

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Autumn 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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Charles A. Philips, Vice Chair
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TOWNSHIP MANAGER
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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/>

New! Paved Trail Coming Soon to Brightside Farm Park

Over twenty years ago, the Township purchased 20 acres of the Brightside Farm located at 3108 Yellow Springs Road, in order to preserve it from impending development. In 2000 the Township added 55 additional acres to the parcel with the purchase of the remainder of the farm with the help of a significant grant from Chester County. The grant we received mandates that the property be utilized as a park.

The Township is committed to preserving the farm as an agricultural asset for the residents to enjoy. A portion of the property is under a conservation easement with the French & Pickering Creeks Trust.

Our goal for Brightside has always been to open it up for our community. While there has been a grass walking path in place for many years, your comments from surveys we've conducted told us a more formal paved trail was highly desired.



The farm is located at the northeast corner of Yellow Springs & Hollow Roads across from the Deerfield community. The walking trail, slated for completion by Thanksgiving, will be a wonderful opportunity for you to enjoy the beauty of the viewscape and the wildlife, especially the many varieties of birds.

Parking will soon be available in a new lot to the north of the Charlestown Historical Society's headquarters at the Wisner Rapp House.

Supervisors Consider Formation of Environmental Advisory Council

Charlestown Township is considering the creation of an Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to provide advice and research to our municipal officials on a range of environmental issues. These issues would relate to the protection, conservation, management, promotion and use of natural resources, such as streams, springs, forests, wetlands and meadows.

An EAC is enacted through ordinance, and the members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. An EAC serves in an advisory role, not an advocacy or adversarial role. Members must reside in the Township, and are volunteers without compensation.

To explore how helpful an EAC would be for Charlestown, we are seeking interested persons with backgrounds relevant to environmental science and best practices who would consider serving on a pilot trial of an environmental advisory group. ***Interested in Becoming Involved?*** Please complete and return the application on page 3 or found on our website at www.charlestown.pa.us

Section of Charlestown Park to be Closed for Improvements

Improvements to the South Parking Lot, adjacent to the PMYC Clubhouse at Charlestown Park, will be underway from October 12th until early next year.

That area of the Park will be closed during construction. The rest of the Park, including the pavilions, playground, and trail will remain open.

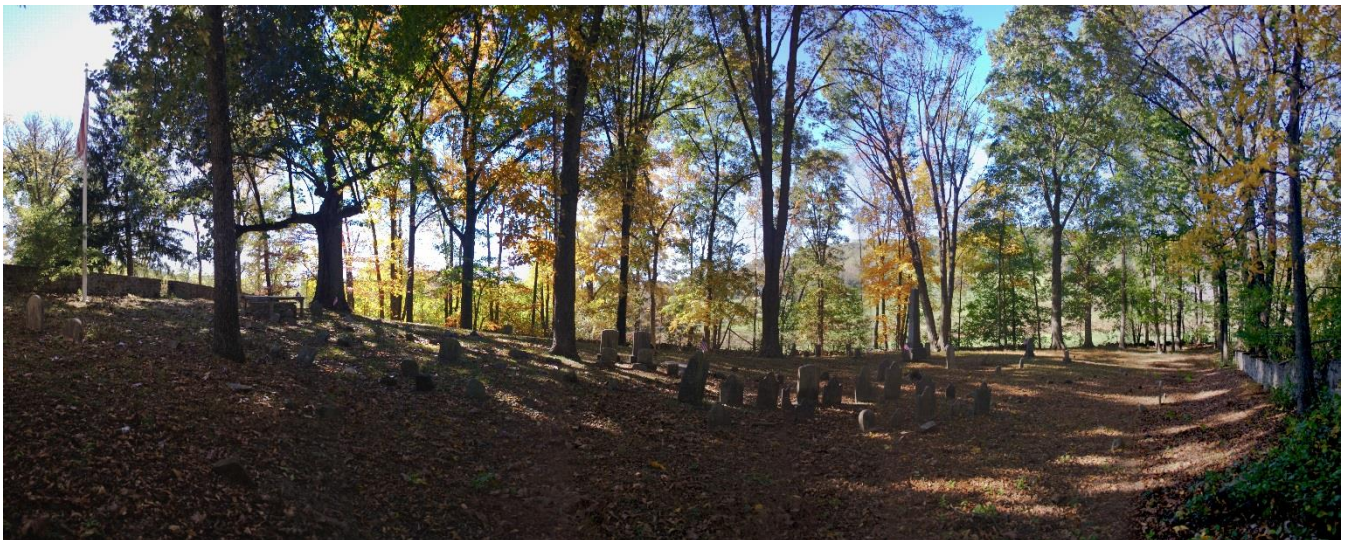
The North Lot and the University of Valley Forge's supplemental lot at the intersection of Southwest Ave and Beulah Heights will remain open and available.

Below: Panorama of the Charlestown Cemetery.

Ground Penetrating Radar Study of Charlestown Presbyterian Cemetery

Earlier this year, the Supervisors approved a request for a ground penetrating radar study at the Presbyterian Cemetery across from the Playhouse on Charlestown Road. On October 13th, Professor Sherrod of Kutztown University and 11 geology students conducted the study. They are hoping to identify the actual grave sites of 200+ Revolutionary War soldiers who were buried there 240 years ago.

