

# Charlestown Township Newsletter

Summer 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](http://www.charlestown.pa.us)



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Linda M. Csete

## BOARD MEETINGS

### Supervisors

1<sup>ST</sup> Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

### Planning Commission

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

### Historical Commission

Semi-monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
@ 4:00 p.m.

### Environmental Advisory Committee

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

### Parks & Recreation

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10:00am – 2:00pm 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 pavilions with playgrounds, basketball courts and restrooms.

Charlestown Day 2018 activities will include vendors displaying their goods, local non-profit organizations, music by The Thin Line, Mobile Mess Hall food truck, Stubby the Helicopter, ScienceTellers Wild West experiments, organized basketball challenge, bouncys, face painter, balloon and bubble artists and much more!!

We want to thank our sponsors, Theurkauf Design and Planning and Karen Beam Architect, LLC. Their generous contributions will help Charlestown Friends, provide assistance to our local non-profits and scholarships to our local Scout programs.

Interested Vendors please message us on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/CharlestownParksandRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/CharlestownParksandRecreation). Updates and vendor applications are also available on [www.charlestownday.org](http://www.charlestownday.org) and the township website at [www.charlestown.pa.us](http://www.charlestown.pa.us).

Thank you! Karen Schlichter [karenschlichter77@gmail.com](mailto:karenschlichter77@gmail.com)

## Social Media Policy Reminders

The purpose of the Charlestown Township ("Township") [Official page on Facebook](#) and any other social media site is to present information about the Township's programs, activities and news. Note: Social media sites are not monitored 24/7: report emergencies by calling 911.

Although public comments are permitted to these sites, they are moderated online discussion sites and not public forums. The Township reserves the sole right to post information to the sites and to remove any comment that violates the Terms of Use at any time.

Comments to the sites do not serve as communication to, or formal notification to, the Township about concerns or requests. To officially report a concern or request to the Township or present any other matter:

Email [manager@charlestown.pa.us](mailto:manager@charlestown.pa.us), call 610-240-0326, or participate in Township public monthly meetings, which are listed on the Township website, [www.charlestown.pa.us](http://www.charlestown.pa.us)



## Prescription Drug Drop off Locations

There are numerous safe drop off locations near you for safe disposal of prescription drugs. To protect our streams, drugs should never be flushed but taken to a drop-off site because:

- **Flushed medications have been found in our lakes, rivers and streams**

A nationwide study done in 1999 and 2000 by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) found low levels of drugs such as antibiotics, hormones, contraceptives and steroids in 80% of the rivers and streams tested. Numerous studies since then confirm this growing problem.

- **Fish and other aquatic wildlife are being adversely affected**

Studies have shown that male fish have been feminized (produced eggs) when exposed to hormones (e.g. estrogen from birth control pills). Other drugs, such as anti-depressants and beta-blockers, reduce fertility or affect spawning in certain aquatic organisms. Even expired medications can cause these effects.

- **Drug-resistant bacteria might develop**

Long-term exposure to low levels of antibiotics might result in the evolution of, or selection for, drug-resistant microbes and bacteria.

***For a list of Drug Drop Off Locations Near You, Go to:***

<https://www.chesco.org/2673/Medication-Drop-Off>



## Butterfly Walk at Brightside Farm Park

Saturday Morning,  
September 8, 10:00

We all enjoy the butterflies that come to our gardens during the summer. Join us now on a walk at Brightside Farm Park to see which ones we can identify.

We will walk through the fields and visit the community gardens. There we may also see birds stealing seeds and dropping them in new places to grow for next year. Last year, in addition to butterflies, we saw interesting caterpillars and colorful bugs.

We will meet in the new parking lot at 3040 Yellow Springs Road. Remember that we will be in the sun, where the butterflies are. Wear a hat and sunscreen and bring water. We will be finished before noon.

If you can join us for only a short while it's a short walk back to your car.

## ***Fisherfolk – Clean your Gear!***

- Carol Armstrong, Environmental Advisory Committee

**The Fish & Boat Commission issued an alert to Clean Your Gear! In order to contain invasive New Zealand Mudsail that competes with native species.** Photo Credit: PennState, Pennsylvania Sea Grant.



This aquatic invasive species (AIS) has been recently found in Little Lehigh Creek, west of Emmaus PA. Anglers and boaters are urged to "Clean Your Gear!" before leaving a waterway and entering another one. New Zealand Mudsails require some specialized disinfection measures. Gear should be visually inspected and any clinging matter should be removed and disposed of in the trash.

To kill Mudsails: Gear can be frozen for a minimum of eight hours. Or it can be soaked in very hot water with detergent - maintained at 120°F to 140°F - for 10 minutes (not recommended for Gortex®.)

A 2005 study by the California Department of Fish & Game showed that mudsnails can be killed by soaking gear for five minutes in a one-to-one solution of a commercial product, Formula 409® Cleaner Degreaser Disinfectant, and water. Regular off-the-shelf Formula 409 have not been effective.

