



CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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

Published by the Board of Supervisors:

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

Winter 2016

SAVE THE DATE – CHARLESTOWN DAY 2016 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 AT CHARLESTOWN PARK

The Charlestown Township Parks and Recreation announces Charlestown Day 2016 will be held on Saturday September 24, 2016 from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the newly renovated 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.

Charlestown Day 2016 activities will include vendors displaying their goods, local non-profit organizations, music, food and kid's activities.



Please follow us on our newly renovated Facebook page: [www. Facebook.com/CharlestownParksandRecreation](http://www.Facebook.com/CharlestownParksandRecreation)

Updates will also be on the Township website at Charlestown.pa.us. and charlestownday.org.

Tax Information for 2016

Real Estate Taxes: The millage rate for real estate taxes is .75 (3/4) mills, unchanged for **THIRTEEN YEARS.**

Your real estate taxes for 2016 will be collected by the Chester County Treasurer Department.

Tax bills are mailed the week of February 1st to the property owner's address of record. For questions, call the County Treasurer's office at 610-344-6370 or email them at TreasurerDept@chesco.org.

Important Note! If your address is incorrect, you are the only one authorized to correct it by sending a letter to: Chester County Assessment Office, P.O. Box 2748, West Chester, PA 19380-0991

Earned Income Tax and Local Services Tax: Both collected by the Keystone Collections Group.

Charlestown Township's Earned Income Tax is 1% for residents. The rate for non-residents is ½%.

The Local Services Tax is \$52.00 per year, deducted by your Charlestown Township employer. Persons earning under \$12,000 per year are exempt from this tax.

Employers throughout Chester County are required to withhold all earned income and local services taxes quarterly. Forms and instructions, including e-filing, can be found at www.keystonecollects.com.

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, call Keystone's **Taxpayer Helpline** at 1-888-328-0565. You can also email your questions to "Taxpayer Support" at www.KeystoneCollects.com.

Earned Income Tax Return Due April 18

It's that time of year again. The 2015 local earned income tax return filing deadline is approaching. The due date is extended to Monday April 18 this year because Washington DC is commemorating Emancipation Day on Friday April 15.

Did you know the quickest way to get your refund is to file online? If you live and work in Pennsylvania, you can [e-file](#) on our tax administrator's secure website, which is available 24/7 at www.KeystoneCollects.com.

Keystone Collections Group's [e-file](#) is the easy, fast and secure way to file your 2015 tax return. It lets you file your tax return when it is most convenient for you. You will need your W-2, your Social Security Number and any other income documents that may apply (such as a PA-UE or a Schedule C).

Keystone redesigned [e-file](#) to make it even faster and more user-friendly.

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, visit Keystone's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or call Keystone's **Taxpayer Helpline** at 1-888-328-0565 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent. You can also email your questions 24/7 to [Taxpayer Support](#). Taxpayer Service Agents try to respond to all online inquiries within three business days.

Taxpayers with earned income in 2015 are required to file a Final Tax Return by Monday, April 18.

2015 Annual Report

The Supervisors have published its 2nd Annual Report outlining the accomplishments of the various boards, commissions, committees and personnel for the previous year along with various details and statistics about Charlestown.

The report is a summary of the municipal activity occurring in the Township during 2015. Its purpose is to highlight Township accomplishments and noteworthy events during the past year. The full 27 page report is available to you on the Township Website, www.charlestown.pa.us or upon request to the Township Office.

2016 Tentative Chester County Household Hazardous Waste Events

Charlestown Township is a 2016 Participant in the Chester County Hazardous Household Waste Event Program. Bring unwanted hazardous household, automotive products, home maintenance, lawn and pest control products to the next Collection event. There are six events as listed below, all from 9 am – 3 pm.

Saturday, April 16, 2016
**Technical College High School
 (formerly CAT Pickering)**
 1580 Charlestown Road
 Phoenixville, PA 19460

Friday, June 24, 2016
Coatesville Learning Center
 1425 East Lincoln Highway
 Coatesville, PA 19320
(Stone Wall Entrance – Veterans' Drive - same entrance as CAT Brandywine- Rt. 30 across from Dairy Queen)

Saturday, April 30, 2016
Octorara High School
 226 Highland Road
 Atglen, PA 19310
(Proof of County Residency May be Required)

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016
Oxford School District Admin. Building
 125 Bell Tower Lane
 Oxford, PA 19363
(Proof of County Residency May be Required)

Saturday, May 21, 2016
Owen J. Roberts Middle School
 881 Ridge Road
 Pottstown, PA 19465

Saturday, October 8, 2016
Government Services Center
 601 Westtown Rd
 West Chester, PA 19380

For more information , go to: www.chestercountyswa.org/Document Center/View/1475

Snow Reminders

The first objective is to have the roadways open for emergency vehicles. This is basically one lane with anti-skid and road salt applied only to areas that require extra traction such as hills and major intersections. The other roads are then opened. After the snow has ended, the cleanup begins, that is, trying to get the roadways opened "curb-to-curb" and clearing snow and ice from the intersections, fire hydrants, storm water drains and inlets. We ask for your continued patience and understanding during these snow events.

When a plow operator is pushing back the snow and slush from a roadway, the plow must be run at a speed that throws the snow and slush off the road and over what has previously been plowed. This precludes the plow operator from stopping at each driveway and mailbox. If a plow is lifted at a driveway or mailbox, all of the snow and ice in the plow would be dropped on the road causing additional problems.

Which Roads in Charlestown are State Roads?

For Snow Removal and other Maintenance Issues on State Roads listed below, call PennDOT at 484-340-3200.

