



# CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

4030 Whitehorse Road, Devault, PA 19432 - (610) 240-0326 phone (610) 240-0328 fax

*Published by the Board of Supervisors:*

*Kevin R. Kuhn • Charles A. Philips • Frank A. Piliro • Michael J. Rodgers • Hugh D. Willig*



## Fire Marshal's Corner

Hello, I would like to take a minute to introduce myself. I am your new Township Fire Marshal. My name is Tim Hubbard and I look forward to serving the residents and businesses of Charlestown to the best of my ability. With the heating season fast approaching us I wanted to take a minute and suggest a few tips to consider in preparing your chimneys:

- 1. Get an annual chimney check.** Have chimneys inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a qualified professional chimney service technician. This reduces the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisonings due to creosote buildup or obstructions in the chimneys.
- 2. Keep it clear.** Keep tree branches and leaves at least 15 feet away from the top of the chimney.
- 3. Install a chimney cap** to keep debris and animals out of the chimney.
- 4. Choose the right fuel.** For burning firewood in wood stoves or fireplaces, choose well seasoned wood that has been split for a minimum of six months -

one year and stored in a covered and elevated location. Never burn Christmas trees or treated wood in your fireplace or wood stove.

**5. Build it right.** Place firewood or fire-logs at the rear of the fireplace on a supporting grate. To start the fire, use kindling or a commercial firelighter. Never use flammable liquids.

**6. Keep the hearth area clear.** Combustible material too close to the fireplace, or to a wood stove, could easily catch fire. Keep furniture at least 36" away from the hearth.

**7. Use a fireplace screen.** Use metal mesh or a screen in front of the fireplace to catch flying sparks that could ignite or burn holes in the carpet or flooring.

**8. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** Place detectors throughout the house and check batteries in the spring and fall. When you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time, remember to check your batteries.

**9. Never leave a fire unattended.** Before turning in for the evening, be sure that the fire is fully extinguished. Supervise children and pets closely around wood stoves and fireplaces.

Please take a few minutes and consider going through these steps as they could save your life and your house. Feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns that you might have that I could possibly be of assistance with. My number is 484-614-6119 or email me at [Firemarshal@charlestown.pa.us](mailto:Firemarshal@charlestown.pa.us)

# Our Website: Stay Connected to Your Township

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

This January the official internet presence of Charlestown Township will mark the end of its third year. The site has a great range of information on it, including:

- A Full Township Directory
- Minutes and Agendas for the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Meetings
- Township Financial Data including the Auditor's Annual Reports and Annual Budgets
- Notices of hearings and other timely information on Township Government
- FAQ on every subject from Animal Control to Stormwater Management
- Bids & Requests for Proposal
- Employment & Volunteer Opportunities
- Forms, Including Building Permit forms, with detailed instructions
- Meeting Calendar
- Emergency Services
- Historical Data
- Parks & Recreation
- Open Space Program
- Full Code of Ordinances
- Recycling
- Roads
- Taxes
- Dozens of Links to other county and state sites

Enjoy viewing our many maps and photographs of both historical and recent events.

The site is updated frequently, and the Latest News is prominently listed on the Home Page for quick reference.

Last year we added an email notification service. Sign up for weekly updates to be sent to your email address so you don't miss any of the latest news here in Charlestown.

## Tax Collection for 2011 & 2012

Below is a chart of the various taxes collected in Charlestown and the name of the Collector:

Type of Tax	Tax Rate	Tax Collector
Earned Income Tax (residents)	1%	Keystone Collections Group 1-866-539-1100
Earned Income Tax (non-residents)	½%	Keystone Collections Group 1-866-539-1100
Local Services Tax	\$52.00 (if employed in Charlestown)	Keystone Collections Group 1-866-539-1100
Local Property Tax	.75 mills	Central Tax Bureau of PA 866-392-1125

# Yard Waste Disposal Drop-Off Site Available to All Township Residents

Our neighbors at the Borough of Phoenixville continue to offer access to their yard waste drop off site to Charlestown residents. The site is located at 18 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Phoenixville, PA 19460.

For a fee of \$5.00 per car or \$10.00 per truck, Charlestown residents may drop off yard waste including the following: brush, flower and flower cuttings, garden trimmings, grass clippings, houseplants, leaves, pruning, shrubbery, tree trimmings, tree twigs and branches, weeds, untreated wood chips and yard debris. They accept trees up to 24" in caliper.

The site is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. year round and on Saturdays from March 1 - November 30 from 7:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Only use the site when an attendant is on duty.

Leaves and other yard waste may be either loose or in biodegradable paper bags. They cannot be in plastic bags. Leaves can be loose in a vehicle as long as the vehicle is tarped.

In addition to the drop-off service, Phoenixville Borough offers yard waste compost, leaf compost and hard wood mulch to participants.

Charlestown Township is greatly appreciative of this service, and we hope our residents will find it useful. For more info, go to: <http://www.phoenixville.org/Departments/Sanitation/Compost.html>

Please remember: leaves and debris may not be put into the street, swales or stormwater drainage areas of streets. This will clog the basins and drains and can cause flooding.



## Let's Work Together on Snow Removal

Snow came early this year and we have a long winter ahead. Please follow these guidelines to enable our contractors to serve you best this snow season:

- If a storm is coming, move your vehicles from the roads and keep them off the roads until they are cleared.
- Don't put trash containers in the road if a storm is forecast, during a storm or until snow removal operations are completed.
- When clearing driveways, do not push snow into the roadway. Please 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.
- If you're able, clear the snow around any fire hydrant on your property to save valuable time in an emergency.
- Kindly check on your neighbors who live alone.
- Charlestown Township provides winter maintenance on dedicated Township Roads only. PennDOT provides it on all state roads. They can be reached at 1-800-FIX-ROAD.

## Did You Know?

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Our local fire departments are volunteer organizations providing fire and ambulance services that depend on residents' and businesses' donations along with their other sources of revenue. The recession has affected them just as it has all of us. They are there when we need them most – let's show them our support. Recently I was surprised to learn that only a small percentage of Charlestown residents (15.2%) and businesses (8.5%) served by the East Whiteland Fire Association responded to their summer fund drive this year.

Many people mistakenly believe that these services are 100% covered by their taxes and other federal, state and local funding. Even the payments billed for ambulance services don't cover the entire cost in every circumstance.

If you haven't already done so, please consider sending a donation to the fire company that serves your property.

AND - Both organizations are always looking for volunteers, too, so if you're interested in serving your community, contact your local association and they'll be glad to hear from you.

East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Association  
170 Planebrook Road  
Frazer, PA 19355  
610-644-8558  
[www.eastwhitelandfirecompany.com](http://www.eastwhitelandfirecompany.com)

Kimberton Fire Company  
Kimberton Road  
Kimberton, PA 19442  
610-935-1388  
[www.kimbertonfire.org](http://www.kimbertonfire.org)

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED