

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Spring 2018 Newsletter

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

Visit our Website at: www.charlestown.pa.us



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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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.

Environmental Advisory Committee

2nd Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m. at
the Great Valley High School

Parks & Recreation

3rd Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2018 AT CHARLESTOWN PARK

The Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation announces Charlestown Day 2018 will be held on **Saturday September 15, 2018** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the 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.

The park, located adjacent to the University of Valley Forge has 6 pavilions with 2 playgrounds, basketball courts and restrooms.

Charlestown Day 2018 activities will include vendors displaying their goods, local non-profit organizations, music, and kid's activities. Stubby the Helicopter will be back along with new food truck vendors!

We are looking for vendors, sponsors and volunteers to assist on the event day! Please follow us our Facebook page at:

[Facebook.com/CharlestownParksandRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/CharlestownParksandRecreation). Updates will also be provided on www.charlestownday.org (still under revision) and the Township website at www.charlestown.pa.us.

Karen Schlichter - Karenschlichter77@gmail.com



Photos by Allen Underkofler



Introducing Your New Supervisor



A former employee of Vanguard for 21 years and resident of the Spring Oak community, Susan Bednar will be joining Charlestown's Board of Supervisors.

After publicly interviewing two candidates for an open seat on the five-member board, the supervisors on May 7th voted unanimously to appoint Susan Bednar to the unexpired term ending 12/31/2019.

Susan held a number of leadership roles at Vanguard and has an MBA in finance from the Wharton School while her undergraduate degree is in urban planning. This valuable combination, along with her enthusiasm and willingness to serve our community, will be a great asset to the Township.

Good luck, Susan, and welcome aboard!



Free Concert June 21 at the Wisner-Rapp House Adjacent to Brightside Farm Park

Charlestown Historical Society is sponsoring a FREE CONCERT being held at the Wisner-Rapp House (located on Yellow Springs Road between Hollow and Valley Hill Roads) on Thursday, June 21 between 7 and 9 pm featuring the Raven Hill Bluegrass group that also played at the Bluegrass and BBQ party in June 2016. Bring your lawn chairs and beach blankets.

Park in the new lot adjacent to the Rapp House. Come and enjoy the music and one of the most beautiful views in the Township!

East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Association Building Receives LEEDS Silver Certification

Congratulations to the East Whiteland Fire Association, which has achieved LEED Silver Green Building Certification.

EWVFA provides services not only to East Whiteland Township but to a large portion of Charlestown as well. The new location on Conestoga Road (Rt. 401) is more centrally located to the service area.

The EWVFA provides fire, rescue, basic life support EMS, HazMat and Fire-Police services to its territory in Charlestown Township.

Please remember to donate to your local fire company annually.



Environmental Advisory Committee Formed

A Citizen's Group endorsed by the Board of Supervisors

In June 2017, resident Carol Armstrong proposed the formation of an Environmental Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors, and considerable discussion took place with both the Board and the Planning Commission as to the benefits this group could provide, along with the Township's specific needs.

This past November, the Supervisors reached out to the community seeking interested persons with backgrounds relevant to environmental science who would consider serving on a pilot trial of an environmental advisory group.

We are pleased to announce that many talented and qualified individuals came forward, and at the March board meeting, the Supervisors approved the pilot program with the expectation that after developing its objectives over the next year, the EAC would be formally enacted via ordinance to serve as an advisory council guiding the Township on relevant

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.

Members of the new committee include: Carol L. Armstrong, Ph.D., Richard Findlay, Pete Goodman, Dr. Veda Maany, Emily Morgan, Greg Nesspor, Ron Strobel, and Daniel F. Walker.

Charlestown Township has a long history of stewardship of its natural resources. The Environmental Advisory Committee has scheduled its first meeting for May 9th, 6:00 p.m., at the Great Valley High School Library, 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA. They will continue to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at this time and location. We hope to see you there!

