

# Charlestown Township Newsletter

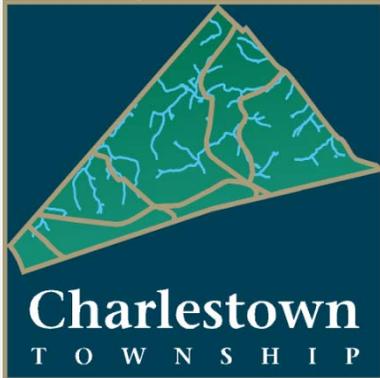
Summer 2016 Newsletter

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

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



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Frank A. Piliero, Chairman  
Charles A. Philips, Vice Chair  
Kevin R. Kuhn, Member  
Michael J. Rodgers, Member  
Hugh D. Willig, Member

## 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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

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

All meetings are open to the public.

Visit our Website at:

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

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CharlestownDay/>

## Open Space Update

by Charlie Philips

With over 35% of the Township preserved against future development through the purchase of easements or through the generosity of our landowners who have donated easements, Charlestown continues to be a leader in county-wide preservation efforts. This effort supported by our residents has meant that over 700 single family homes will not be built. The Great Valley School District benefits as that number of homes traditionally would add over 1,200 additional students to the district rolls.

In the past two years, the Township has procured two parcels totaling 58 acres along Hollow Road formerly owned by the Auchincloss family. The easement with the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust allows for one additional home to be constructed on the vacant lot and also provides a trail easement for the Horse-Shoe Trail.

In the Fall, the Township expects to begin the construction of a permanent one mile trail at Brightside Farm Park, which will allow for multiple uses and it will be handicapped accessible. Minimal parking will be provided. Residents in the western part of the Township will have easier access to an active open space use, and this will satisfy the Chester County requirement that the funds they granted for the purchase of the farm be used for community-wide activities.

Landowners who are considering placing easements on their properties can still enjoy significant tax advantages, and the Township continues to be interested in purchasing open space easements.



*One goal of our open space preservation program is to provide for off-road trails.*

*The permanent easement now in place on the Auchincloss property along Hollow Road will allow the Horse-Shoe Trail to be moved off the road and onto a safer path such as this one at the Great Valley Nature Center.*

# *Sign Up Now! Two Ways to Stay Informed*

## 1. Charlestown Township E-News Alerts

Stay informed about events with E-Notifications. The more residents that sign up, the more confident we can be that important messages are being received by our residents. Visit [www.charlestown.pa.us](http://www.charlestown.pa.us) and at the end of "Latest News" on the home page, click "Sign up for Email Updates" to begin receiving weekly updates plus cancellations and emergency information as needed. Don't wait, sign up today!

## 2. Chester County Emergency Notification System



It's free to sign up for **ReadyChesCo**, and you can choose the type of alerts that you want to receive.

## *Know What's Below – A Reminder to Call 811 Before you Dig*



In Pennsylvania homeowners and contractors are required to contact **PA One Call**, by dialing 8-1-1 at least three business days before beginning any digging or excavation project. When PA One Call receives a call, it will alert the appropriate underground facility owners of the intent to dig. The underground facility owners will identify any underground lines or facilities at the work site.

## *Mosquito Prevention Tips*



You can take steps to eliminate standing water from around your home, and the mosquito population will reduce dramatically. Here are some tips:

- Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clean and running properly.
- Check your property to see if trash and recycling containers or anything else stored outside is collecting and holding water.
- Remove standing water in ponds, ditches, flower pots & saucers, pool covers and puddles.
- Clean and rinse birdbaths at least weekly.

## *2016 Roadway Improvement Program*

Charlestown Township will be milling and resurfacing the following streets this summer:

- Aldham Road
- Bodine Road
- Mine Road
- Pickering Road
- Union Hill Rd

We strive to resurface our roadways every 25 years. Other factors include evaluation of each road's structural integrity, use classification and available budget for road resurfacing. Charlestown is responsible for 28 miles of roads, with the remainder being owned and maintained by PennDOT.

To report road concerns you may call our roadmaster, Jim Thompson at (610) 656-9315 or the Township Office at (610) 240-0326. For PennDOT Roads, their number is (484) 340-3201.



## ***SAVE THE DATE!*** ***SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 2016***

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 2016 on Saturday October 29th at the newly renovated Charlestown Park at 100 Academic Way Phoenixville!**

**Charlestown Day 2016** activities will be 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!



**Charlestown Day 2016 activities will benefit the non-profit Great Valley Community Organization**

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

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

1. **Sponsors** to support to the days' events and our beneficiary GVCO.
2. **Vendors** to show off their wares.
3. **Volunteers** to help with Charlestown Day 2016 events

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

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the **Charlestown Day 2016** committee.

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

**Sponsorship:** **Chris Johnson**  
[cccal521@verizon.net](mailto:cccal521@verizon.net)

### **Open Space Easement**

The Board of Supervisors placed an easement on the 58 acre Auchincloss property with the French and Pickering Creeks Trust at its July meeting. The property is located on Hollow Road and will host a portion of the Horse-Shoe Trail and link to the Brightside Farm Trail. A farmhouse exists on the first of two 29-acre parcels, and is presently leased under a private rental agreement. The second of the two parcels is vacant and under the easement will be permitted to have one single family home constructed after the Township puts the property up for sale.

### **September Board of Supervisors Meeting**

The meeting will be held a day later than usual due to the Labor Day holiday. The meeting is scheduled for Tues. Sept. 6 at the Great Valley Middle School.

