

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Fall 2016 Newsletter

www.charlestown.pa.us

Published by the Board of Supervisors

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

Township Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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BOARD MEETINGS

Supervisors

1st Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

Semi-monthly 3rd Tuesday
@ 4:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation

3rd Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Great Valley Middle School, 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern.

All meetings are open to the public.

Visit our Website at:

www.charlestown.pa.us

<https://www.facebook.com/>

Park Reopening A Great Success Charlestown Day October 29, 2016

The Board of Supervisors are pleased to announce that the grand re-opening of Charlestown Park was the setting for hundreds of visitors during our annual Charlestown Day event.

Arranged by our Parks and Recreation Board with committee chair Karen Schlichter organizing the activities, the proceeds from our many sponsors benefitted the non-profit Great Valley Community Organization.



Festivities began at 10:00 a.m. with a flag raising ceremony to signal the official re-opening of the Park.

At left are members of Boy Scout Troop 67.

Over 50 vendors registered to set up booths under the six new pavilions, with many more vendors located at the basketball courts next to the new playground areas.



In addition to bouncy houses and Stubby the Helicopter, the playgrounds were a popular attraction for the kids. Free face painting and balloon animals were offered, and vendors set up Halloween treats at each of their booths.

A Promising Future for the Historic Cornog-Suplee House

The Cornog-Suplee House, located at the intersection of Phoenixville Pike and Yellow Springs Road, was sold to a township resident following a Public Invitation to Bid in October.

The original 53 acre property was signed over to Richard Thomas by William Penn in 1681. Thomas built the main portion of the house ca. 1790, and it was later purchased in 1817 by Abner Cornog, who left the house to his wife, Margaret Suplee Cornog in his 1852 will.



Above: The Cornog-Suplee House in 2005, photographed by Alix Coleman

The Path to Preservation

June 2013: The Township purchased the 53 acre property and house for \$852,000 with funds collected from the Open Space earned income tax.

2013-2014: The property was subdivided into a 6 acre parcel that included the house, to be sold with a requirement that the house be permanently preserved.

Oct 2014: The PA Turnpike Commission purchased a 10 acre section of the remaining property along their right of way for storm water management for \$432,300.

Oct. 2016: The Township sold the house with 6 acres for \$141,000.

Located above a steeply sloped area of the property, the house will once again be the setting for a magnificent view of the Great Valley. A condition of the sale was that the house must be preserved. The new owner plans to restore the house both inside and out and may use it for his business headquarters.

When the house was listed on the Township's 1981 inventory of historic sites, it was given a high priority for architectural and historic significance, and was recommended for listing on the National Register. It's the oldest house of its size in the Township, and boasts unique interior woodwork and architecture.

The Township retains 37 acres adjacent to the house, which was purchased to provide screening from the PA Turnpike and to provide for a possible playing field on a small section. The net cost to the Township for the property was \$7,532 per acre.

Have You Heard About "Nextdoor Charlestown?"

Our neighborhood is using a private online network called Nextdoor Charlestown, and you may benefit from joining us. On our Nextdoor site, neighbors share community events, recommendations, items for sale/free, crime/safety concerns, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more. Please join us to build a better neighborhood! Or, if you're already on "Nextdoor Charlestown", please extend an invitation to your neighbors and friends. Just click "Invite" at the top of your "Nextdoor Charlestown" home page for a variety of ways to send your invitation.

Go to this link to join: <https://nextdoor.com/invite/jcxbmjwhpnjfyqmrykmt>

Updated Code of Ordinances Now Available Online

Over the past year, the Township made a transition from our previous Code publisher, Keystate Publishing, after they announced they would be closing their business. The new code is now available on our website and will be maintained by General Code.

The new online Code provides convenient access to Charlestown's ordinances in a feature-rich format that has been specifically designed for optimal viewing on desktops and laptops as well as smartphones and tablet devices.

Designed to be easy-to-use and search-friendly, the user experience is intuitive, elegant and highly functional. By simply entering a keyword or two, search results will provide the information needed within seconds.

Browse our Code on line at www.charlestown.pa.us



Hunting & Firearms

Charlestown Township boasts many large areas of woods and fields. Most often, hunting activities take place that are in compliance with existing state game laws, although a situation can develop where you have a concern.