PennDOT's Sinkhole Repair Project Route 29 from June 8 – August 31, 2018



Route 29 – a sinkhole prone area, photo by A. Underkofler

Route 29 (Morehall Road) will be reduced to ONE LANE IN EACH DIRECTION starting June 8th and will continue all summer along Route 29 in East Whiteland Township.

Reconstruction is necessary due to recurring sinkholes located along Route 29 (Morehall Road) between the PA Turnpike ramps and the intersection of North Atwater Drive/General Warren Boulevard.

Details are available on our website: http://www.charlestown.pa.us/roads_2017_rt_29_sinkhole_repair.aspx

The intent of the project is to minimize future sinkhole problems by constructing geotechnical treatments and roadway drainage improvements to prevent surface water infiltration and provide structural support to the roadway. Make your detour plans **NOW**. This will be a tremendous inconvenience but there is no alternative.

Charlestown Resident Environmental Notification: Spotted Lanternfly

- Carol Armstrong, Environmental Advisory Committee

What is it? The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect recently found in PA. It is a sap-feeding planthopper which prefers the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus a.*), but will produce egg masses on other trees. It feeds on and can damage a wide range of hosts including grapes, apple, plum, cherry, peach, apricot, pine, oak, walnut, and poplar trees. Birds have not been observed eating them, and researchers have not found a predatory or parasitic insect that can reduce the population.

To prevent the spread of this insect, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, **Chester**, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill counties are under quarantine. Children's outdoor toys, yard equipment, tree branches, yard waste or living plants should not be transported out of the county until they are checked for egg masses. Items that could have egg masses on them, such as backpacks, tarps, tents, bicycles, basketball backboards, boats and trailers, campers/RVs, plant containers, boxes, firewood, propane tanks, trash cans, shutters, storm doors, bricks, construction material, dog houses, grills, lawn mowers, posts, etc., should be carefully inspected before being moved. Businesses should consider entering into a compliance agreement with the PA Dept. of Agriculture (PADA): www.agriculture.pa.gov/regional-offices/Pages/default.aspx. **The egg masses look like chewed bubble gum stuck to trees, rocks or any other hard object.**

Who can help? If you find an insect or egg case that you suspect is a spotted lanternfly, destroy it and report it to the PADA (badbug@pa.gov) or the local PennState Extension office. More information can be found by contacting Master Gardeners and the Horticulture Hotline (610-696-3500 or email chestermg@psu.edu), and "Guidelines for Control of the Spotted Lanternfly"

(http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx).

Do not use pesticides to kill spotted lanternfly, as beneficial pollinator insects are likely to be killed by pesticides when targeting the lanternfly. For more information: <https://extension.psu.edu/what-to-do-if-you-find-spotted-lanternfly>.

When should I look for it? (Pictures from Penn State)

- 1 - January to May: Destroy egg masses. Consider destroying Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus a.*).
- 2 - May to August: Use sticky bands to destroy nymphs (can kill other crawling insects).
- 3 - June to August: Treat *Ailanthus* trap trees with systemic insecticides.
- 4 - July to December: Avoid moving fertilized females from the quarantine area.
- 5 - October to December: Avoid moving viable egg masses from the quarantine area.



Early instar nymphs (1st through 3rd) feeding on grape



Profile of adult SLF on grape



Egg masses of *L. delicatula* covered by waxy deposits



An adult showing the red underwings when disturbed
(photo credit: Nancy Bosold)



The egg masses can be on trees, rocks, or any other solid object and can be present from September through May.



The empty remains of the eggs that have hatched can be found at any time of the year.

Meet your Trees: The Redbud

- by Chris Lawrence, Parks & Recreation Board

Letting us know that spring is here, the Eastern Redbud will explode in small, 1/2 inch, rosy pink flowers before its leaves come in mid-April. A smaller tree, normally staying under 30 feet tall, it usually has a trunk thinner than 6 inches across.

