

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Spring 2017 Newsletter

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



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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.

Parks & Recreation

3rd 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

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

SAVE THE DATE – CHARLESTOWN DAY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 AT CHARLESTOWN PARK

The Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation announces Charlestown Day 2017 will be held on Saturday September 16, 2017 from 10:00am – 2:00pm at 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.

At left:

From the 2016 Event:

Scout Troop 67 raises the flag for the grand re-opening of the Park.

Charlestown Day 2017 activities will include vendors displaying their goods, local non-profit organizations, music, food and kid's activities.

The Park has 6 pavilions with charcoal grills and electric service located adjacent to the playgrounds, basketball courts and restrooms. The paved walking trail is always popular. Haven't visited yet? Make a point to stop and see for yourself.



Route 29 Sinkhole Remediation Project To Begin Summer 2017

Background

The project is in East Whiteland Township between Yellow Springs Road and the PA Turnpike Slip ramp and is necessary for PennDOT to solve the recurring sinkhole problem in a 400 foot length area of Morehall Road (Route 29).

Brief Description of Project

The contractor will remove the existing pavement, excavate the subsoil to bedrock and replace it with stone and other geotechnical treatments. Existing pipes and inlets will be replaced or sealed. Some utilities will be relocated as needed. Curbing will be added to the southbound shoulder to control runoff. No widening will take place: the road will be replaced in kind. This project is entirely funded by state money.

Bidding & Contract

The bids will be opened on May 18, 2017. This project will take place primarily in two parts:

Summer 2017:

Pre-phase to begin in June as soon as school recesses for the summer. Two lanes will be open in each direction. PECO will be relocating a gas line and will finish in the fall. There will be an approximately 8 month hiatus over the winter before Stage I begins.

During the hiatus, the road will be restored to its original condition.

Summer 2018:

Stage I: This will be the most difficult stage for traffic. Starting in June 2018 after school recesses, the road will be reduced to one lane in each direction for a period of 3-5 weeks.

Stage 2: Beginning mid-July 2018, there will be two lanes open northbound, and one lane open southbound until mid-August 2018.

All lanes are to be open when school starts in late August/September 2018.

Final completion will take place in Fall 2018.

Severe penalties are built into the contract if the work is delayed.

Traffic Planning & Design (TPD) and PennDOT will work together on signal timing changes to accommodate the lane restrictions. Since the road remains open, there will be no official detour.

Communications

Traffic Planning & Design: will be reaching out to all local businesses prior to work beginning this June. Businesses will be encouraged to allow flex time for their employees when possible.

PennDOT: Will post message boards with information 10-14 days prior to work beginning this June.

East Whiteland Township: Will make off duty police available to assist on site during heavy traffic times and to assist emergency vehicles in getting through the area.

East Whiteland and Charlestown Townships: Will post information on their websites, newsletters and in e-mail blasts.

Project overview, staging detail, and traffic control plans are available to review at the Charlestown Township Office.

2017 Roadway Improvement Program

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

Benburb Road	Bodine Road
Devault Lane	Peaks Pike
Spring Mill Lane	Yellow Springs Rd

The project begins with milling on these roads. The second step will be base repairs followed resurfacing.

Single lane traffic if possible will be maintained through the work area. Property owners along each road will receive a notice in the mail with the work schedule. This schedule is contingent upon weather and any unforeseen problems.

If you see something of concern while work is being performed, please call the Roadmaster, Jim Thompson or the office. If there's something they can do to address the situation, it's much more cost effective for them to take care of it while they're there instead of calling them back in a week or two. The Roadmaster's cell number is 610-656-9315, and the Township Office number is 610-240-0326.

Pavilions Prove Popular at Charlestown Park

Planning a picnic this summer? Be sure to make a reservation for one of the 6 pavilions at Charlestown Park well in advance of the event. By April 15th, over 40 reservations have already been made for birthday and graduation parties, family picnics and even a wedding.



There are 3 different sizes of pavilions, with the capacity to host 18, 45 or 78 people. They are available to you on a first come, first served basis, and they can also be reserved for a special occasion by completing our reservation form on the Township Website at:

http://www.charlestown.pa.us/permits/CP_pavilion_reservation_form.pdf

Barn Fire Safety Tips:



With the many barns in the township it is important that barn owners ensure safety is a top priority. Barn fires can be very fast spreading and devastating.

- Ensure heat lamps and space heaters are a safe distance from anything that can burn
 - Make sure electrical equipment is labeled for commercial use
 - Check wiring regularly for damage
 - Avoid use of extension cords whenever possible
 - Lightbulbs should be contained within a safety cover in the event they break
 - Store oily rags in a sealed airtight metal container
 - When possible store hay and straw away from the main barn
 - Maintain a smoke free zone in and around the barn
- Mark exits clearly
 - Train workers to use fire extinguishers
 - Make a habit of completing hazard and safety checks
 - Ensure your barn has sufficient ABC type fire extinguishers, ideally every 50 feet and next to exits. Install smoke and CO detectors. If possible hook them up to your wifi network to alert you even if you aren't in the barn.

