



Spring 2016

CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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

Published by the Board of Supervisors:

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 AT CHARLESTOWN PARK

The Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation announces Charlestown Day 2016 will be held on **Saturday September 24, 2016** from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the newly renovated Charlestown Park.



This will be a great opportunity for our neighbors to join together for a day of community spirit and enjoy the beauty of our park.

Charlestown Day 2016 activities will include vendors displaying their goods, local non-profit organizations, music, and kid's activities. Food Vendors include **Urban's**, featuring their hand-crafted wood fired pizza! And **Kona Ice** will provide their cool treats!!

We are looking for vendors, sponsors and volunteers to assist on the event day! Please follow us on our newly renovated Facebook page at Facebook.com/CharlestownParksandRecreation. Updates will also be on www.charlestownday.org and the township website at www.charlestown.pa.us.

Karen Schlichter
Karenschlichter77@gmail.com

At right and below: The Charlestown Park Renovation project nears completion. Progress pictures taken April 16th. Reopening of this area of the Park is anticipated by the end of May/beginning of June.



New pavilions, playground, restrooms and parking are coming soon! Photos by George Csete

Free Electronic Recycling

The Chester County Solid Waste Authority is now accepting TVs, computers and other electronics and appliances at the landfill for FREE until December 2016.

There is a three (3) unit limit per vehicle. A complete computer system is considered one unit. All items must be intact and no disassembled items will be accepted.

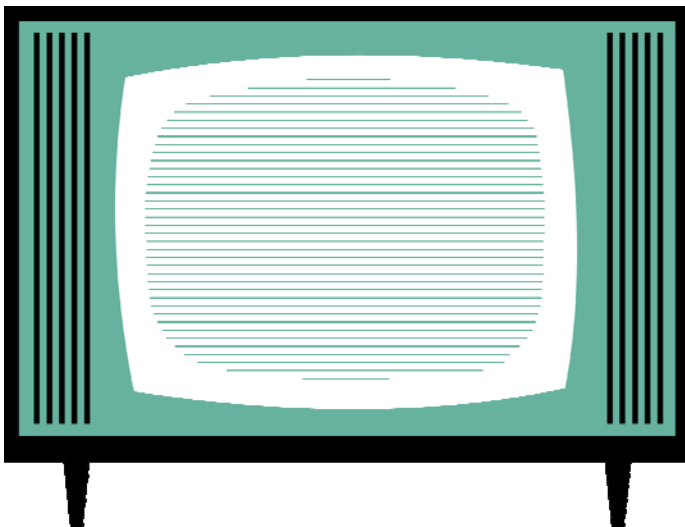
Residents must be able to unload their own items. Items must be put on the appropriate pallet or in the labeled gaylord box. Appliances that are mostly metal should be disposed in the metals container for recycling.

Chester County Solid Waste Authority
7224 28th Division Highway
Narvon, PA 17555

Hours: Mon – Fri 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Phone: (610) 273-3771

<http://www.chestercountyswa.org/>



Take advantage of this opportunity to properly dispose of your old electronics - it's not likely to last!

Putting Rainwater to Use for You

Harvesting rainwater with a rain garden is a simple way to make your household green and help your gardens prosper. Using rainwater instead of the tap to water your gardens will cut your water bill. It also keeps water from washing off of your property and carrying pollutants into our local streams.



This rain garden adds both color and function to an area that had previously been under-utilized grass.

A rain garden is a collection of water-tolerant plants in a slight depression in the ground. Running a downspout towards a sunken garden will capture rainwater and allow it to slowly sink into the ground. A properly-constructed rain garden is dry most of the time and will not attract mosquitoes because it will drain in 24 to 48 hours, while mosquitoes need at least 7 days to complete a breeding cycle.

