



Spring 2015

# CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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## **SAVE THE DATE!** **SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2015**



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are happy to announce that the Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation Dept. will once again host our local community at **Charlestown Day 2015 on Saturday October 3 at Charlestown Park!**

Last October we had an extremely successful event with families enjoying music, food, vendors, and a Kid's Zone – including bouncy houses, a magician and a special appearance from the Philadelphia Union Soccer Team. The day started with over **100 people participating in a 5K race and 1 mile family fun run**, raising over \$2000 for the non-profit Charlestown Playhouse.



**Charlestown Day 2015** is sure to be even better than last year! The day will start with the **2<sup>nd</sup> annual 5K Run** through beautiful Charlestown Township, or you can enjoy a **1 Mile Family Fun Run/Walk** right in the Township Park. Registration will be opening for the race events this summer at [www.charlestownday.org](http://www.charlestownday.org). The activities will continue from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Charlestown Township Park with plenty of music, food, vendors and lots of fun activities for the kids!

- Continued on P.2

## *Charlestown Day – cont.'d from Page 1*

Charlestown Day 2015 activities will benefit the non-profit Great Valley Nature Center

For information please visit [www.gvnc.org](http://www.gvnc.org)

**How can you help? We are currently looking for the following:**

1. **Volunteers** to help with the 5K and Charlestown Day 2015 events.
2. **Vendors** to show off their wares.
3. **Performances** from local schools, clubs, teams to come and show off your talented students on our stage.

Follow us on our **Facebook page** ([www.facebook.com/CharlestownDay](http://www.facebook.com/CharlestownDay)) and visit our website <http://www.CharlestownDay.org> for updates and announcements.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact the **Charlestown Day 2015** committee.

**Charlestown Day Chair:** Karen Schlichter [Karen@CharlestownDay.org](mailto:Karen@CharlestownDay.org)

**5K/1 Mile Walk/Kids Dash:** Jennifer Nelson [Run@CharlestownDay.org](mailto:Run@CharlestownDay.org)

**Community Day information:** Laura Assayag [Info@CharlestownDay.org](mailto:Info@CharlestownDay.org)

**Sponsorship:** Kristin Heisey [kheisey.gvnc@gmail.com](mailto:kheisey.gvnc@gmail.com)

### *Join Us on our Butterfly Walk at Brightside Farm Park: Sunday, August 2, 1:00 pm, 3108 Yellow Springs Road, Malvern*

We're hoping for a sunny day with lots of butterflies.



We'll meet near the community gardens. Thanks to the gardeners, last year we saw a variety of butterflies in the gardens. Then on to the fields and meadows.

Near the entry to the trails is a large field of milkweed. This is an especially important area as the fast disappearing monarch butterflies eat only milkweed. All stages of this butterfly are beautiful.

The caterpillars, which aren't interested in eating your flowers, are striped yellow, black, and white. The pupa are shiny green speckled with gold. Plant a few milkweed in your garden and you may attract one to your house.

## Charlestown's Emergency Service Providers



Like most townships, Charlestown doesn't have its own fire department but contracts these services to nearby volunteer organizations. A portion of the township is served by the East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Association for both fire and ambulance service and the northern section by the Kimberlon Fire Department for fire and the West End Fire Company for ambulance service. Of course, both fire departments respond anywhere in the entire township in the unfortunate case of a multiple alarm event, as do other neighboring fire companies. Charlestown has seen some significant fires in recent years

including ones on Merlin Road, Sycamore Lane, Eastwick Drive, Raven Hill Road, Horse Shoe Trail Road, and in the Charlestown Oaks and Charlestown Hunt communities. These associations are responsible for much more than just fire control. They also provide ambulance and EMT service for Charlestown as well as Hazmat services.

Fundraising and generous donations of time and material from local contractors keep the cost of these services down, but even so, our Associations depend heavily on donations from those they serve. Each year they send letters out to over 2,000 businesses and residences they protect in Charlestown Township, yet received only 128 donations in 2014! We would ask that when you get your letter this year you take a few minutes to read it over and give serious consideration to making a generous contribution to these worthy organizations that provide such a critical service to us at all hours of the day and night.

### Put Rainwater to Work for You

Harvesting rainwater is a simple way to make your household green and help your gardens prosper. Using rainwater instead of the tap to water your gardens will cut your water bill. It also keeps water from running off of your property and carrying pollutants into our streams. The two most common ways to put rainwater to work for you are rain barrels and rain gardens:

- **A rain barrel** collects water from your roof and stores it for future use. You can connect a hose to the barrel or use it to fill watering cans. Rain barrels are available commercially at home improvement stores or you can build a do-it-yourself rain barrel at little cost: see [www.diynetwork.com/how-to/how-to-create-a-rain-barrel](http://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/how-to-create-a-rain-barrel) for simple instructions. Most barrels hold 55 gallons of water and will fill quickly during a storm. Make sure to include an overflow pipe to transport excess water away from your house. Also, a screen or filter on top is essential to prevent mosquitoes.
- **A rain garden** is a collection of water-loving plants in a slight depression in the ground. Running a downspout towards a sunken garden will capture rainwater and allow it to slowly sink into the ground over the next day. Rain gardens should be located at least 10 feet away from your foundation. Their size varies based on how much roof area is draining to the garden. Resources on building your rain garden can be found many places online, including: <http://www.raingardensforthebays.org> and <http://www.stormwaterpa.org/raingarden>. Pick the right spot on your property, create a design using your favorite plants, and start using rainwater to beautify your yard.