Still have questions....contact the Township Fire Marshal, Tim Hubbard at 484-614-6119

Join us on the Trails

Have you wanted to try out some of Charlestown's trails but wasn't sure how to get started? Join us to check out two of our special trails:



Trail Walk

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am, McDevitt Trail

Meet at the Longwood School, Valley Hill and Bodine Roads. We may identify a few plants along the way, but this will just be a walk in the woods. Bring the kids along. The trail is blazed, and a good place for them to learn to follow a trail. We will let them lead us. This is a short trail, so we expect to finish before noon.

Butterfly Walk

Saturday, September 9, 10:00, Brightside Farm

Meet by the gardens at Brightside Farm (3108 Yellow Springs Road, Malvern). We'll see what butterflies we can find in the fields and try to identify them. We'll also talk about what their caterpillars feast on and how we can encourage them to live in our yards. Then we'll check out the butterflies in the gardens, where we may also see some interesting birds stealing seeds and eating berries.



12th Annual Earth Day Event

Township residents once again came out in force to offer their time April 22nd for our twelfth annual earth day activities. Despite the damp and dreary weather, over 90 people took part in various projects.

Each year, Charlestown registers for the Great American Cleanup campaign for this spring event. This makes us eligible for free supplies from PennDOT, including gloves, trash bags and safety vests. These supplies are available year-round at the township office for any group that wants to participate in a separate clean-up project. The Township reimburses groups up to \$50.00 for refreshments if they contact the Manager to make arrangements.

Many of the Volunteers walked along many of our roadways to pick up litter. Bags of trash were collected, along with discarded furniture, appliances, tires and construction materials. Some groups and individuals who weren't available on April 22nd worked independently toward these efforts on other days.

At right: The Great Valley Mountain Bike Club, led by Great Valley Middle School teacher Chad Sindaco, practices at a course provided at the Brightside Farm. This group volunteered for Earth Day and collected 7 bags of trash along the trail at the Great Valley Nature Center.

Photo by C. Sindaco

Our volunteers covered about 10 miles of roadways, plus large areas of the Pickering Preserve, Charlestown Park and woods adjacent to the Nature Center.



Dog Licensing

The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement will be conducting a license canvass in Chester County on May 17th. Multiple wardens will be going door to door educating dog owners as well as checking the status of their dog licenses and rabies vaccinations.

License Your Dog in PA

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation, plus court costs.

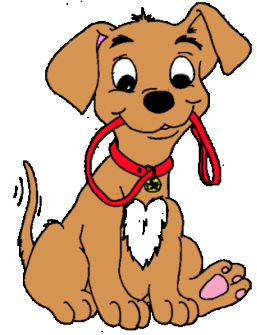
An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities.

The small license fee helps protect the millions of dogs in the state by funding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.

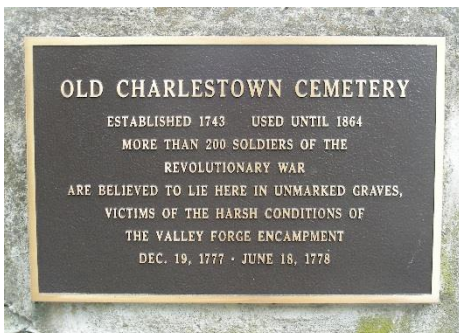
Dog licenses are available from your local county treasurer and other licensing agents.

Reasons for dog licensing:

- **It's the law.** All dogs three months and older must have a current license.
- **If your dog gets lost, a license is the best way to get him back.** A license helps animal control and shelters identify your dog and get him back home safely.
- **The cost of a license is less than the penalty for being caught without one.** Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.
- **License fees support animal control.** The annual fee you pay to license your dog helps keep shelters running and supports the work of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, which is responsible for ensuring the welfare of dogs, regulating dangerous dogs and overseeing annual licensing and rabies vaccinations.



Memorial Day Commemorative Service Charlestown Revolutionary Cemetery



The Charlestown Historical Society will have a ceremony on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Charlestown Revolutionary Cemetery. The ceremony will honor over 250 soldiers buried there and all the men and women who have served our country in the military. All are invited to attend to honor these brave people.

The cemetery is located at 2475 Charlestown Road opposite the Charlestown Playhouse. People are welcome to park in the Playhouse parking lots.

Reducing Office Paper Waste for Homes and Businesses

- from *Rethink Recycling*

While recycling office paper is a good idea, the most cost-effective waste management strategy is reduction. Attacking paper waste can reduce operating costs and result in savings in waste collection, transportation and processing. In addition to reducing whenever possible, keep valuable resources in use by purchasing paper with the highest percentage of recycled-content material for printing, copying, faxing and general office use.



Here are some Waste Reduction Tips:

- Print and copy on both sides.
- Use e-mail to exchange documents and memos instead of printing or faxing.
- Adjust fonts, margins and spacing to fit more text on a standard sheet.
- When copying, reduce size to fit two pages of a report, book or periodical on one standard sheet.
- Reuse paper printed on one side for internal memos, "draft" documents or scratch pads.
- Use electronic data storage instead of hard copy files.
- Eliminate mail list duplications from databases.
- Use recycled-content, chlorine-free paper products, and use soy or other agri-based inks for printing projects.
- Reduce unwanted mail by opting out of receiving paper documents in favor of electronic ones.

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