With the exception of prohibiting hunting and discharge of firearms in our Township-owned parks, all regulations on hunting and firearms are enforced by the PA Game Commission or the PA State Police.

Safety Zones: It's unlawful to hunt within 150 yards of any occupied residence, commercial building, school or playground with a firearm. The safety zone for archery is 50 yards.

Time of Day: Generally speaking, hunting is permitted from sunrise to sunset. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

Contact the Southeastern Regional Headquarters of the PA Game Commission for hunting related questions and concerns by calling **(610) 926-1966**.

For trespassing issues, the PA State Police will respond when the complaint is made by a property owner who is willing to press charges. **Contact the State Police at (610) 486-6280.**

Burning Regulations

This time of year we receive questions about the burning regulations within the Township. The following is a brief summary of those regulations:

- Only leaves and waste papers may be burned on the premises of a single family dwelling between sunrise and sunset and must be constantly attended by a responsible person equipped to extinguish the fire if a need arises. The Chester County Fire Board must be notified before the fire is lit and after it has been extinguished – call 610-644-1224.
- Please remember that any permitted fire may be extinguished by the Fire Company either with or without the consent of the landowner or person in charge if, in the opinion of the Fire Marshal, police officer, or fire officer that such fire constitutes a danger to persons or property or is deemed a nuisance fire.
- All fires shall be a minimum distance of thirty feet (30') from any property line.
- Please contact the Township office for the complete burning ordinance 100-2002. If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Marshal, Tim Hubbard at 484-614-6119.



Snow Reminders To Prepare for the Coming Winter



The first objective is to have the roadways open for emergency vehicles. This is basically one lane with anti-skid and road salt applied only to areas that require extra traction such as hills and major intersections.

The other roads are then opened. After the snow has ended, the cleanup begins, that is, trying to get the roadways opened "curb-to-curb" and clearing snow and ice from the intersections, fire hydrants, storm water drains and inlets. We ask for your continued patience and understanding during these snow events.

When a plow operator is pushing back the snow and slush from a roadway, the plow must be run at a speed that throws the snow and slush off the road and over what has previously been plowed. This precludes the plow operator from stopping at each driveway and mailbox. If a plow is lifted at a driveway or mailbox, all of the snow and ice in the plow would be dropped on the road causing additional problems.

We ask for your cooperation in the following ways:

Driveways: When you or your contractor removes snow from your property, please make sure that the snow is not left on the roadway. Remind your contractors if you see them do this that this is against State Law. To avoid frustration, don't shovel or plow the end of your driveway until the road is cleared.

Plants: Please make sure plants on your property won't bend over and block the roadway during ice and snow events. Trim your shrubbery in order to improve the sight distance and general safety along your section of the roadway.

Park Cars off the Street: By removing your car from the street, plowing can be done most efficiently and prevents your car from being plowed in. It also protects the car from being splashed with slush and salt.

Trash Containers: Please don't put trash containers in the road if a storm is forecast, during a storm or until snow removal operations are completed.

Neighborhood: Kindly check on your neighbors who live alone. If you're able, clear the snow around any fire hydrant on your property to save valuable time in an emergency.

Contact Us to Report Unsafe Conditions: Our Roadmaster, Jim Thompson is generally available via cell phone at 610-656-9315. During office hours, problems can also be reported to the Township office at 610-240-0326.

Which Roads in Charlestown are State Roads?

For Maintenance Issues on State Roads listed below, call the PennDOT maintenance number at 484-340-3200.

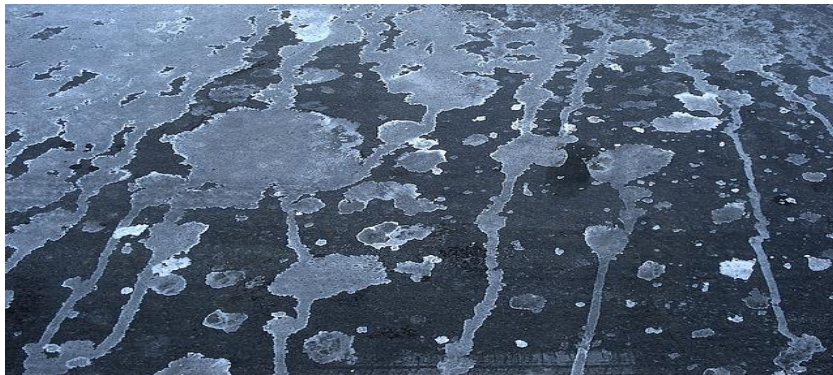
Bodine Road Charlestown Road Church Road Coldstream Road Conestoga Rd (Rt. 401) Foster Road	Hollow Road Merlin Road Morehall Rd (Rt. 29) Newcomen Road Phoenixville Pike Pickering Dam Road	Pikeland Road Seven Oaks Road State Road (Rt. 29) Valley Hill Rd (East of Rt. 401) Whitehorse Road	Yellow Springs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

Spreading salt on roads and driveways reduces ice formation, allowing for safer travel for pedestrians and motorists. Too much salt, however, can corrode metal on cars, damage gardens and trees, and pollute our local streams. All landowners can be part of the solution by using alternative products or by using salt at recommended times and rates.

There are several products that can be used instead of salt. Here are a few options to consider:

- Sand, kitty litter, and coffee grinds – These products provide great traction. Sand can easily be swept up and disposed of afterwards, but kitty litter often creates mushy clumps. These products will absorb sunlight, contributing to melting.
- Ashes – For those with a wood burning fireplace, ashes are a great option. They provide a lot of traction and absorb sunlight, so will melt ice quickly on a sunny day. And they're free!
- Beet juice – Increasingly being used by highway departments on its own or mixed with salt, this safe and natural product allows ice to melt even when air temperatures are extremely cold.
- Potassium acetate, calcium magnesium acetate – Acetates are super-effective even at extremely low temperatures and are biodegradable. The drawback? Price. They cost several times as much as rock salt and can be difficult to find. This is a good solution for small areas in environmentally sensitive locations, such as floodplains.
- Other "chlorides": calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride – Salt (sodium chloride) is not the only chloride product that can melt ice. These products are generally more expensive than rock salt, but work better at low temperatures. Calcium chloride is the preferred choice over magnesium chloride, as it works at lower temperatures and is applied at a lower rate, leading to less chloride in our streams. Potassium chloride is considered safest for pets and plants, but is often more expensive and does not work well at lower temperatures. All chloride products contribute to pollutant loads in our streams and their use should be minimized.



If salt is the only reasonable alternative for your property, remember:

- Remove as much ice and snow off the top as you can before applying salt to speed up melting
- A little salt can go a long way
- Rock salt should be applied at about a handful per square yard
- Calcium chloride should be spread even thinner, about a handful for 3 square yards
- The air temperature matters. Rock salt is five times more effective at melting ice at 30°F than 20°F, and ineffective below 20°F. Calcium chloride is better for temperatures down to 0°F.
- Applying early can prevent ice crystals from forming and minimize the amount of salt used overall.

The Simplest Way to RECYCLE is to PRECYCLE

Precycling is the practice of reducing waste by focusing on choosing items that generate less waste into our homes and businesses. Precycling cuts waste at its source and eliminates trash before it is created.

In addition to saving our landfills and recycling centers, precycling can save you time and money and reduce clutter. Here are tips on how to precycle:

Buy in bulk to reduce packaging. You can put products in small, reusable containers as you need them. This can be a money saver as well.

Purchase things with little to no packaging.

Look for products in recycled packaging.

Buy concentrated products (detergents, cleaners) and longer life items (batteries).

Avoid Styrofoam, which contains polystyrene and is considered a hazardous waste and the most difficult material to break down.

Choose quality items that will have a longer life span.

Choosing reusable over disposable items.

Keep reusable bags in your car to bring not just to the grocery store, but to the convenience store, pharmacy, and retail stores.

Use gift bags that can be re-used instead of wrapping paper.

Carefully consider purchases whether they're for yourself or to give as gifts to avoid choosing items that don't serve a practical purpose. Make this Christmas the year you make a pact with friends and family members to set limits, reduce or eliminate some exchanges and make more sensible selections when you do buy gifts! They may appreciate it as much as you do.

Use sturdy airtight containers to reduce use of foils and plastic wraps.

Reduce paper towel and other paper product use by using cloth towels and materials when practical.

Cut down on paper magazines and newspapers by making the transition to online services.

Reduce mail by signing up for online bank statements and bills.