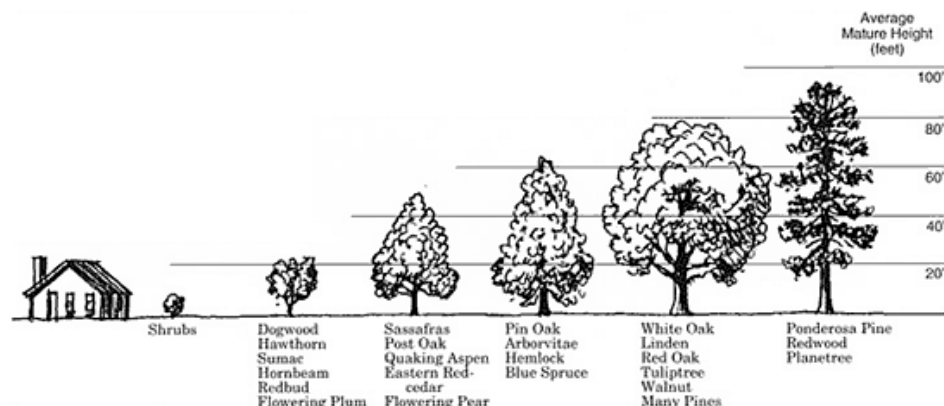
Rain gardens can take on nearly any size or shape and can be used even on small residential lots. The Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association has a simple online guide for do-it-yourself gardeners at www.crcwatersheds.org/rain-gardens. The website takes you through the three steps of creating a new rain garden: picking the right spot and size for your garden, creating a design and selecting plants, and constructing and planting your garden.

The Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees add greatly to our community's character and beauty. They also reduce flooding and polluted stormwater runoff by capturing water with their root systems. Quite simply, planting a tree is one of the best things you can do for your community and local environment, as long as you plant the right tree in the right place. Here are a few tips on choosing the right tree for your location and a few things you want to avoid.

Before choosing a tree it is important to consider several factors, including:

Height and canopy spread. How tall and wide will it grow? Will the tree bump into anything when it is fully grown? If you want to plant something near telephone or power lines, there are plenty of options for small trees that will not interfere with the lines.



Form or shape. A columnar tree (cherry, arborvitae) will grow in less space. Round (white oak, hornbeam, dogwood) trees require the most horizontal space, but provide the most shade.

Images : Arbor Day Foundation

Green all year? If you want your trees to provide a visual screen, remember that deciduous trees like oaks, maples, and ashes, will drop their leaves each fall and may not provide the visual barrier you desire in the winter. Evergreens close to the southern side of your house block warming winter sunlight. Trees on the north side of the house can block cold winter winds.

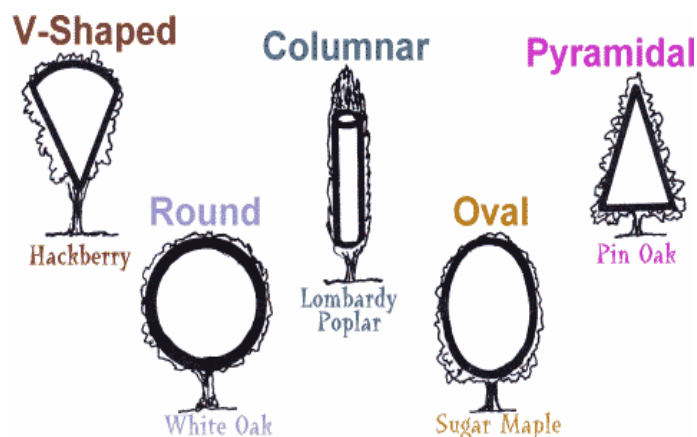
Growth rate. How long will it take for your tree to reach its full height? Slow growing species typically live longer than fast growing species.

Soil, sun, and moisture requirements. Think about the amount of sun your yard gets and how quickly the soil drains after a storm. Pick a tree that will thrive in that type of environment.

Fruit. If the tree produces fruit, acorns, or seeds, make sure it will not interfere with other uses of the property or adjacent sidewalks. Fruit-bearing trees planted next to busy sidewalks can create a messy situation.

Hardiness. Check that your tree can tolerate the temperature extremes we typically see in our region. Areas in the Philadelphia region are between USDA Hardiness Zones 6 and 8.

For more help in selecting the right tree for your yard, visit the Arbor Day Foundation's website at <http://www.arborday.org/trees/treeGuide/> or talk to your local nursery.



Sunday, August 14, 1:00 p.m. Butterfly Walk Brightside Farm

- by Ester Underhill & Sue Staas

Last summer we had a great day for butterflies in the fields and in the community gardens. We're wishing for another sunny day so the butterflies will be out entertaining us.

Please join us on August 14th, or go a different day to see what the fields and gardens have to offer.



