

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Summer 2017 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/>

SAVE THE DATE – CHARLESTOWN DAY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 AT CHARLESTOWN PARK

The Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation will host **CHARLESTOWN DAY 2017** on Saturday September 16 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at 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.



The Park has 6 new pavilions with adjacent playgrounds, basketball courts, volley ball and a horseshoe court. In addition, there is a new Stones Course in the park! Bring your equipment and play!!

CHARLESTOWN DAY 2017 ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

Food vendors
Craft vendors
Local non-profit organization
Children's Activities including Bounce Houses, Face Painting, Organized Field
Fitness activities, Bubble Guy, Sand Art, New Playground areas and a story telling
presentation by Science Tellers!!
Live Music all day by 2 awesome bands!

How can you help?? We are looking for the following:

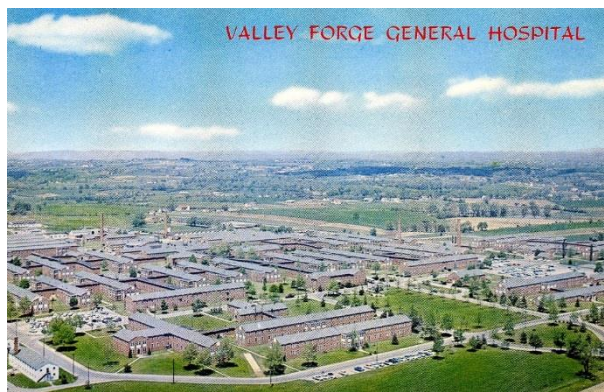
1. Vendors to show off their wares.
2. Volunteers to help on day of event.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charlestownparksandrecreation or www.charlestownday.org

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Charlestown Day Chair: Karen Schlichter
Karenschlichter77@gmail.com

A Fitting Tribute to the Valley Forge Military Hospital



Aerial View of the Hospital

Driving down Charlestown Road, many passersby are greeted with the familiar site of the University of Valley Forge abuzz with college students; little do they know that forty-four years ago, soldiers – rather than students – walked the campus. Thomas Brower, a Scout from local Troop 158, is working with the Township on his Eagle Scout Project to create an area commemorating this historical landmark including an informational sign, seating area, paving area, and celebrative garden.

The sign will commemorate the formative role that the Valley Forge Military Hospital played in shaping the history of the nation and the Phoenixville area.



The Post Library



Flag Raising Ceremony

Valley Forge Military Hospital, which formerly operated on the campus now occupied by the University of Valley Forge, was once the largest military hospital in the entire country. From World War II through the Vietnam War, the hospital admitted thousands of patients and several hundred enemy prisoners of war, all while pioneering groundbreaking technology in plastic surgery and artificial eye replacements.



At right: The Hospital in 1947



Long time Charlestown resident, Dr. William G. Stewart was one of the very first non-full time career servicemen to receive an army commendation medal since WWII. He was stationed at the hospital from 1966-1968 during the Vietnam War. As head of the Orthopedic Service Department, he managed one of the largest departments of that discipline in the nation. We sadly note that Dr. Stewart passed away in April of this year.

At left: Aerial View

The hospital attained such national acclaim that in 1951, the film *Bright Victory* showcased the hospital, featuring actor Gene Wilder, who had previously worked at the hospital himself.

The informational sign and commemorative area will help local residents and visitors to the park uncover more of the rich historical context and unique role that has graced Charlestown and the entire Phoenixville area.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor were just two of many famous visitors to the hospital.



Medical Corp Commanding Officer Colonel Beeuwkes and his steadfast companion

[Supervisors' Note: We extend our thanks and appreciation to Tommy Brower, whose extensive research efforts provided the information for this article, in addition to his dedication to the Scout Project itself.]

Emergency Tips

Smart 911

Did you know Smart911 is a free service available to keep you and your family safer? Provided by Chester County Department of Emergency Services, Smart911 lets you create a private and secure safety profile for your family, including any information you want 9-1-1 to have during an emergency.

You can include details such as a list of family members, photos, medical notes, pets, and emergency contacts. In an emergency seconds can save lives. Take a few seconds now to plan ahead at www.smart911.com

When to Call 911

An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or ambulance. Examples include: a fire, a crime, especially if in progress, a car crash, especially if someone is injured, or a medical emergency, especially symptoms that require immediate medical attention.

Important: If you're not sure whether the situation is a true emergency, officials recommend calling 911 and letting the call-taker determine whether you need emergency help.

