

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Winter 2018 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

Frank A. Piliero, Chairman
Charles A. Philips, Vice Chair
Kevin R. Kuhn, Member
Michael J. Rodgers, Member
Hugh D. Willig, Member

TOWNSHIP MANAGER
Linda M. Csete

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/>

Brightside Farm Park Trail Now Open

Over the past several months, the Township began construction of a one-mile paved walking trail at Brightside Farm Park. We're pleased to announce that the Trail is now open for your use. The Farm is located at 3108 Yellow Springs Road, and parking for the trail is located directly off Yellow Springs Road adjacent to the Charlestown Historical Society's headquarters at the Wisner-Rapp House.

Although the final landscaping and paving adjustments will take place in the spring when weather permits, we think that our residents will still enjoy visiting the park over the winter months. The grass walking trail remains available as well.



Above: A portion of the new trail at Brightside Farm Park, shown here under construction, but now ready for your enjoyment.

When the property was first acquired in 1996 (20 acres) and 2000 (55 acres), the goals were to save it from future development and preserve it as an agricultural resource for our residents to enjoy. Brightside is still a working farm with haying taking place in season. By creating a more formal walking and jogging trail around the perimeter of the farm, we hope to encourage more public use of this premiere Township asset. We ask that you please stay on the trail as the surrounding fields are in use.

The walking trail is a wonderful opportunity for you to enjoy the spectacular viewscape and enjoy the wildlife, and we hope you will visit the Park on some of the warmer days we encounter this winter and continue to return year round. Enjoy our newest trail!



Tax Information for 2018

Real Estate Taxes: The millage rate for real estate taxes is .75 (3/4) mills, unchanged for 15 years.

Your real estate taxes for 2018 will be collected by the Chester County Treasurer Department.

Tax bills are mailed the week of February 1st to the property owner's address of record. For questions, call the County Treasurer's office at 610-344-6370 or email them at TreasurerDept@chesco.org.

Earned Income Tax and Local Services Tax: Both are collected by the Keystone Collections Group.

Charlestown Township's Earned Income Tax is 1% for residents. The rate for non-residents is 1/2%.

The **Local Services Tax** is \$52.00 per year, deducted by your Charlestown Township employer. Persons earning under \$12,000 per year are exempt from this tax.

Employers throughout Chester County are required to withhold all earned income and local services taxes quarterly. Forms and instructions, including e-filing, can be found at www.keystonecollects.com

Are you Receiving more than one Newsletter?

Unlike many other townships, Charlestown remains committed to mailing out four newsletters to our residents and businesses each year in addition to posting them on our website. But maintaining an updated mailing list is always a challenge, and with printing and postage costs, it costs about \$1.00 to send each one.

Are you receiving duplicates of our newsletters or other mailings? Let us know! This can happen if you own multiple properties, especially if they are registered differently, even slightly differently. Please call anytime and leave a message at the Township office (610) 240-0326 or email us at admin1@charlestown.pa.us

Earned Income Tax Return Due April 16

It's that time of year again. The 2017 local earned income tax return filing deadline is approaching. The due date is extended to Monday April 16 this year because April 15 falls on the weekend.

Keystone Collections Group's **e-file** is the easy, fast and secure way to file your 2017 tax return. It lets you file your tax return when it is most convenient for you. You will need your W-2, your Social Security Number and any other income documents that may apply (such as a PA-UE or a Schedule C).

Keystone redesigned **e-file** to make it even faster and more user-friendly.

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, visit Keystone's **Frequently Asked Questions** or call Keystone's **Taxpayer Helpline** at 1-888-328-0565 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent. You can also email your questions 24/7 to **Taxpayer Support**. Taxpayer Service Agents try to respond to all online inquiries within three business days.



***Please
Visit our
Website***

Not only do we continuously update our content, the township website at www.charlestown.pa.us displays beautiful high quality photographs, including panoramas and 360 degree displays. We even have a 3-D video tour of the Charlestown Mill.

Website design and support is provided by Allen Underkofler, who undertook an extensive update of the site last year to improve navigation and make it more user friendly for a variety of devices. If you haven't viewed it lately, please check it out!

Your comments and feedback are welcome, so please let us know your thoughts about this site that we are always looking to improve.

2018 Tentative Dates for Chester County **Household Hazardous Waste Events**

Charlestown Township is a 2018 Participant in the Chester County Hazardous Household Waste Event Program. Bring unwanted hazardous household, automotive products, home maintenance, lawn and pest control products to the next Collection event. There are six events as listed below, all from 9 am – 3 pm. For a list of items Accepted and Not Accepted, go to: [www.chestercountyswa.org/Document Center/View/1803](http://www.chestercountyswa.org/Document%20Center/View/1803)

Saturday, April 7, 2018
**Technical College High School
(formerly CAT Pickering)**
1580 Charlestown Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Saturday, April 21, 2018
Octorara High School
226 Highland Road
Atglen, PA 19310
(Proof of County Residency May be Required)

Saturday, May 19, 2018
Owen J. Roberts Middle School
881 Ridge Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

Friday, June 22, 2018
Coatesville Learning Center
1425 East Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, PA 19320
(Stone Wall Entrance – Veterans' Drive - same entrance as CAT Brandywine- Rt. 30 across from Dairy Queen)

Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018
Oxford School District Admin. Building
125 Bell Tower Lane
Oxford, PA 19363
(Proof of County Residency May be Required)

Saturday, October 13, 2018
Government Services Center
601 Westtown Rd, West Chester, PA 19380



Snow Reminders

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.

Which Roads in Charlestown are State Roads?

For Snow Removal and other Maintenance Issues on State Roads listed below, call PennDOT at 484-340-3200.

Bodine Road between Foster & Seven Oaks 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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New Historic Marker at Charlestown Park Commemorating the Valley Forge Military Hospital

In November, a historic marker was installed at the Veterans' Grove at Charlestown Park, and was located near the flagpole, seating area and landscaping near the pavilions.

Eagle Scout Tommy Brower chose the former army hospital site for his Eagle project. Prior to designing the marker itself, Tommy provided the Township with his research into the facility, which was constructed in 1942 and operated until 1974.

Guidance was provided by Historical Commission Co-Chair Rosemary Philips along with township board members, consultants and staff.

This is the tenth historic marker placed at various locations throughout the Township commemorating our rich and diverse history.

At Right: Eagle Scout Tommy Brower, photo by Adam Brower



Charlestown Township Directory 2018

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Meetings: 1st Monday of each Month, 7:00 P.M., at the Great Valley Middle School

Frank A. Piliero, Chairman	fpiliero@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 458-4180
Charles A. Philips, Vice Chairman	cphilips@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 933-4154
Kevin R. Kuhn, Member	kkuhn@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 917-9960
Michael J. Rodgers, Member	mrodgers@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 827-7817
Hugh D. Willig, Member	hwillig@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 935-3539

ADMINISTRATION: Office Hours are Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Linda M. Csete, Manager/Secretary-Treasurer	manager@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 240-0326
Jan C. Bird, Assistant Township Secretary	admin2@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 240-0326

BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODES: Anthony Merklinger – amerklinger@cornerstoneis.comcast.biz.net (610) 451-5200

PROPERTY & PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATOR: Timothy J. Hubbard – thubbard@charlestown.pa.us (610) 614-6119

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS: Roadmaster/Project Manager: Jim Thompson (610) 656-9315

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER/ZONING OFFICER: Daniel T. Wright, P.E. – dwright@advancedgeoservices.com (610) 840-9100

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

Pennsylvania State Police (610) 486-6280

PennDOT Maintenance for State Roads (484) 340-3200

For Township & County Real Estate Taxes: Chester
County Treasurer (610) 344-6370

For Great Valley School District Real Estate Taxes:
Keystone Collections (866) 539-1100

For Earned Income & Local Services Taxes: Keystone
Collections (866) 539-1100

SPCA (610) 692-6113



PennDOT Notice of Road Closing - Whitehorse Road

Press Release

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP, PA — Construction to replace White Horse Road Bridge over Pickering Creek in Schuylkill Township will begin this month, officials said Tuesday.

Work to replace the structurally deficient bridge will commence on Jan. 17, and is expected to be completed by April 2018, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

The existing bridge, built in 1927, carries about 4,671 vehicles a day, authorities estimate.

During the closure, White Horse Road will be shut down between Loramar Lane and Valley Park Road, PennDOT said.

The detour will include a route over Pothouse Road and Route 29.

ReadyChesco - A Valuable Resource

ReadyChesco is Chester County's official source for emergency information and government notifications.

Do you want to be alerted of:

- Road closings?
- Road conditions?
- Weather events?
- Emergency Events?

Sign up for the County Emergency Notification System – it's free and you choose the type of notifications you want.

You also choose the devices you wish to receive on: cell, office, or home phone, pager, and/or E-mail account.

To Sign Up, Go to: www.readychesco.org/



Please note that the Township follows the Chester County Schedule for Office Closings due to inclement weather.

East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Association Purchases New Tanker



*Above: A Fire Truck from the EWVFA on display at Charlestown Park for Charlestown Day 2017
Photo by A. Underkofler*

The East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Association (EWVFA) serves a large portion of Charlestown Township and depends on our support. Thanks to donations from the Township and our businesses and residents, the EWVFA recently purchased a new tanker truck that is critically needed in areas without fire hydrants, as is the case for many of the homes in our township.