*This rain barrel was painted to provide a splash of color.*



## Earth Day Events on April 18<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>

Our 10<sup>th</sup> annual clean up event on April 18<sup>th</sup> brought over 80 volunteers. On Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, members of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society joined Charlestown Township, Valley Forge University, Main Line Unitarian Church, Kimberton Chiropractic, Kimberton Whole Foods, and local residents to plant 50 new trees in Charlestown Park. Thanks to all of you for your participation! Contact Chris Lawrence at [river\\_wind@mac.com](mailto:river_wind@mac.com) for more information or to adopt a tree!"





## Township Road Improvements Coming this Summer



The Township updates its five year road plan each fall during the budget process and selects 3-4 roads for the next round of improvements. This summer, the following roads are scheduled:

Buckwalter Road: Replacement of 4 crosspipes and paving on the north side

Howell Road from Rees Road to the Chatauqua intersection: base & shoulder repair, curb & inlet repair, resurfacing

Mary Hill Road: base & shoulder repair, curb & inlet repair, resurfacing

Pine Drive and Crestview Rd: base & shoulder repair, curb & inlet repair, resurfacing

## Trail News

- from Sue Staas

### Trail Walks

It really is spring! The ten folk who came to the wildflower walk on the Pickering saw wildflowers, although not as many as last year - it has been a late spring, Now is the time! Go for a walk on the Pickering Trail and look carefully on both sides of the trail. We have so many wonderful trails in Charlestown! Visit [www.charlestown.pa.us](http://www.charlestown.pa.us) and look at the Parks section in the left hand column, then click on Trail Map. Or come to the Township Office (over the Devault Post Office) for a printed copy. Please enjoy our trails and take care of them with us by picking up any trash you see and cleaning up after your dogs, which must be on a leash. Many trails cross private land that generous landowners have made available to us.

### **There are more walks to come!**

**Sunday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.** Bird Walk on the Pickering Trail. Meet at the Charlestown Woolen Mill

**Sunday, May 24, 8:00 a.m.** Nature Walk on the Thompson Trail. Meet at the Nature Center Parking lot

**Sunday, August 2, 1:00 PM** Butterfly Walk at Brightside Farm Park. Meet at the Gardens. (See article on p. 2)

### **Trail Work Days: Saturday, June 13, 9:00 to 12:00 and Saturday, July 11, 9:00 to 12:00**

Having such wonderful trails in our township requires some work. Luckily, we have some great volunteers - and we always need more.

We have two days scheduled for work at Brightside Farm Park and the Pickering Trail. We will do mostly invasive plant removal. There will be mile-a-minute vine removal, perhaps some woody vine removal and trimming. Wear long sleeves and pants, and heavy gloves, in case of stickers and poison ivy. Wear a hat and sunscreen. Bring loppers, clippers, and water. Someone will be at both locations from 9:00 to 12:00. You can get a lot done in a half hour, so come when you can. **This is a good activity for families, kids, and scouts!**

At Brightside: Park by the community gardens and enter on the trail between the house and the gardens.

At the Pickering Trail: Park at the Woolen Mill on Charlestown Road or across Charlestown Road on the shoulder. Follow the trail until you find one of us. We'll have plenty to do!

Check the township web site, <http://www.charlestown.pa.us/>, for future dates and time.



***Chester County Becomes  
First County in the Region  
to offer "Text to 911".***

With the introduction of this service you can now utilize text messaging to provide information to the 911 Center.

Here are a few pieces of information to keep in mind:

- Enter the number 911 in the "To" field
- The first text should be brief and contain the location and general nature of the emergency such as "Charlestown Rd and Hollow Rd 2 vehicle accident"
- Hit the send button
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 911 center
- Be as brief and concise as possible

Other things to keep in mind if using text to 911:

- Location information from your cell is not as accurate when texting as it is with voice calls
- Text messages may take longer to receive
- If text to 911 is unavailable you will receive a message advising to contact 911 by other means
- You cannot include multiple recipients when texting to 911

Most importantly please remember that voice calls are the preferred method to contact 911 and please don't text and drive!