After soaking gear for five minutes, thoroughly rinse it with plain water. Simply spraying gear with the disinfectant or the mixture does not work.

Please report if you suspect that you have found New Zealand Mudsail (or any other AIS) in another waterway, please report your information: <http://pfbc.pa.gov/forms/reportAIS.htm>.

To report an AIS sighting, it is very important to include as much information as possible including close-up photos of the organism, the exact location (GPS coordinates work best), a description of what you found, and your contact information.

### ***Are You Connected?***

For the most up to date information on Township Activities, sign up for our weekly email that notifies you when items are posted to the website, and when there are special events, road closings, and other timely information.

**Website - [www.charlestown.pa.us](http://www.charlestown.pa.us)**

Sign up by clicking on the link on the right side of the homepage or by sending an email request to Linda Csete at [admin1@charlestown.pa.us](mailto:admin1@charlestown.pa.us) Updates are typically emailed to participants once a week. We currently have over 200 people signed up and would like to add you to our list!

# The PA Dog Law



*Above: This friendly fellow reminds us to “stick together” and observe the PA Dog Laws, for his safety & yours!*

With the warm weather upon us, we frequently hear complaints about dogs running loose, whether along the roads, private properties, or at our township parks and trails.

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.

Now that the paved trail at Brightside Farm Park is complete, dogs are welcome, but please note they are not permitted in any cultivated area.

What are Pennsylvania's Dog Laws? Here are some excerpts:

- All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are issued by the Chester County Treasurer.
- All dogs must be under control and are not allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal or to abandon any dog.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily eat it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- Owners of dogs (and cats) 3 months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination.

If you encounter a problem with dogs at large in your neighborhood or on your property, the Township has a contract with the Brandywine Valley S.P.C.A. to enforce the Dog Law. Call the SPCA at 484-302-0018.

## Ready Chesco

Ready Chesco is a great notification system to receive up to the minute info on weather and emergency events.

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

Go to: [www.readychesco.org/](http://www.readychesco.org/)



## ***Pennsylvania Turnpike Widening Project***

Preliminary Design began in Spring 2012 on the future reconstruction and six-lane widening of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) between mileposts 312 and 319. The project area begins just west of the Downingtown Interchange (Milepost 311.60) and extends east to the approximate location of the Route 29 Interchange (Milepost 319.44). The seven-mile project corridor traverses Charlestown, Upper Uwchlan, Uwchlan, and West Pikeland Townships in Chester County.

The Project's Design Team presented the project's preliminary design to the public at the Open House Plans Display in May 2014 and is currently progressing to final design.

The project is split into two construction sections, both of which are currently in design. The first, from Milepost 311.60 to Milepost 316.19, is anticipated to undergo construction from fall 2019 through fall 2021. The second section, from Milepost 316.19 to Milepost 319.44, is anticipated to undergo construction from fall 2021 through fall 2023. Between 2010 and 2016, three overhead bridges (Bodine Road, Valley Hill Road and Yellow Springs Road) were replaced in order to accommodate the widening of the mainline I-76 from four to six lanes.

You can check the project website for the current status of the project at:  
[https://www.paturnpike.com/travel/major\\_design\\_construction\\_projects.aspx](https://www.paturnpike.com/travel/major_design_construction_projects.aspx).

## ***Smart 911 (Premise Information)***



Premise Information is information that is used to alert emergency responders of special circumstances at a specific address.

The Department of Emergency Services recently partnered with Smart911 to gather this type of information.

Smart911 provides lifesaving information to a 9-1-1 Telecommunicator and first responders in an emergency. To register for Smart911, go to <https://www.smart911.com/>

With Smart911 you sign up and create a secure Safety Profile for your household. You can add as much information in your Safety Profile as you want; for instance,

*Address Information* - so first responders can find you faster to help you faster

*Medical Information* - so first responders know what medications you are taking; know what your medical history is so they can treat you appropriately while they transport you to the emergency room

*Family information* - you add information about everyone living in your household, including emergency contact information

*Your pet information* - so first responders know before they get to your house that you have a pet

*Vehicle information* - having the description and license plate of your vehicles can help first responders assist you while in your car.

Your Smart911 Safety Profile is seen only by the 9-1-1 Telecommunicators and they forward any important information to first responders. Once you have received help, your safety profile is no longer available until the next time you call 9-1-1.

# Meet your Trees: Common Witch Hazel

- By Chris Lawrence, Parks & Recreation Board

## Common Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)



Witch Hazel is found throughout the state, both in our moist, shady woods and in bottles of aromatic astringent at the local drug store. The tree's stems and leaves can be boiled to create a liquid which can treat skin ailments of many kinds. Early European settlers learned about this treatment via Native American tribes they encountered - the Osage treated skin ulcers and sores with it, the Potawatomi steamed twigs in sweat lodges to soothe sore muscles, the *Haudenosaunee* (Iroquois) treated dysentery and colds with a leaf and flower tea.

