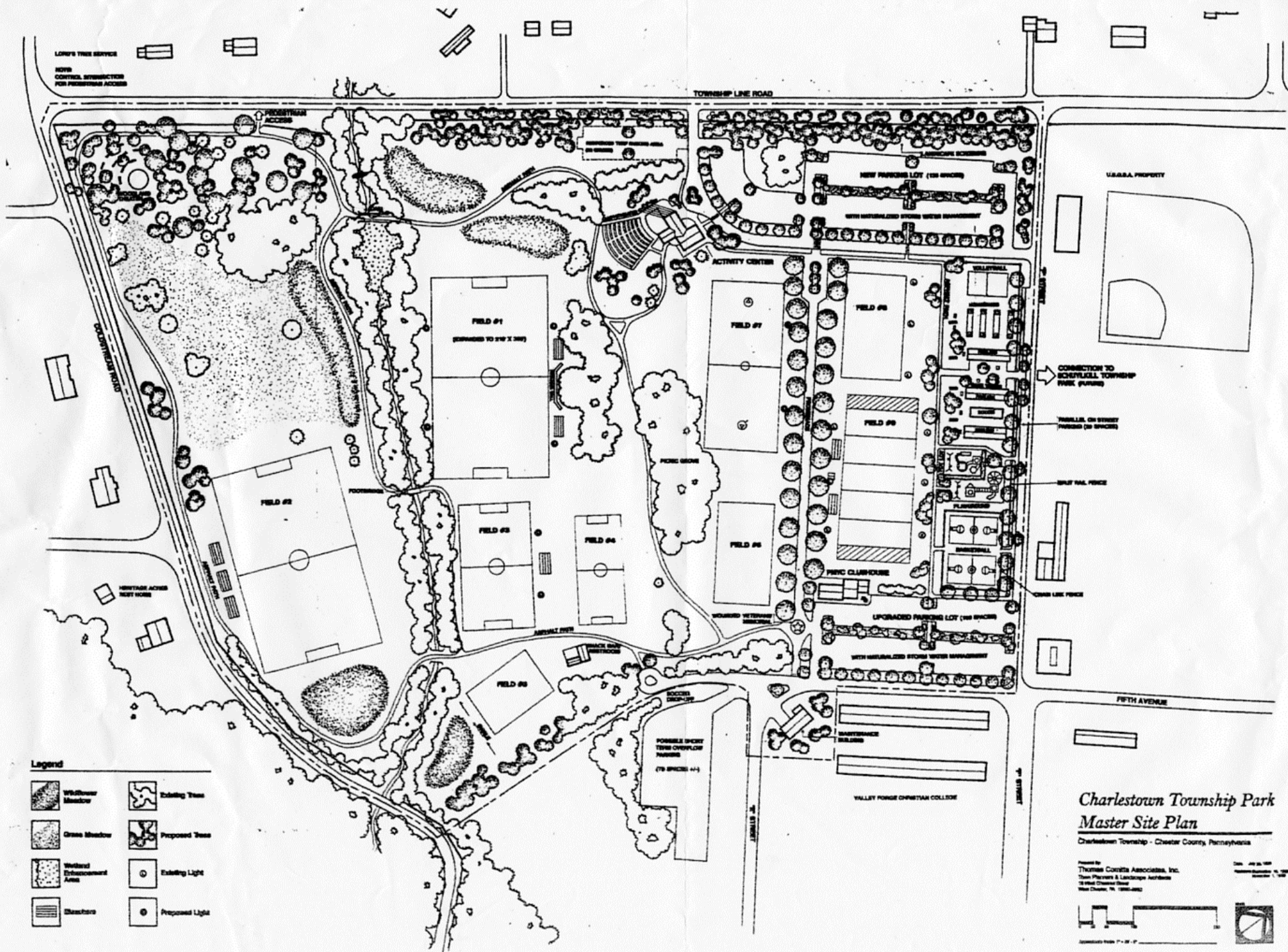
Above: Inside the Woolen Mill - Photo by Paul Hogan

The exterior road work, lighting and landscaping at our old woolen mill is now complete. The roadway was once Charlestown Road until PennDOT moved it to the other side of the mill. The structure was first built in 1729, three years before George Washington's birth. Over the centuries the ground has been filled in to better grade the highway so that the main floor is now the basement.

At Right: Exterior of the Woolen Mill - photo by Paul Hogan

The balcony stage for the redevelopment of the old Woolen mill on Charlestown Road a bit north of Church Road has recently been completed. The balcony will allow visitors a closer look at some of the machinery that drove the mill over the past few centuries. Next on the list of repairs is the huge apple press. Producing cider from local apples was the primary function of the Mill in the 20th Century. We anticipate making truckloads of cider for sale. OK, would you be happy with a few gallons? The mill stones are there ready to be installed. All this will probably take a few more years, but the alternative was the loss of a great historic building. Located adjacent to the complete renovation of the former Baughman barn by the Naylor family, the view as you approach Charlestown Village from the North makes for an idyllic pastoral scene.





Legend

**Charlestown Township Park
Master Site Plan**

Charlestown Township - Chester County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by
Thomas Corbett Associates, Inc.
Town Planning & Landscape Architects
12 West Chester Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Date: July 26, 2007
Drawing No.: 100-000000-001



Hazardous Household Waste Disposal – Two Dates Remain in 2007

Charlestown Township is a 2007 Participant in the Regional Southeastern Pa Hazardous Household Waste Program. There are two remaining drop off dates in 2007 at various facilities in the County as listed below.

Drop-off Dates & Locations: (9 AM - 3 PM)

Saturday, September 15, 2007 New Garden Township Building
8934 Gap Newport Road
Landenberg, PA 19350

Saturday, October 6, 2007 Government Services Center
601 Westtown Rd
West Chester, PA 19380

(Computer recycling on October 6th 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 (packed safely), 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.

State Senator Andrew Dinniman visits Charlestown



Senator Andrew Dinniman speaking to Charlestown residents at the July 17th open space grant presentation at Glomar Farm. – photo by Pam Brown, French & Pickering Creeks Trust

On Tuesday, July 17th, Charlestown was honored by a visit from State Senator Andrew Dinniman who presented three checks representing nearly \$400,000 in funds from the State to help preserve three farms (see related article on page 1). Thanks to these funds, funds from Chester County, and money from the Township, these farms will be permanently protected.

Township resident and grant recipient Alix Coleman graciously hosted the presentation at her farm, Glomar Farm, on Green Lane Road. Nestled in a little valley, Glomar Farm contains not only beautiful pastures but also acres of woodlands and a part of the Pigeon Run which flows into the Pickering Creek Reservoir. As he introduced the Senator, Board of Supervisors' Chairman Kevin Kuhn, highlighted the Township's commitment to open space by noting that before the Open Space Commission began its work in 2001, 588 acres were protected; by year's end, this total should reach nearly 1000.

The site was picturesque. Two foals played in fields in the background, whinnying to their mothers, cows lowed softly, and butterflies flew among the flower gardens, as Senator Dinniman spoke about the importance of open space preservation to Chester County and lauded Charlestown for its leadership. Senator Dinniman concluded his remarks by stating that the evening should serve to recommit and to celebrate. He concluded, "we have something very precious here in Chester County." We certainly do. Thank you to all of our residents for your commitment to preserving our very special piece of Chester County!

-Aliena J. Gerhard, Director of Open Space

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED