

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Summer 2019 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



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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.

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 14, 2019 AT CHARLESTOWN PARK



Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation announces that Charlestown Day 2019 is **Saturday September 14, 2019** from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the renovated Charlestown Park with a 5K run beginning at 8:00 a.m.

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, volleyball & basketball courts and restrooms.

Charlestown Day 2019 activities will include vendors displaying their goods, local non-profit organizations, music, food trucks, the Science Tellers, bouncy houses, face painting, balloon and bubble artists and much more!

We want to thank our sponsors for their generous contributions that 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 and the township website at www.charlestown.pa.us.

Questions may be emailed to: Chris Lawrence river_wind@mac.com or Brian Schlorff bschlorff@comcast.net

Using a GPS? The address of the Park is 100 Academic Way, Phoenixville.

Open Space: Is it Worth Preserving?

Chester County says "Yes"!

- by Charlie Philips, Supervisor

When Charlestown Township organized its Open Space Commission in 2001, there was concern from many that the Township would be hard pressed to be successful. After many years, the Township has been hugely successful, as close to 40% of the Township has been preserved from future development. This benefits our residents in many ways, not the least of which is the reduction in the Township's carbon footprint as concern about climate change mounts.

Chester County on May 3, 2019 released its updated analysis of its 2008 study which looked at the economic value of protected open space. "The study measured impacts across five areas: property values, environmental benefits, recreation and health, economic activity, and the effect on community services." While the study did not cover a cost/benefit analysis, it did provide some interesting data points.

1. Households near protected open space saw an increase in home values, and therefore increased re-sale value. The average across Chester County was an increase of \$11,000 for homes located within a half mile of protected open space. This increase also benefitted local governments with increased transfer tax revenues.
2. The environmental impact of protected open space is very positive. The carbon footprint is significantly reduced. The need for increased infrastructure, which often means increased impervious coverage, is significantly reduced. Water pollution is greatly reduced, and storm water management is better controlled. The total effect is a healthier environment for residents. (Note: what was not covered is the impact open space has on the reduction of energy use.)
3. Another advantage of protected open space is that it attracts people as well as businesses, which results in a healthier economy without the need to increase government services. In fact, the study showed that in areas without protected open space that for every \$1 received from residential development and the associated taxes, the local government spends \$1.11 on services. Whereas, for every \$1 received from farmland and open space taxes, local governments spend on average 7 cents on services. (In Charlestown Township, real estate taxes have remained the same for 16 years).

Another benefit that results from Charlestown's open space initiative has been the reduction in potential development of over 750 new homes, which based on population statistics, would have added nearly 1,200 additional school age children to the Great Valley School District, probably requiring new school construction, more busing, and higher school taxes.

Your supervisors have been committed to the preservation of open space, but the success has only come about because of our landowners who have preserved their properties, and all our residents who have continually supported our efforts year after year. New residents often comment that the reason they settled in Charlestown is because it is a beautiful Township with lots of open space.

The full Chester County study, ***Return on Environment: The Economic Value of Protected Open Space in Chester County***, can be viewed at:

<https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/49690/ROE-Full-Documnet>

The Permit Inspection Process



Pennsylvania has a building code that all municipalities in Pennsylvania are required to enforce. This is PA Act 45, known as the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). The UCC is based on a series of minimum requirements for all disciplines that are a part of the building process.

Anthony Merklinger is Charlestown's Building Code Official (BCO) who is responsible for reviewing plans and visiting construction sites to ensure that the regulations are being met.

Before construction begins, he determines if the plans comply with codes and regulations and issues a building permit for approved plans. Construction cannot begin until all associated applications have been reviewed and permits have been issued.

The number of inspections depends on the project. In general, the inspector checks systems such as plumbing and electrical before they are covered by additional construction and makes a final inspection when the project is completed, issuing a Certificate of Occupancy.

Tips for Working with the Township on your Permit Application

Allow up to 3 weeks for approval, depending on the complexity of the job. Review the Guide to Permits on our Website, and afterward, call or email the Township Office if you have any questions. We may refer you to the zoning officer or BCO for additional information.

The application review begins only after we have received all documentation. Submitting an incomplete application leads to frustration, confusion, and delays. Communication with your design professional and contractors is the key to a smooth approval process.

If your project requires a general contractor along with various subcontractors, such as plumbers, electricians or HVAC installers, each one must be registered with the state (HIC Number) or with the Township if they have no HIC number. Each one must have a certificate of insurance naming Charlestown Township as the Certificate Holder.

Once an application has been approved, the project can't be changed while in progress without re-submitting documents to the Township, which may include formally withdrawing an application and re-submitting plans and applications.

Keep in mind that the BCO is inspecting according to the UCC Code, primarily for safety requirements, and doesn't inspect for craftsmanship. You and your design professional are responsible for quality assurance and craftsmanship.

Charlestown's new Green Business Award:

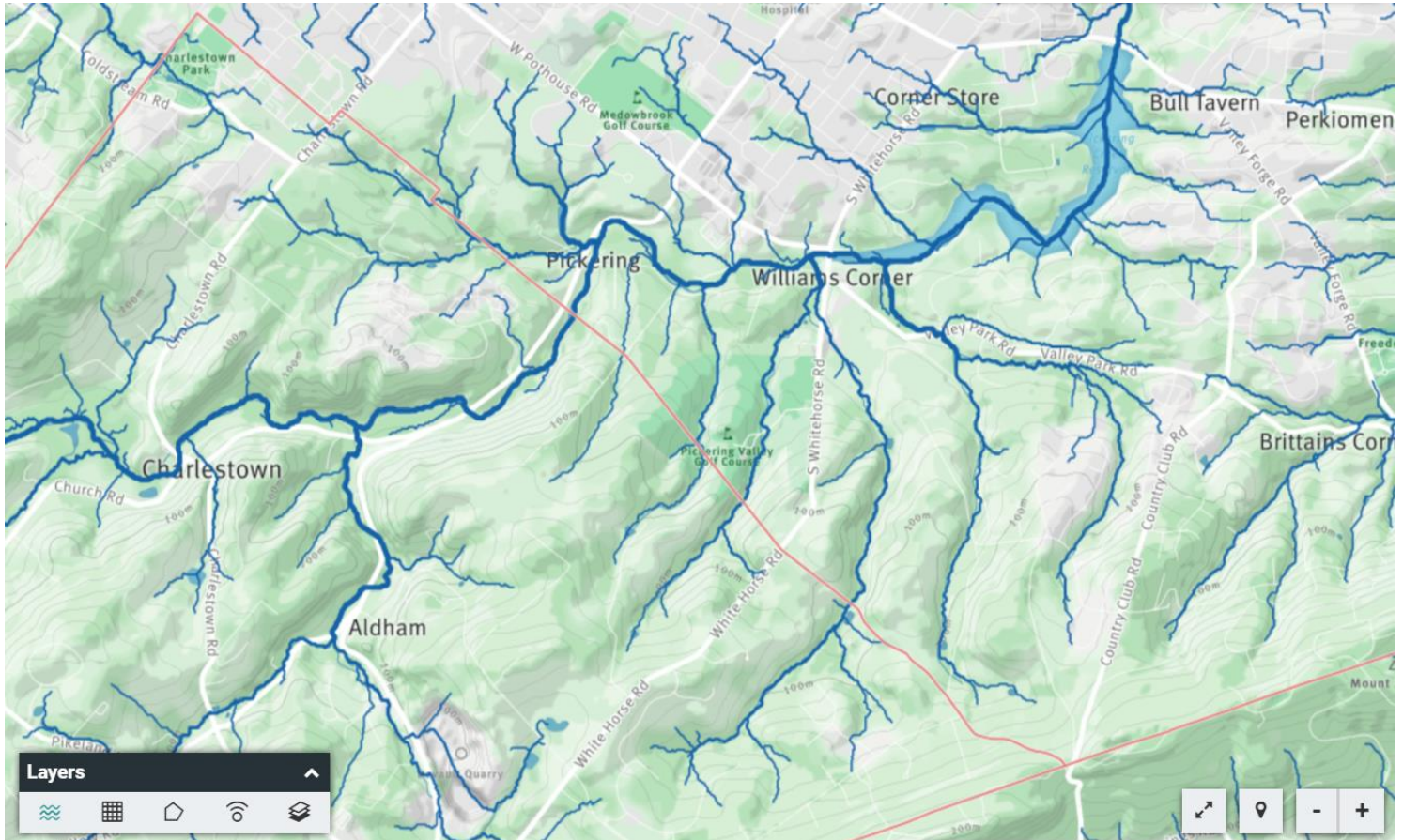
The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) would like to recognize businesses in Charlestown that make efforts to reduce, reuse, refuse, use high energy efficiency methods, install green infrastructure, etc. Those determined by the EAC to be using good environmental practices will receive an award for display, recognition on the township website and newsletter, and can note the recognition in the business' marketing. We will send a quick questionnaire to Charlestown businesses to solicit their interest in being recognized, which will also be found on the township's website: Charlestown.pa.us. Those expressing interest will be contacted for an interview with the EAC using a standard set of questions.



Official names for streams originating in Charlestown Township

- Pete Goodman, EAC Chairman

Last summer, the Schuylkill Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) presented to the Charlestown EAC a program on their stream naming initiative. Recently, Charlestown Township received notice that their efforts have borne fruit. The Board on Geographic Names at its May 9, 2019 meeting approved the proposals to make official the following 4 stream names: Buckwalter Run, Wheatley Mine Run, Lenape Run and Wersler Run. These streams all originate in the eastern side of Charlestown Township and flow to the Pickering Creek in Schuylkill Township. The Charlestown EAC will be looking into additional opportunities to name or officially document local names of streams flowing in the Township.



KIMBERTON FAIR

Route 113 Kimberton

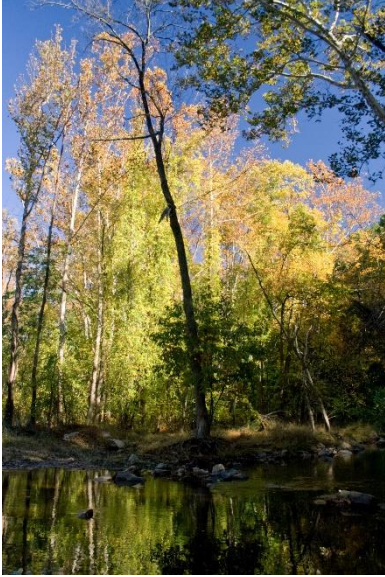
July 22 – 27th

There is so much to see and do at the 91th Kimberton Fair. We hope you will come and spend a day, or two, or more, and experience everything our old-fashioned country fair has to offer you and your family. From 4-H Livestock competitions to Home Living, Exhibits to Log Sawing, the Fair Queen Competition, a Baby Contest, plus great Food & Entertainment, it's all happening at the Fair!

All Proceeds benefit the Kimberton Fire Company

A force for good to preserve and improve our Charlestown Lifestyle

- By Richard Findlay, EAC Member



Along the Pickering Creek

The Charlestown Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) has now celebrated its first-year anniversary reviewing and tackling issues that challenge our environment and the lifestyle we enjoy. We are actively involved in protecting the head waters of streams in our Township and are now at the late stages of creating a riparian buffer for the upper reaches of Pigeon Run, a first order stream, at Brightside Farm Park.

On Earth Day our members and volunteers led the charge to clean Coldstream Road of the litter that is indiscriminately thrown out by cars transiting Charlestown. Our first educational and awareness meeting was well attended and heralded as a success with significant impact being recorded as the 2019 spotted lanternfly season begins. Moving forward, we are planning to submit names for streams to the Board for those that are currently unnamed, supporting the Parks administration with tree minding and trail maintenance, recruiting companies in the Township to gain recognition as Sustainable, and most importantly, initiate environmental, educational, and awareness programs.

These all take effort, and the six-person Committee is seeking volunteers to join in the work either out in the field or creating and planning the programs. If you have an interest in continuing to make the Charlestown lifestyle that we have all come to enjoy and which other townships aspire to, please come join your team by contacting Pete Goodman at peteg@bee.net or his cell 610-655-5020.

Charlestown Historical Society's Summer Concerts at the Rapp House



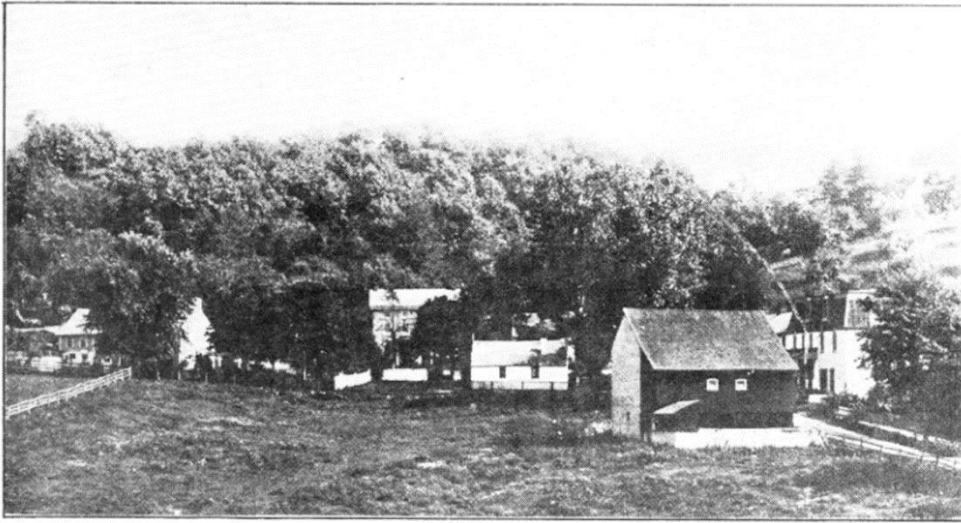
Rainy weather earlier in the day was no match for the success of the Historical Society's first summer concert, with a James Taylor tribute band, held on June 20th with over 200 people in attendance.

The second concert featuring the Malarkey Brothers, playing Irish music and Celtic Folk Rock, was postponed due to rain but was able to be rescheduled to July 25th.

- Photo by Darrah Ribble

Charlestown Heritage Art Show

On Sunday afternoon, **October 13, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.** Charlestown United Methodist Church and the Charlestown Historical Society are co-sponsoring the **Charlestown Heritage Art Show**, displaying works from past and present Charlestown area visual artists. The artworks will be on display at the church in Charlestown Village and also at the historic Charlestown Mill across the valley. As visitors travel between these two venues, they will enjoy self-guided walking tours of the village, as well as the beauty of the autumn countryside. Light refreshments will also be served.



“The village”

Among works of other past artists, the church will be featuring Henry Soulen, a former village resident and church member. As an illustrator for Curtis Publishing in Philadelphia, his work was frequently published in the likes of *Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and *Country Gentleman* magazines.

He also illustrated several articles about archaeological digs in the Middle East in *National Geographic*.

One of the highlights of this art show will be his art-deco and bas relief style “Madonna and Child,” published in *Ladies Home Journal* in January, 1937. At this art show, you will see the work itself, a copy of the published magazine, and the original mold that Mr. Soulen constructed to cast the work. You will be able to trace the work from start through finish.

The show will also include works by other late artists including Milo Winter, Lucius Crowell, John Pierce and Geraldine Berg. Finally, living artists will display their works, and many of them will be present to talk about and answer questions, even though nothing will be sold that day.

Put a hold on October 13, in your calendars. This will be a great toast to artists past and present who have been inspired by the Charlestown Township area. [Charlestown United Methodist Church was founded in 1830 and is located in historic Charlestown Village at 650 Church Road, Malvern, PA 19355. Inquiries can be made at: charlestown.umc@gmail.com .]



Next in the Environmental Advisory Committee's Ongoing Education Series

The EAC will be presenting its next community lecture "The Environment and our Health", which will be presented by Dr. Veda Maany this September, with the Time, Date and Location to be Announced. Check our website for updates at www.charlestown.pa.us after September 1st!

How to Become a Volunteer at Your Local Fire Station

Fire stations across Chester County are in need of volunteers like you who are ready to help save lives and protect property right in their own backyard. That's why last year the Chester County Fire Chiefs Association launched HelpFightFire.com to help make it easy to understand the many volunteer opportunities available. Plus there's a volunteer inquiry form you can fill out that will allow members of your local fire station to contact you about your interest in becoming a volunteer and answer any questions you may have.

There are several ways to serve your local station, with open positions that will perfectly match your talents:

Firefighters: As a volunteer firefighter, you'll learn skills like how to advance a hose line, perform search-and-rescue operations, and position ladders strategically. We'll give you the training and equipment needed to stay safe at no cost to you.

EMTs: Our volunteer EMTs help save lives by transporting the sick and injured to the hospital. You'll be there to respond to specialized calls like auto accidents, carbon monoxide alarms and other rescue calls. Again, the training and equipment will be provided for free.

Fire Police: Help keep an emergency situation safe by directing traffic and crowds and providing general assistance to other first responders.

Junior Firefighters: Teens at least 14 years old can gain experience around a fire house as a junior firefighter. You'll lend a hand and begin fire training that will prepare you to become a full member at 18 years old. Volunteering as a junior firefighter is also a great way to secure community service hours and looks great on a college resume.

Administrative Volunteers: Non-emergency volunteers can also play a huge role. They help teach fire safety, assist in fundraising events, help with bookkeeping, human resources, website maintenance and other responsibilities. Whatever your skill set, we can use it!

By joining our team, you'll help make us stronger and your community safer. So what are you waiting for? Go to HelpFightFire.com. Volunteer today. Chester County lives depend on it.

Attention Charlestown Visual Artists

Charlestown United Methodist Church and the Charlestown Historic Society are inviting local visual artists to display their works at the upcoming **Charlestown Heritage Art Show** on Sunday, **October 13**.

The works will be on display at either the church or at historic Charlestown Mill that afternoon from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Works will not be sold as part of the show, but artists are welcome to be present to talk about and answer questions about their work.

If you would like to participate or know someone who might be interested, please inquire at:

charlestown.umc@gmail.com .

Reminders

Meetings

All Township Meetings for August will be in Room 227 at the Great Valley High School.

We'll return to the choral room #154 at the Great Valley Middle School in September following renovations.

Email Blasts - Send your email address to:
admin1@charlestown.pa.us

if you'd like to receive a weekly reminder of updates to our website, including minutes and agendas.

You'll also be advised of special events, cancellations, road closings as situations arise.

Works of Deceased Charlestown Artists Needed

Charlestown United Methodist Church and Charlestown Historic Society will display works of deceased Charlestown area visual artists at the **Charlestown Heritage Art Show** on Sunday, October 13 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Displays will appear at both the church, and at the historic Charlestown Mill. If you have original paintings of past Charlestown artists such as Henry Soulen, Milo Winter, Lucius Crowell, John Pearce, Geraldine Berg, etc. that you would like to loan for display in the show, please contact

charlestown.umc@gmail.com . Someone will get back to you to arrange pick-up or drop off. Your works will be insured, and credited, according to your wishes.



*Painting of the Woolen Mill by John R. Pierce 1969 **

* Trivia Question: What's wrong with this picture?

Answer: Nothing - Charlestown Road used to be on the other side of the Mill!

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