Most common in the southern half of the state, the leaves are alternate on the branch, 3-5 inches long, and shaped like a heart. The tree is found wild in mixed forests, and is a food source for numerous animals. Its leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of a variety of butterflies and moths, and the early-season flowers attract nectar-seeking pollinator insects.

Northern bobwhite and some songbirds like the chickadees eat the Redbud's seeds. Other birds will use it as a nesting site or for nesting materials, and many mammals including deer and squirrels will eat the flowers and buds.

Native Americans used the tree in medicine, making baskets, bows, and fences, and creating a bright yellow dye for coloring clothing and blankets. The flowers are edible, if a bit sour, and high in vitamin C. The lighter the flower is in color, the less bitter it will be. The most common use today is as an ornamental tree, with the flush of bright pink "driving back the winter"!



Door to Door Solicitation

This is the time of year the Township receives calls and questions about solicitation on their properties.

Our Ordinance requires that any person or organization engaged in peddling, canvassing, soliciting or taking of orders, either by sample or otherwise, or accepting donations directly or indirectly, for any goods, wares or merchandise upon any of the streets or sidewalks or from house to house within the Township must first obtain a Solicitation Permit.

A Solicitation permit is not required for children under 18 years of age soliciting or peddling on behalf of a nonprofit, school or governmental organization or for persons soliciting on behalf of a nonprofit or neighborhood organization for either donations to, or membership in, such organization. These activities are protected under Freedom of Speech.

Those required to obtain a permit are given an

identification card by the Township and must show it to you in order to identify themselves prior to any actual soliciting activities.

Hours are restricted from Nov. 1 – Mar. 31 to the hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., all days of the week.

Hours are restricted from Apr. 1 – Oct. 31 to the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., all days of the week.

The Township Office will notify those applying for a permit of any communities that are posted "No Soliciting" and they are instructed not to visit those neighborhoods. Charlestown Hunt is one such community.

Township residents may post a "No Soliciting" sign, not to exceed 80 sq. inches in size, on the front door of their residence. It is a violation of the Ordinance for anyone to go onto a property that is posted, and violations can be reported as "Criminal Trespass" to the State Police.

Fireworks in Pennsylvania

- By Tim Hubbard, Fire Marshal



Did you hear the news? Fireworks are legal in Pennsylvania now but that doesn't mean you can do whatever you want. Here in Charlestown Township the use of fireworks is still regulated by local ordinance. The law passed in Pennsylvania made it legal for residents to purchase and use consumer grade fireworks such as fire crackers, roman candles, bottle rockets, etc., so long as they contain less than 50 grams of explosive materials. These types of devices were previously illegal for residents to purchase and use.

The Township requires a **permit** from the Fire Marshal in order for fireworks of any sort (except sparklers and other non-audible ground based devices) to be set off.

There are certain state rules which always apply:

- 1) You must be at least 18 years old to purchase, possess, and use consumer fireworks
- 2) You must have the property owner's permission to set off consumer fireworks.
- 3) You may not set off consumer fireworks from within or towards a vehicle or building or towards another person.
- 4) You may not use consumer fireworks while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or other drug.
- 5) You may not use consumer fireworks within 150 feet of an occupied structure.
- 6) You may not set off fireworks within any Township Park or Open Space.

Violations related to the use of fireworks may result in criminal charges being filed against you. Charlestown encourages its residents to find the many local spots which participate in fireworks displays and leave the dangerous items in the hands of professionals. In 2016 over 11,000 people suffered injuries that resulted in ER visits due to fireworks and over 30% of those were to children under 15 years of age.

Brightside Trail Walk - Saturday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.

- by Esther Underhill



This walk will introduce us to the many joys of Brightside Farm Park.

Park in the new parking lot on Yellow Springs Road. Then join us for lemonade and cookies on the front porch of the Rapp House. We'll learn a little about the history of the building and of life in Charlestown.

Afterwards, we'll head out on a grass trail that joins with the Horse-Shoe Trail.