More recent studies suggest that the tannins called hamamelitannis in Witch Hazel extract may be useful in fighting colon cancer, though that's just under laboratory conditions for now.

Witch Hazel is a small tree, often found with multiple trunks. Usually under 15 feet in height, with branches that start out a spotted orange-brown and harden to a dark brown-grey, its most noticeable feature is the unique flowers. Pale yellow with four crumpled ribbon-shaped petals, the flowers grow in clusters and can look alien when first seen!



<https://plants.usda.gov>



The leaves are a brilliant green in summer, turning to gold in the fall. They are oval in shape, with a wavy-toothed or lobed edge, and pinnate (with a central main vein). Birds and small mammals eat the fruits and seeds of the tree, and both deer and beaver will eat the stems.



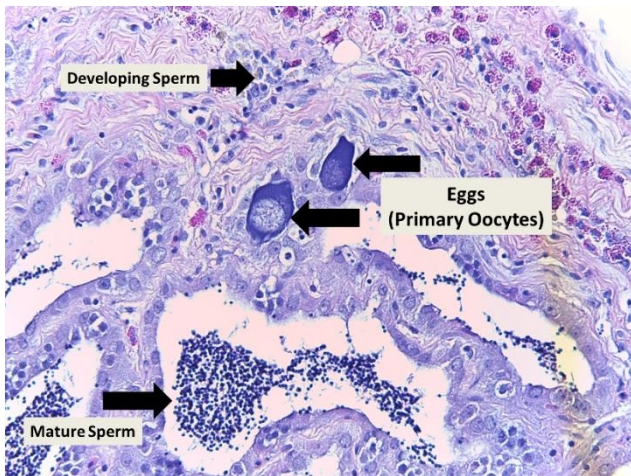
At left:

Witch hazel with multiple trunks

# Plastics: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Carol Armstrong, Environmental Advisory Committee

The terrible fates of sea mammals and birds who are confronted by the huge supply of plastics in the ocean have been brought to our attention in recent articles, and for decades. However, did you know that microplastic particles have been found in beer in Germany? In honey? In salt? Pervasively in tap water? In the sea flea and phytoplankton? Did you know that plastics are increasing the estrogen in waters and in sea life, and causing feminization of male fish and other aquatic life? There are no regulations, by the Environmental Protection Agency or international agreements, on the amount of plastic that can be released into our waters. It is absorbed in the tissue of sea life, and it is unknown how much is in our seafood. Plastics migrate from plastic containers to water, milk, and food.



At left: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Credit: Mark Fritts

Large Mouth Bass in Des Palines River, IL

At right: Credit: Saskia Rehse, Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin



A multi-university study in Europe of deep sea sediment in 16 sites in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian Oceans estimated 4 billion microscopic plastic fibres on each square kilometer around the world (Woodall et al., 2014). Plastics are over 80% of all marine debris, and the vast majority are single use items. We have all heard of the Great Garbage Patches of plastic soup that go down to the floor of all oceans. The United Nations confirmed more than 270,000 tons of plastic waste in our oceans. Operation Seagnet is proposing a 10 year operation to develop a system to vacuum and recycle ocean waste. Plastics take 400-1000 years to biodegrade, and polystyrene does not degrade.

Where is all coming from? In the past 30 years, plastic use has increased by 500%, and by the end of 2030, the petrochemical industry predicts to increase plastic exports by another 500%. Unfortunately, 91% of all plastics are not recycled, and 79% of all plastics ever produced have been discarded. The Environmental Protection Agency estimated that 50% goes to land fill, 3-7% are recycled, and 40% is unaccountable. Roland Geyer and colleagues from the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at the University of Santa Barbara reported that there is “near permanent contamination of the natural environment by plastics”. Each time a fleece fiber clothing item is washed, 1900 plastic fibers enter the water stream, entering the soil, streams, bays, and oceans. Floating plastic accumulate toxic pollutant on their surface during time in polluted seawater.

## What can you do? Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

- Do not overfill trash receptacles. Pick up small bits of plastic whenever you can. Municipal drain catchment devices/screens cannot catch the smaller plastics.
- Cut out single use plastics. Removal of plastics is unattainable and must be prevented from entering the ecosystem. Don't use plastic bags when shopping, plastic straws, plastic clothing.
- Lend a hand. Participate in community cleanups.
- Talk with your community and educate others about plastic pollution and look for solutions.
- Ask for alternative sustainable products.
- Nurture habits that limit plastic at home and when shopping, eating out, or entertaining.
- Read “My Plastic Life” – how you can deal with plastics in your life.
- Let companies know you are concerned (e.g, food markets, restaurants, clothing companies).



## *Donate to the East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Department for Free!*



**AmazonSmile** is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Department.



East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Company serves a large portion of Charlestown Township. Kimberton Fire Company serves the northern portion.

### **Signing up is Easy**

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll be prompted to select a charitable organization from a list of eligible organizations. Select **East Whiteland Fire Association**. It's that simple and painless.

*Photo by Allen Underkofler*

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