**Call if you can, text if you can't!**

***Support your local Fire Companies  
- And have fun at the same time!***

Upcoming events at Kimberton Fire Department:

**May 9th** Fire Station Pancake Breakfast and Flower Sale

**June 17th** Rita's Water Ice Night Out with the FD

**July 20-25th** Annual Kimberton Fair

**August 15th** Run with 61 (5k run/1 mile walk) at Fire Station

*Need your pool filled?* Kimberton FD does that too!

*Interested in volunteering?* They're always looking for people to help in various capacities such as fund raising, donut making, fire police, office support, etc.

See [www.kimbertonfire.org](http://www.kimbertonfire.org) for details.

***Reminder on Burning Regulations  
- excerpt from Ordinance 100-2002***

Only leaves and waste papers may be burned on the premises of a single family dwelling between sunrise and sunset and must be constantly attended by a responsible person equipped to extinguish the fire if the need arises.

The Chester County Fire Board must be notified before the fire is lit and after it has been extinguished – the telephone numbers are 610-647-1440 or 610-436-4700. Please also call our Fire Marshal, Timothy Hubbard at 484-614-6119 prior to burning.

Please remember that any permitted fire may be extinguished by the Fire Company either with or without the consent of the landowner or person in charge if, in the opinion of the Fire Marshal, police officer, or fire officer that such fire constitutes a danger to persons or property or is deemed a nuisance fire.

### Historical Commission

The Township is committed to preserving its significant historic resources, and the Cornog-Suplee House on the former Volpi property is a prime example. After purchasing this 52 acre property in 2012, the supervisors have subdivided a 6.44 acre parcel containing the house, springhouse and ruins for future sale at auction. The sale will be conditioned upon the buyer’s agreement to restore this local landmark. Ten acres were purchased by the Turnpike Commission in 2014 along the northeast property line for stormwater management in connection with their 6-lane expansion project. The remainder of the property, approximately 35 acres, will be retained by the Township for future recreational use.

### Roads

Major road improvements continue in 2015 to ensure that all our township roads are kept in good condition. This year, our road contractor will be resurfacing Buckwalter Rd, Mary Hill Rd, Pine Drive, Crestview Rd. and Howell Rd. Property owners along these roads will receive notice in the mail letting you know when the work is scheduled.

### Thompson Trail Walk

Sunday, May 24, 8:00 am nature walk on the Thompson Trail. Meet at the Nature Center Parking lot. This will be a treasure hunt! Our first bird walk on this new and beautiful trail! Target birds include Field Sparrow, Willow and Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, Gray Catbird and Blackpoll Warbler.

### Join Us for a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Revolutionary War Cemetery

May 25<sup>th</sup> 11:00 – 12:00 noon at 2475 Charlestown Road across from the Charlestown Playhouse with parking available. Hosted by the Charlestown Historical Society

### Recycling

Protect your privacy and recycle at the same time by bringing your old documents to our next shredding event. This event is open to residents only; businesses will be turned away.

This event will be held Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the CCIU Technical College (*formerly CAT Pickering*) High School Campus from 8 am till noon or until the truck is full, so come early!

### Planning Commission

We welcome your participation at our regular meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Valley Middle School.

### Parks & Recreation Board

Planning is underway for improvements at Charlestown Park! This fall/winter, look forward to new pavilions, restrooms and play areas at this local gem. Grant funding will be sought to cover a significant portion of the cost of these improvements.

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

Our award winning website continues to be updated on a weekly basis with timely information. Most questions you have can be answered by visiting the site. We welcome your feedback and suggestions in an effort to continually improve this important resource.

If you’d like to be notified when items are posted to the Website, sign up by clicking on the link in the center of the homepage. Updates are typically emailed to participants once a week. We’d like to add you to our list!

### Brightside Farm Park

Plans are being finalized for an improved walking trail at the Brightside. We hope you’ll take advantage of the beautiful views of the farm and surrounding countryside when the trail is completed.

## ***Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> is Primary Election Day*** ***Make sure your voice is heard!***

Volunteers are needed to work the electronic voting machines and poll books at the tables. Volunteers are paid and typically work a half day, either morning 6:30am - 2:00 pm or evening shift 1:30pm - 8:00. Training is available through Chester County Voter Services. If interested, please contact Wendy Leland, Judge of Elections at [lelandwd@verizon.net](mailto:lelandwd@verizon.net) or 610-952-1973.

Charlestown voters will be selecting these candidates:

### ***Local***

2 candidates for Township Supervisor  
1 candidate for School Board  
1 candidate for Constable

### ***County***

1 judicial candidate for Chester County  
Court of Common Pleas

### ***State***

3 judicial candidates for the State Supreme Court  
1 judicial candidate for the PA Superior Court  
1 judicial candidate for the PA Commonwealth Court

- Charlestown residents vote at the Charlestown Elementary School, 2060 Charlestown Road.
- Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- The deadline to register to vote is April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Registration and absentee ballot forms are available at the Township Office and on line at: [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org)
- Most importantly, we need volunteers to work the polls!

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