The study is being done at no cost to the Township, and causes no ground disturbance. Presentations will follow to the Board and the HARB.



Charlestown Township Environmental Advisory Group Service Application

The Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors is considering appointing residents to an Environmental Advisory Council. If you are a resident of Charlestown Township and are interested in serving in some capacity on an **environmental advisory group**, please fill out the following form to let the Board know of your interest.

Mail to: Charlestown Township, P. O. Box 507, Devault, PA 19432

Or email to: manager@charlestown.pa.us

Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone:
Employment:
Experience (describe applicable education, certifications, licenses, work/volunteer experience, and interests): (use additional page as needed)
Service goals (brief description of your interest in an environmental advisory group):

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.

Septage Management Requirements for Properties with Septic Systems

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.
- ❑ Schedule service before leaving for vacation. This allows for the 1 week dry-out period before the next use of the system.
- ❑ Maintain your receipts in the event there are any questions about your compliance with these new regulations.

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

Charlestown Day in Pictures ~ September 16th

- Courtesy of Web Designer Allen Underkofler



George L. Csete

The Science Tellers kept both kids and adults entertained



George L. Csete

Troop 67's Flag raising ceremony started off the day



Allen Underkofler

The Bubble Guy was a big hit, and provided his services for no fee other than expenses



Allen Underkofler

Thanks to the East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Association and Kimberton Fire Company for your service to our township!



Allen Underkofler

*Why should humans have all the fun?
Charlestown Day is for everyone!*



Allen Underkofler

Bouncy Houses by BouncyRoo are always a big attraction

Our sincere thanks to Karen Schlichter, Chris Lawrence, Tim Hubbard, Laura Assayag, Troop 67 and leader Pete Warner along with all the volunteers, vendors and non-profits who once again made our annual Charlestown Day a great event for the community.

News from our Trails

- Sue Staas

We are so lucky to have six walking trails in our Township - seven if you count the two trails along the Pickering Creek separately. Can you name them? Go to the Charlestown website and pull up the trail map (Charlestown.pa.us/parks) or email me, suestaas@verizon.net and I'll send you a copy! Two of our trails are paved - or soon will be paved: at Charlestown Park and Brightside Farm Park. The rest are unpaved. The trails go across fields, through woods, past athletic fields - something for everyone. Now is great weather for walking our trails. Try them!

This spring and fall, we had three guided walks along our trails - and we will have them again next year. If anyone reading this has an idea for another trail walk, email me! Let's do it!

In late April, Esther Underhill led a Wildflower Walk along the Pickering Creek. Thanks to Kevin Kuhn, Township Supervisor, the Woolen Mill was open and running, so we had a chance to tour it before heading across Charlestown Road to the trail.

Once on the trail, we broke into several informal groups to identify flowers. We didn't all see the same flowers, but thanks to several knowledgeable members of our group, we all saw and identified many spring woods flowers. Each year is different, depending on the "season" nature gives us on any given day.



On the Butterfly Walk at Brightside Farm Park in early September, again led by Esther, we didn't see so many of the large butterflies as usual, so we paid more attention to the smaller ones. As we walked the trail we were looking at the milkweed more closely and saw many monarch caterpillars as well as red and black milkweed bugs. Every year we see something we haven't seen before, or at least not for some time. This year we saw a Common Checkered Skipper and a Buckeye.



Buckeye Butterfly

Again, many folk, both large and small joined us. Having many eyes looking, especially some very young eyes, helped us to find interesting things we might not have seen otherwise.

In late September, we had our Bird Walk, with Lisa Tull and Mike Harvell along part of the Horse Shoe trail leading from Charlestown Elementary School, down the hill, and ending, eventually, at the Nature Center on Hollow Road.

Thanks to the experts among us, we identified 25 different species of birds! All the way from Vultures to Warblers, and Chickadees to Woodpeckers. Bird Walks with experts are so much fun - we learn about bird songs and identification tricks, and we see so much! Including a new bug! At least new to most of us on the walk. It was a robber fly - one of the few insects who catch their prey in flight! Although Robber Flies are excellent hunters and eat beneficial bugs as well as bad bugs, on the whole knowledgeable gardeners like them. Next year I'll hope to see them in my garden.

You never know what you will learn on one of our trail walks! We hope you can join us next year!

Esther, Lisa, Mike, & Sue



Hard to Believe: Time for our Annual 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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Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Tips



Charlestown has many scenic roads that are enjoyable to walk or bike. We want you and your loved ones to be as safe as possible on the roads by following these common sense reminders:

- Make sure you can be easily seen from motor vehicles. Wear reflective clothing and use lights when biking or walking in low light conditions.
- Stay alert and don't get distracted listening to music or using your phone.
- Choose your route wisely. Unfortunately, some roads are simply not safe, or not safe during high traffic hours.
- Walkers may like to check out our many trails, including the paved trail at Charlestown Park, and within the next few weeks, the new trail at Brightside Farm Park.



A helpful resource for cyclists:

<http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/RideaBike/Pages/Bicycle-Safety-and-Pennsylvania-Laws.aspx>

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