### **Devault Basin Landscaping**

The Township will undertake the second phase of landscaping improvements to PennDOT storm water basins along Route 29 in Devault. Following tree plantings last year, this next phase includes the establishment of meadow plants.

### **Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 67**

Special appreciation was extended to Troop 67 in June for the many park, trail and open space projects the scouts have undertaken in recent years.

This year members of the Troop cleared a four foot diameter tree from the portion of the Pickering Creek Trail near the Ice Dam that had been previously blazed by Eagle Scout Jack Kesti. By re-routing the trail around the remaining stump, hundreds of dollars were saved from the Township budget that will now be available for other improvements.

Special thanks go to the following scouts and leaders Asst. Scoutmaster Eric Aho and scouts Nick Warner, Nick Stillwell, Evan Aho, Jack Kratzipger and Danny Bismark.

### **Route 29 Closure in Schuylkill Township**

The Phoenixville Area School District has closed Route 29 (State Road) between Pothouse Road and Campbell Lane through August 30th for road widening and stormwater installation, PennDOT announced.

During construction, Route 29 through-traffic will be detoured over Pothouse Road, Whitehorse Road, and Route 23 (Valley Forge Road). Local traffic will be maintained up to the construction zone.

### **Brightside Farm Park**

Reminders were sent to those with a community garden plot to send in your \$25.00 annual fee to the Township Office.

This summer we welcomed the newly formed student team, which is part of the Great Valley Composite Mountain Bike Team to the Farm for their practices from July through November.

For the general public: remember that the grass trail is open to everyone. Be sure to stop by and enjoy this scenic area of our township.

### **Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission is working on a proposed ordinance for Alternative Energy.

Parking plans for a new P.J. Whelihan's Pub & Restaurant are under review. The new P.J.'s will be located next to the Marriott on General Warren Boulevard.

### **Warner Lane Signal**

The Township requested a signal plan change from PennDOT that will allow us to remove the redundant signal on Warner Lane approaching the out-of-service rail line as you drive toward the intersection with Phoenixville Pike.

The request was approved and we're now waiting for updated plans. Look for the removal of the signal to take place this fall and a subsequent improvement in traffic flow.

# *Charlestown Park Pavilions and Playgrounds To Open This Fall*

We're pleased to announce that the long wait will be over this fall for our residents who are ready to enjoy the improvements at Charlestown Park, located at Coldstream and Township Line Road with the address of 100 Academic Way, Phoenixville, PA.

There had been a lengthy and frustrating delay in the project. The originally hired general trade contractor was unable to complete it in accordance with the contract documents and was terminated by the Township. Therefore, the Township followed state law to work with the contractor's surety.

After following the required procedures, we're now finalizing a Takeover Agreement with the Surety. The Surety will act as the general contractor responsible for completion of the job. Bob Dettore of J.D. Bravo Company has been retained as our construction consultant, and work is expected to resume within the next few weeks. We remain confident that we'll achieve an excellent result within budget, and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

The two new playground areas will accommodate both younger and older children, and there are plenty of swings, which was the most frequently requested item from our planning & recreation survey sent out to residents last year.

Six new pavilions of varying sizes will be available for reservation up to Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. The small and medium pavilions accommodate 18 and 42 persons respectively, and each has a charcoal grill. The large pavilion seats 78 people and has two grills. All pavilions have 120V AC convenience outlets. The new seating includes at least one ADA compliant picnic bench.

While there is a charge to reserve the pavilions, they may be used without a reservation on a first come first served basis whenever they are free. Non-profit organizations are exempt from the fee if they provide us with proof of their 501-C status when submitting a reservation form.

Other improvements include a flagpole, entry signage, landscaping and a parking lot just off Township Line Road. The restroom building will be completed later this fall or early spring. In the meantime, portable facilities will be available.

The form for making a pavilion reservation is located on our website under Permits & Forms, "Park Permits/Charlestown Park Pavilion Reservation Form" and can also be obtained at the Township Office.

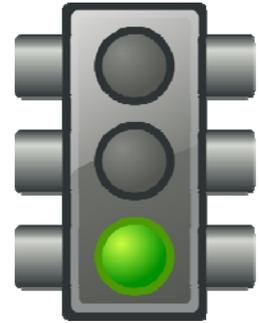
*At right: a view of one of the smaller pavilions adjacent to playground equipment.*



*This fall 6 pavilions and 2 play areas will be ready for Charlestown Day on October 29<sup>th</sup>.*

## ***Why the Signal Won't Turn Green – “Stop” Bars Explained***

We frequently receive invoices from our signal contractor after a driver has called 9-1-1 to report a malfunctioning traffic light. Sometimes this is the case, and a repair or adjustment is necessary. But about half the time, there's nothing wrong with the signal! This happens most frequently at the signal on Whitehorse Road turning left onto Route 29 (Morehall Road).



The large white lines painted horizontally across the road are called “stop” bars. They advise motorists where to stop as they approach an intersection controlled by a traffic signal. This road marking designates the proper location for vehicles to stop at an intersection so that vehicles turning from another direction have enough room to make the turn, especially trucks and buses.

If a vehicle stops too far back or forward of the stop bar at an intersection, the sensors will not recognize that a vehicle is waiting and the signal will not change from red to green.

*Below: Red Admiral Butterfly*



***Butterfly Walk at Brightside Farm Park:  
Sunday, August 14, 1:00 pm  
3108 Yellow Springs Road, Malvern***

Hope you can join us for a day at the farm. There are fields and meadows to explore and community gardens with flowers the butterflies think were planted just for them. We will meet near the community gardens.

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