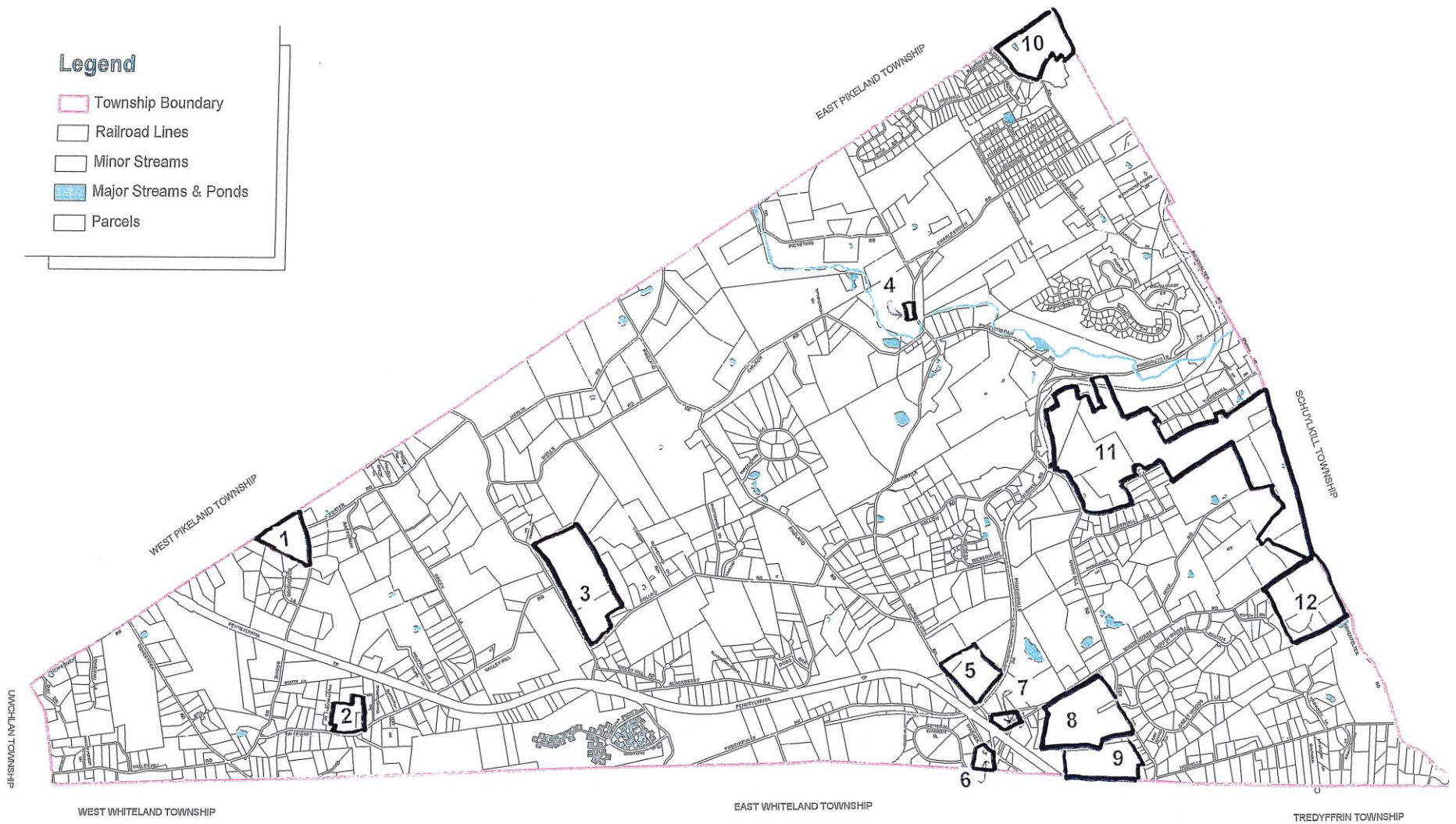
Map Key to Charlestown Township Proposed and Approved Projects

- rev 8/1/2017

- 1 Meyers Subdivision: 5 new lots on 24 acres at 2227 Bodine Road. Sketch Plan recently submitted for Planning Commission review.
- 2 Jenkins Residential Subdivision & Park: Township owned property. Final Approval Granted 3/4/2013 for 4 single homes and an 8 acre park on Valley Hill Road. No construction pending.
- 3 Brightside Farm: Township owned property. Community Gardens available and paved walking trail to be constructed Summer-Fall 2017.
- 4 Charlestown Mill: Township owned property. Landscaping with sculpture garden underway. Lighting, signage and interpretative panels to be installed Fall 2017 with tours to be available upon appointment to the public.
- 5 Pickering Crossing: 76 townhouses & 1 commercial building at Charlestown Road and Route 29 - Project approved and under construction with some homes completed.
- 6 General Warren Retail Center: Retail center with a Marriott Extended Stay Hotel at Lot 1, Commons at Great Valley off Route 29 – The Marriott is completed and operating. Three units of the retail center are under construction, including a P.J. Whelihan's, a donut shop and a nail salon.
- 7 Fillippo Commercial & Retail Center: Mixed Commercial and Retail Development on Whitehorse Road in Devault - Preliminary talks with the Design Review Committee were held in the past; there's been no recent review.
- 8 Spring Oak: 184 singles, twins and townhouses at Whitehorse & Rees Roads - Project approved and under construction with some homes completed.
- 9 Devault Village @ Spring Oak: 78 singles, twins and townhouses on Rees Road – Final Plan under review with Design Review Committee.
- 10 Charlestown Park: New playgrounds, pavilions and restrooms completed late 2016. Improvements to the South Parking Lot to be constructed Fall 2017.
- 11 Thompson: 23 estate lots along Whitehorse Road, Union Hill Road and Creek Road - Final approval pending with Board of Supervisors. No construction is pending.
- 12 Whitehorse Estates: 19 single homes along Whitehorse and Ashenfelter Roads - Final Plan approved and under construction.