Tiger swallowtail caterpillar

Meantime, we can all help the butterflies by planting food for the caterpillars:

- **Eastern Tiger Swallowtails** will eat many tree leaves, including lilac, black cherry and sassafras.
- **Black Swallowtails** like parsley, dill and fennel.
- **Fritillaries** like violets from the woods, garden, or lawn.
- **Monarchs** eat only milkweed; but, there are many kinds of milkweed that can add color to your garden throughout the season.

Note from Sue Staas: Milkweed is in the **Aesclepsia** family. I have several in my garden; and last August they were covered with Monarch caterpillars!

Free Phone App! Charlestown Trails are on an app! Download myZyp for either apple or android. Find your trail by looking up &plus the name of the trail - &Pickering or &Brightside Township. Hrishkesh Samant is the inventor of the app. Thank you, Hrish!

Grilling Season Has Arrived!

With the weather turning our minds to the great outdoors one surefire sign of Spring and Summer is the return to grilling. While many of us appreciate the great flavor of freshly grilled meats and veggies please keep in mind the following tips to ensure you have a safe grill experience. Interesting facts about grill dangers include that July is the peak month for grill fires and about 50% of injuries involving grills are thermal burns, lack of proper cleaning and positioning a grill too close to a structure account for approximately 40% of grill related structure fires.

- Propane and charcoal grills are meant to be used outdoors only
- Ensure the grill is placed well away from any structures, deck railings, and out from under the eaves or nearby branches or shrubs
- Keep children and pets a safe distance away
- Clean your grill regularly and remove built up grease
- Never leave a hot grill unattended
- Open the grill lid before igniting



With Propane grills:

- Check the tank and hose lines for leaks with a mix of soapy water, bubbling=danger
- If you smell gas while cooking move away from the grill and call 911

With Charcoal grills:

- Use an appropriate method to start the charcoal such as a charcoal chimney starter, charcoal starter fluid, or electric charcoal starter
- Never add flammable liquids to a grill already ignited
- Let the coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container away from your home

Charlestown Park

The improvements are over 80% completed! We anticipate having the new pavilions and playgrounds open by Memorial Day.

Soon the pavilions will be available for rental. Look for the new form, fees and rules to be posted on our website within the next few weeks. The small-medium-large pavilions will rent for \$25, \$35 and \$50 respectively. There will be a refundable \$50 deposit that will be returned to you if the pavilion is left in good condition.

New Parks & Rec Board Member

Parks & Rec welcomed Laura Assayag to their Board in April. Laura has been very involved with Charlestown Day planning for a number of years and we're glad she'll be joining us.

Adopt & Beautify Program in Devault

Work continues this year on the stormwater basins along Route 29 in Devault. In 2015, 140 street trees, buffer trees and shrubs were planted along Route 29 and Phoenixville Pike. This year the project will conclude with the removal of invasive plants, installation of fencing and gates along the Turnpike right of way, and the seeding of basins and meadow areas.

Sign Replacement along Township Roads

The Township has a sign management program in place that maintains an inventory of all road signs and listing their condition. If you notice a sign in need of replacement, or if you realize a sign is missing, please let us know. You can reach the Roadmaster, Jim Thompson at 610-656-9315, the Township Office at 610-240-0326 or email us at admin1@charlestown.pa.us. Leave a message with the address or intersection if you call outside of office hours.

Brightside Farm Park Trail

Plans are moving forward to install a paved walking trail at Brightside Farm Park on Yellow Springs Road. In the meantime, be sure to stop by and enjoy walking on the existing grass trail at this scenic location.

Township Ordinances

Codification is a method of organizing all ordinances into an easy to read document that's available at our office and on our website. For Charlestown, our codes started with Ordinance #1 adopted in 1960. Years ago, the Township codified its ordinances with Keystone Publishers Inc. This year we will transition to new service from General Code, which will provide many new features when accessed electronically.

Interpretive Panel Project at Charlestown Mill

The Historical Commission formed a subcommittee last year to design a fascinating new display of illustrations and text that will be installed at the Charlestown Mill within the next year. Working with consultants Peter and Ann Dajevskis of Interpretive Solutions, historic photos of the Village and Mill will be incorporated in this museum quality permanent display along the upper walkway of the building. The Township's goal is to open the Mill more frequently to visitors and to host special events.

Planning Commission Encourages Sketch Plan Discussion as a First Step

Have you been considering a small subdivision or land development for your property? The Planning Commission encourages property owners to reach out to them before investing too much time and money by asking for informal feedback as the first step of the planning process.