We'll walk on parts of the new paved loop as well as the short mountain bike trail in the wooded area. If we have time we will visit the community gardens and take time to see what's growing in the wetlands.

Brightside is part working farm and part conserved meadow and wetlands. The hedge rows encourage wildlife with berries and seeds, as well as cover for nesting. The meadows have wildflowers for caterpillars and butterflies.

Hope you can join us!



Photo by Allen Underkofler

Charlestown Historical Society Special Presentation

Dr. Laura Sherrod, Professor of Geology at Kutztown University will present the results of a Ground-Penetrating Radar Study at the Charlestown Presbyterian Cemetery.

Dr. Sherrod and some of her students undertook a survey of the Cemetery in the fall and winter of 2017 in order to locate unmarked graves, a possible mass burial pit, and the location of the 1742 Presbyterian Church originally on the site.

The scans were done using ground penetrating radar and magnetometer equipment, which can locate some long-buried items and anomalies below ground level.

It is thought that some 150 or more Revolutionary War soldiers are buried there, victims of disease and hunger during the War encampment at Valley Forge. Revolutionary War surgeon Dr. Samuel Kennedy is also buried on the site.

A map found long ago in the walls of the Yellow Springs Hospital shows the location of individual graves, plus a burial pit thought to hold 50 or more bodies.



The cemetery is now owned by Charlestown Township, and the Board of Supervisors approved the study and invites you to attend the presentation.

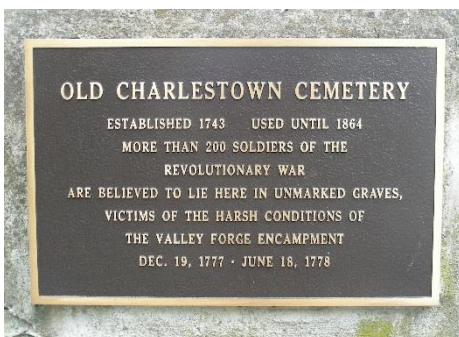
The Cemetery is just north of the Charlestown Mill and across from the Charlestown Playhouse.

At right: The Charlestown Presbyterian Cemetery, located at 2475 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville.

— photo by George Csete

***Please join us: Charlestown Elementary School Cafeteria, May 16th 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Park on the right side of the building and enter Door #5***

Memorial Day Commemorative Service Charlestown Presbyterian Cemetery



The Charlestown Historical Society will have a ceremony on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Charlestown Presbyterian Cemetery. The ceremony will honor over 250 soldiers buried there and all the men and women who have served our country in the military. All are invited to attend to honor these brave people.

The cemetery is located at 2475 Charlestown Road opposite the Charlestown Playhouse. People are welcome to park in the Playhouse parking lots.

Earth Day 2018 – Over 90 Volunteers for our 14th Year

This year the weather cooperated spectacularly for our 14th annual Earth Day Event. We wish to thank all those who made our day a success. Over 115 bags of trash were collected from roadsides, parks and stream banks.



By registering for the Great PA Cleanup Campaign, Charlestown Township obtains safety vests, bags and gloves at no cost.

Volunteers are invited to start their day at the Township Office for continental breakfast fare before starting out on their task or project.

Robert Heindel of Trout Unlimited brought ten volunteers with him to clean up along the Pickering Creek.

At left: Trout Unlimited – New Jersey Chapter



With coordination from HOA President Frank Pafumi, residents of the Charlestown Meadows community have been holding an annual clean up event for their open space areas for 10 years.



Charlestown Meadows had their best event yet, with 29 volunteers from their community.

Thank you to the following residents of Charlestown Meadows, for taking pride in being a good neighbor committed to the stewardship of our environment:

Doug Andersen
Rosemary Callahan
Helena Callahan
Terry Callahan
Chin-Chun Chen
Gary Cunningham
Scott Faulkingham
Peter Georgopoulos
Diana Goldin
Madeline Goldin

Sophia Goldin
Jason Kurth
Bruce Macphail
Kate Macphail
John Maxwell
Harry Megerian
Frank Pafumi
Gine Porreca
Bob Porreca
Terrie Quintero

Sarah Quintero
Stephen Skoufalos
Suzanne Tate
Michaela Tseng
Ashley Willis
Victor Verano
Josh Verano
Katrina Verano
Geraldine Verano

At right: Girl Scout Troop 440 with Scout Leader Jeannine Espenshade have taken care of clean up at Brightside Farm Park for many years.

Groups with children are assigned off-road areas or, with careful supervision, safer roads. Troop 440 not only collected trash at Brightside, but took care of the shoulders of Yellow Springs Road along the Park.

Below: Eagle Scout candidate A.J. Stacy worked with Troop 78 from Willistown on a project near the bridge along the fitness trail at Charlestown Park.



A.J. organized, supervised, and worked with other Scouts from Troop 78 to install a path adjacent to the multi-use trail along Township Line Road that follows the small creek into the wetlands. With the help of local contractor Daniel Aquilante, who excavated the pathway, AJ and his fellow scouts installed a gravel based finished surface bordered with Belgian block leading to an area that overlooks the wetland. A bench and descriptive signage was also installed. With logistical assistance from Bob Dettore, a plan developed by Ed Theurkauf and the generous support of the Supervisors, AJ has given park users a place where they can relax, meditate, read or simply enjoy the natural world.

Planning Commissioner Andy Motel lent his expertise and time to the troop.



Chad Sindaco, a science teacher at the Great Valley Middle School, lead the GVMS Mountain Bike Team on a clean up of the hillside across from the former Great Valley Nature Center.

The Mountain Bike team has practiced at Brightside Farm Park for the past three years, and we appreciate their community spirit in giving back to the Township.

At right: the clean up crew from the Mountain Bike Team



Our thanks go to all these groups featured above, and all the individuals who donated their time to our Township:

Township Supervisors
Planning Commissioner
Parks & Recreation Board
Valley Forge Sewer Authority Board
Residents
Non-residents
Staff Members

Kevin Kuhn and Charlie Philips
Andy Motel
Chris Lawrence, Sue Staas, and Bill Longua
David Greer
Jill Williams, John Pickering, Debbie Kuhn & Wayne Freeze
Ashley Smith and George Csete
Jim Thompson, Roadmaster, Tim Hubbard, Property/Safety Coordinator, Linda Csete, Manager
Dan Aquilante, Bob Dettore and Ed Theurkauf –Troop 78's project at the Park; Melchiorre Construction and J.D. Bravo– clearing and cleaning out the right of way for Southwest Avenue at Charlestown Park

Contractors & Consultants:

Remembering Supervisor Mike Rodgers



It is with great sadness that the Board of Supervisors announces the passing of our long term member Michael J. Rodgers. Mike passed away on Saturday April 7, 2018 after a brief struggle with cancer at the age of 88. Mike & Fran were married for almost 63 years and had nine children, nineteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mike was born in South Philadelphia and graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He then embarked on a long career in steam and nuclear engineering and was instrumental in the construction of many power facilities on the east coast. He was president of U.S. Tool & Die in Pittsburgh, PA which he sold in 1990.

Mike was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1999 and was in his 19th year of service to our township. During his tenure and with Mike's support the Board of Supervisors increased the total acreage of preserved open space in the township to over 34%. Mike also represented the township as a member of the Valley Forge Sewer Authority Board for the last 19 years and currently served as President. He was also very involved in the Charlestown Historical Society, serving on their board for many years, and was a fixture at the polls every Election Day tabulating the ballots for voters.

The family has suggested that gifts in Mike's memory may be made to the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, 511 Kimberton Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460 for projects in Charlestown Township.

Mike will be remembered by the Board for his willingness to volunteer, his interest in watching over the health of the roads and infrastructure and for pushing the Board to justify any and all expenditures. He will be missed.

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