Investigate one of the many online services to reduce your junk mail. Did you know that according to the NYU School of Law:

44% of junk mail is thrown away unopened, but only half that much is recycled.

The average American household receives 848 pieces of junk mail per household, equal to 1.5 trees every year.

Charlestown Township residents and businesses are required to recycle. To view our recycling ordinance, go to http://www.charlestown.pa.us/misc_docs/recycling_ordinance.pdf

November Planning Commission Meeting Rescheduled

Due to Election Day, the November Planning Commission meeting will be held one week later than usual. The new date is November 15, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Great Valley Middle School, Rm. 154.

Heating Season – Fireplace Safety

Each heating season, we have several fires and fire alarms due to “COLD” ashes from the fireplace being stored improperly. Please place ashes from your fireplace or stove in a metal container and store them outdoors, away from combustible material for at least two weeks before disposing of them.

Have you had your chimney cleaned recently? If not, please arrange to do so before using your fireplace or stove this winter.



Replace Smoke Alarms Every Ten Years

How long has it been? To find out how old your smoke detectors are, look at the date on the back of the alarm.

Website - www.charlestown.pa.us

If you'd like to be notified when items are posted to the Website, sign up by clicking on the link in the center of the homepage. You can also email your request to admin1@charlestown.pa.us. Updates are typically emailed to participants once a week. We currently have 200+ people signed up, and we'd like to add you to the list.

Yellow Springs Road Bridge Reopened

The new PA Turnpike bridge over Yellow Springs Road was opened October 28th. The road had been closed since February of this year. The project was fast tracked and completed ahead of schedule.

You'll notice the curve in the road approaching the bridge was straightened from its previous sharp bend, greatly improving safety.



Photo by Rob Prophet, Traffic Planning & Design

Open Meetings – We Want to Hear from You

The Charlestown Township Supervisors recognize your right to present public remarks on Township issues and are very interested in your comments on the topics being discussed.

For items not listed on the agenda, a Citizens' Forum is provided at the beginning of each meeting. For items that are listed on the agenda, you are always provided an opportunity to comment and ask questions before any vote is taken.

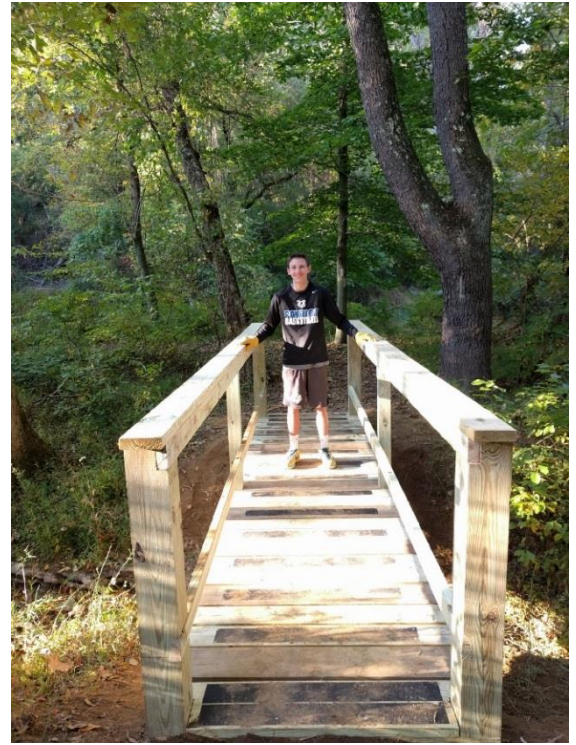
Pavilion Rentals at Charlestown Park

Planning a birthday or other special event in 2017? Pavilions are first come, first served, but may be reserved by obtaining this form from our website and returning it to the Township Office:

http://www.charlestown.pa.us/permits/CP_pavilion_reservation_form.pdf

Scout Projects along the Pickering Trail

Nick Warner, in the foreground below, is shown with scout leader and Dad Pete Warner along with members of Troop 67, who worked with Nick on his Eagle Scout Project, a footbridge over a wet area of the Pickering Creek approaching the historic Ice Dam.



Above right: Max Stillwell completed his Eagle Project in October, also with help from Troop 67. He's seen with the 16' bridge they constructed over a large gulley on the Pickering Creek Trail near the ice dam

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