Free Tree!

The Arbor Day Foundation along with PECO is offering a free tree to area PECO customers. Go to arborday.com/peco to apply. Supply is limited.

Earth Day Clean Up April 16th



*Above: photo of Troop 440 taken by their leader Jeannine Espenshade
Celebrating five years of clean up at Brightside Farm Park!*

We had another strong turnout for our Earth Day Clean Up Event on Saturday, April 16th with great weather. Many volunteers have been involved for multiple years, while a new group and several individuals joined us for the first time this year.

Veterans included members of our Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Board, 2 Homeowners Associations, Troop 440 and many residents.

Welcome newcomers were a group from the Great Valley Middle School.

Thank you to All Who Participated!

At right: This group of Great Valley Middle School students consisted of 8th graders and science teachers Chad Sindaco and Mike Fuguet. - Photo by Chad Sindaco

The students are part of a larger group of 35 students who will be traveling to Iceland this summer to learn more about the scientific topics they are studying this year: Astronomy, Geology, Meteorology and Natural Resources.

The activity on the Pickering Trail provided an opportunity for them to be of service to the community and reflect upon the importance of care for Earth in order to maintain sustainability.



Clean Your Corner

Each year Charlestown Township hosts an Earth Day Clean Up event where resident volunteers pick up trash along our roadsides, trails and parks.

We face a challenge to keep the roadsides that are curvy and/or more heavily traveled clear of litter since we can't safely assign a family or scout team to take care of it by working along the edge of the road.

If your property is along one of these roads, we hope you'll consider taking a half hour this Spring to participate in the movement "Clean Your Corner", which encourages everyone to spend a small amount of time cleaning up litter from their front yard, which you can do while working at a safer distance from the road on your own property. We'd also like to encourage our businesses to get involved.

Many of you already do this, and we thank you. If you'd like to be involved this year, feel free to stop by the township office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to pick up supplies, including trash bags, safety vests, water bottles and work gloves.

Traffic Signal Updates

Maintaining our signalized intersections can be a challenge as road closures combine with increased development pressures in our surrounding communities. Here are two improvements that were made in the past few months:

Route 29/Warner Lane/Yellow Springs Road

In response to safety concerns, an "all red" phase was introduced when the pedestrian walkways are in use. Pedestrian pavement markings were enhanced and bollards were installed on Warner Lane to slow traffic, particularly trucks turning onto the road from Rt. 29.

Phoenixville Pike/Charlestown Road

The Township obtained PennDOT approval to change the exclusive left turn to a protected/ permitted five section signal for left turns onto Charlestown Road.



In addition, we went through a period in late March/early April after high winds damaged several of the signals in Devault, causing timing issues and frustrating delays until several camera cards could be replaced.

Yellow Springs Road Bridge Replacement Project Update

The future reconstruction and six-lane widening of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) between mileposts 312 and 319 is underway. This seven-mile project corridor traverses Charlestown, Upper Uwchlan, Uwchlan, and West Pikeland Townships in Chester County.

The Yellow Springs Road Bridge is currently closed during construction. The new bridge is on schedule to reopen in late Fall 2016.



**KEEP
DISTANCE**
IT'S THE LAW
**FOUR
FEET**



SHARE the ROAD
IT'S ROAD SAFETY, NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

Tips for Motorists

STAY ALERT

Bicycles are legal vehicles in Pennsylvania and are subject to the same rules as cars

GIVE SOME ROOM

When passing a bike, give at least four feet of space – It's the law!

TAKE A LOOK

Check for bikes before turning or opening your car door

LAY OFF THE HORN

Don't honk at a bicyclist unless they are in immediate danger

PAY ATTENTION

Texting and emailing is against the law – and downright dangerous!

Tips for Bicyclists

OBEY THE LAW

A bicycle is a legal vehicle with the same rights and responsibilities as a motor vehicle.

RIDE ON THE RIGHT

But if the road is too narrow for cars to safely pass or when there are hazards, ride in the center of the rightmost lane.

Never ride against traffic.

BE PREDICTABLE

Don't weave in and out of traffic. Signal when possible.

STAY VISIBLE

Use a front light and rear reflector in low light and bright clothing all the time.

To find out more about bicycling in Chester County go to: wcbluer.org/ShareTheRoad



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