The tanker serves as a mobile water supply unit and is used to truck water to the scenes of fires where public water systems are not available.

The Northern portion of our Township is served by the Kimberton Fire Company.

Organic Community Gardening at Brightside Farm Park

The Brightside Farm Community Gardens are made available each year to interested local gardeners who are able and willing to make a full season commitment to managing a plot.

These 20' x 20' plots (400 sq. ft.) go quickly, and there is already a short waiting list for the 2018 season. However, the Garden operates on a rolling enrollment basis should plots become available.

If you are a returning gardener or a new one, complete the form below and return it to the Township Office by March 15th to reserve a plot.



At right: Brightside Farm, photo by G. Csete

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BRIGHTSIDE FARM PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please Check One:

- ☐ I am a returning gardener and would like to keep my plot # ____.
- ☐ I am a returning gardener and would like to be assigned a new plot #.
- ☐ I am a new gardener and would like to be assigned a plot.
- ☐ I gardened in the past but won't be renewing my plot this season.

Instructions:

Please return this form with your annual \$25.00 garden fee to the Township Office with checks made payable to Charlestown Township by March 15th to reserve your garden plot for the upcoming season. Mail to: Charlestown Township, P.O. Box 507, Devault, PA 19432.

Please Note:

1. Returning Gardeners are given priority but must return this form with their payment by March 15th to keep their plot from the previous year.
2. After March 15th, plots will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Charlestown residents will be given priority.
3. Only one plot per gardener will be assigned, in order to provide them to more people.
4. If there are vacant plots after April 15th, we will then allow gardeners to have more than one plot. We'll notify you if there are any available.
5. Garden Plot Registration is handled by the administrative office (610) 240-0326 or admin1@charlestown.pa.us
6. The Garden Coordinator is Charles Buck, who can be contacted at buck.charles.a@gmail.com

Acknowledgement: I, _____ hereby acknowledge that I will maintain my plot as an organic space, with no synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides.

Greetings from the Parks & Recreation Board

- by Chris Lawrence

Seeking Volunteers

Charlestown Parks and Recreation is looking for volunteers! Want to help clean a trail, or host a movie in the park night? Do you already volunteer with a group and need a place to have your event? Come join us every third Thursday of the month at the Great Valley Middle School from 7:30PM-8:30PM and let's coordinate. We are just starting to plan Charlestown Day 2018, so if you think we should have a fun run, a marathon, Stubby the Helicopter, or some other fun event, come join us!

Meet your trees: the Sugar Maple



Our sweet syrup-producing tree, the Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), shows some very pretty shades of yellow, orange, and red during the fall. We can distinguish it from other maple species by the round notch between the toothed lobes (not serrated like the silver maple), and by the angle of the two seeds in the "helicopter spinner" seedpods - the wings are nearly parallel to each other unlike other maple species.

(image source: The Project Gutenberg EBook of Common Trees of Pennsylvania, by J. E. Ibberson and A. B. Mickalitis and J. E. Aughenbaugh and C. L. Morris)

These trees can be found throughout Pennsylvania, growing in moist areas up to 80 feet tall! Besides maple syrup, the wood can be used for furniture, flooring, and musical instruments too. Because the wood is so dense, this tree is sometimes called "Hard Maple".

Birds love the seeds, and deer, squirrels, porcupine, and many other mammals eat the twigs, leaf buds, and bark. The tree itself provides great shelter for all kinds of animals, even in the winter.

Sunday, April 29, 1:00 pm Wildflower Walk on the Pickering Trail

There are always spring flowers along the Pickering Creek. We will meet in the parking lot behind the Woolen Mill on Charlestown Road. This is usually a short walk as we look to see, and identify, what is blooming. There are some flowers that we usually see: violets, spring beauties, Jack in the pulpit, and Solomon's seal. But there are also surprises, depending on when Spring comes. Every year is a bit different, but it's always a beautiful walk. Hope you can join us.

At right: Trout Lily on the Pickering



Charlestown Township Meeting Schedule 2018

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Board of Supervisors Room 154, 7:00 p.m.	2	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	4 *	1	5	3
Planning Commission Room 154, 7:30 p.m.	9	13	13	10	8	12	10	14	11	9	13	11
Historical Commission Guidance Office, 4:00 p.m.	16	None	20	None	15	None	17	None	18	None	20	None
Parks & Recreation Room 154, 7:30 p.m.	18	15	15	12 *	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	20

- Meeting to be held on a day other than the usual meeting day

All Boards and Commissions meet at the Great Valley Middle School, 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, Pa. Room 154.

Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. All meetings are advertised in the Daily Local News and posted on our website at www.charlestown.pa.us Additional meetings are scheduled as needed. Call the Township Office if you'd like to confirm a particular meeting. (610) 240-0326.

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