Legend

- Township Boundary
- Railroad Lines
- Minor Streams
- Major Streams & Ponds
- Parcels



Latest News on Charlestown Park

The Game of Stones – New Course!



June 24th hailed the opening of the Stones course at Charlestown Park. Stones is a game along the lines of bocci and miniature golf, using natural materials to create a more interesting playing surface than bocci relies on. The course is a low-cost and low-impact layout, with some boulders, short native species bushes, and logs placed strategically as part of the course.

Teams throw their stones at a target ball with the closest ones scoring points. With each round, the target ball advances on the course, and when the end of the course is reached, the team with the most points wins.

The new course is located to the west of the walking trail near Township Line Road.

Improvements Coming to South Parking Lot

In September-October of this year, we'll be completing improvements to the South Parking Lot at the Park, located adjacent to the basketball courts and PMYC clubhouse.

This existing lot has been designed with the same features that were included in the North Lot, which was completed last year. There will be lighting and landscaping upgrades along with resurfacing and striping for 137 spaces.

The improved lot will be interconnected to the Play and Pavilion Area with a series of new sidewalks.



Above: Playing Stones at Charlestown Park

New Walking Trail at Brightside Farm Park Coming this Fall!



The grass walking trail at Brightside will see improvements later this year when it will be paved to encourage more visitors to walk this beautiful scenic spot in our township.

A small parking lot will be constructed adjacent to the Wisner-Rapp House, which is the small historic house owned by the Charlestown Historical Society.

The Charlestown Mill: Our Premier Historic Resource

By now you've noticed the numerous improvements to the historic Charlestown Mill property, and there's more to come.

Over the summer, extensive landscaping improvements were undertaken by F.W. Houder Co. and includes a sculpture garden featuring a walled area outlining the original footprint of the farmhouse that burned down in the 1970's, seating, and the original mill stone. See the landscaping work in progress in the photo *at right*.



For several years, a committee consisting of Supervisor Charlie Philips, Historical Commission Co-Chair Rosemary Philips, Historical Consultant Dale Frens, and Manager Linda Csete worked with design consultants at Interpretive Solutions, Inc. and Beth Stricker to develop the visuals and wording for 19 museum-quality panels that will tell the story of the Mill from its earliest days to the present.

This permanent display will provide an opportunity for the public, both individuals and groups, to enjoy a self-guided tour of the building. Some of the original equipment was already re-installed by Richard Frunzi, with some parts operational to demonstrate how they were used. Both interior and exterior lighting will be installed by Cook's Services and new signage will complete the improvements to this unique, fascinating landmark that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A grand opening will be scheduled following the completion of the Mill projects, and moving forward the Township will maintain a regular schedule where the property and building are open to visitors.

Dog Reminders



Charlestown Park is a great place to walk your dog. Please remember to respect the park and all its visitors by making use of our dog stations and keeping your dog on a leash no longer than 6 feet long at all times per our ordinance. This is for you and your dog's safety as well as the general public's.

There is a fine of up to \$1,000 for allowing your dog to run at large on any township property.

*At right: How **does** this dog know how to fold his own leash?*

Trail Walks Scheduled for September

Our trails committee is hosting two more trail walks this fall. Please join us at the Brightside Farm for a Butterfly walk on September 9th at 10:00 a.m. Park adjacent to the Community Gardens at the Farm. Lisa Tull will lead a bird watch walk along the Horseshoe Trail on Sept. 24th at 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Charlestown Elementary School parking lot.



Reminders for Plastic Bag Recycling



A **reusable** bag of course is the best choice! However, if you use plastic bags, keep these tips in mind:

1. Chester County grocery stores have collection containers at their entrances to collect and recycle plastic bags. Some bags might rip or have a hole in the bottom, making them unusable for home trash collection.
2. You can also put in plastic newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bread bags, product wrap (used on paper towels, diapers, bathroom tissue, water bottles), food storage bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, LDPE/HDPE films and any film packaging or bag that has the How2Recycle Label shown.
3. Please recycle only **CLEAN and DRY** bags and film and remove receipts or any other items.
4. Never put plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin. A plastic bag at a recycling facility can jam expensive sorting equipment.
5. Clean plastic bags mixed with sawdust will become plastic lumber – a deck, a dock, a fence, bench or even an attractive outdoor recycling container.

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P.O. Box 507
Devault, PA 19432