Bodine Road Charlestown Road Church Road Coldstream Road Conestoga Rd (Rt. 401) Foster Road	Hollow Road Merlin Road Morehall Rd (Rt. 29) Newcomen Road Phoenixville Pike Pickering Dam Road	Pikeland Road Seven Oaks Road State Road (Rt. 29) Valley Hill Rd (East of Rt. 401) Whitehorse Road	Yellow Springs Road (north of Hollow Rd) Yellow Springs Rd (east of Morehall/Rt. 29)
--	--	--	--

Charlestown Township Directory 2016

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Meetings: 1st Monday of each Month, 7:00 P.M., at the Great Valley Middle School

Frank A. Piliero, Chairman	fpiliero@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 458-1090
Charles A. Philips, Vice Chairman	Cphilips@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 933-4154
Kevin R. Kuhn, Member	kkuhn@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 917-9960
Michael J. Rodgers, Member	mrodgers@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 827-7817
Hugh D. Willig, Member	hwillig@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 935-3539

ADMINISTRATION:

Linda M. Csete, Manager/Secretary-Treasurer	manager@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 240-0326
Jan C. Bird, Assistant Township Secretary	admin2@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 240-0326
Lisa Gardner, Recording Secretary		(610) 240-0326

BUILDING INSPECTOR/BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL

Anthony Merklinger	amerklinger@conerstoneis.comcast.biz.net	(610) 451-5200
--------------------	--	----------------

PROPERTY & PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATOR (Including Fire Marshal, Emergency Management, Parks & Property Coordinator):

Timothy J. Hubbard	thubbard@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 614-6119
--------------------	--	----------------

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Roadmaster/Project Manager : Jim Thompson	publicworks@charlestown.pa.us	(610) 656-9315
---	--	----------------

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER/ZONING OFFICER

Daniel T. Wright, P.E.	dwright@advancedgeoservices.com	(610) 840-9100
------------------------	--	----------------

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

Pennsylvania State Police (610) 486-6280

PennDOT Maintenance for State Roads (484) 340-3200 or (800) FIX ROAD

SPCA (610) 692-6113

Taxes:

For Township & County Real Estate Taxes: Chester County Treasurer (610) 344-6370

For Great Valley School District Real Estate Taxes (610) 889-2125

For Earned Income & Local Services Taxes: Keystone Collections (866) 539-1100

Dead Deer:

Along State Roads: Call PennDOT at (610) 340-3201

Along Township Roads: Call the PA Game Commission at (610) 926-1966

Charlestown's Trail Network

- by Sue Staas

I wonder how many townships in Chester County can boast of as many opportunities to hike, walk, run, horseback ride as Charlestown? In addition to tracks at the high school and opportunities to walk at the elementary school, we can count on the Horse Shoe Trail, 6 township trails, and the trail at the Great Valley Nature Center. Not only can we find maps of each of these trails - with information on where to park, etc., on our Township Website (www.charlestown.pa.us - go to Parks and Open Space), the Horse Shoe Trail website (www.hstrail.org) or the Nature Center Website (www.gvnc.org); but you can download a free mobile phone app, [myZyp](#) and find information about our trails (tag will be & plus trail name, such as &BrightsideTrail, &CharlestownTrail, or &McDevittTrail, etc.)

As you explore these trails, take a picture and send it to us (suestaas@verizon.net and Linda Csete, admin1@charlestown.pa.us). We'll use them to illustrate our future newsletters, or if you photograph a problem, it will help us with maintenance. Or, as in this newsletter, we will use the pictures to illustrate the damage that occasionally occurs on our trails - and to urge all of our residents to **TAKE CARE** of our beautiful township.

Unfortunately this fall saw two incidents of careless damage to our trails. On the Pickering Creek Trail, we found graffiti on the bridge abutments, the trees and some of the rocks along the trail. Thanks to hard work by three of our Trail Volunteers (Tom Kerrigan, Phil Staas, and Sue Staas), we were able to remove most of the graffiti, although the graffiti on the bridge abutments will have to be painted over in the spring.

In addition, the fields along the Thompson Trail

were overrun by a group of ATVs. As much fun as these vehicles are, they seriously damage the trails and the fields; and are banned from the Township Trails. A brief Google search will turn up many places nearby to legally ride ATVs and motorized trail bikes.

It is important for us to remember that most of the trails in our township are on private land whose owners generously permit us to walk, horseback ride, and run on these trails. Please make taking care of our trails a part of your conversation with your family as you are walking or riding on the trails.

Even better, please extend your care for our trails to our roads. Every year, our spring clean-up, conducted by volunteers from the township, pick up truckloads of trash! Please do not throw anything from your car, and as you walk along our roads, pick up the trash.

Please **TAKE CARE** of Charlestown!



*Graffiti on a tree along the Pickering Trail:
This paint will kill the tree without treatment*

Wildflower Walk on the Pickering Trail ***Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.***

- by Esther Underhill



We'll look for early woodland wildflowers as we walk this creek side trail. These flowers come up early, bloom and set seed, then die back to wait for another spring. You may be familiar with some, like spring beauties and bloodroot, which are common along roadsides or in your yard. We hope to also find a few that you haven't seen recently. Bring your wildflower guide if you have one and help us identify them.

We'll meet at the Charlestown Woolen Mill on the West side of Charlestown Road, where the road crosses Pickering Creek. For more info contact Esther Underhill, underwalt@aol.com, 610-827-7776. (cell for day of walk: 484-716-9036)

Community Gardening at Brightside Farm Park

- by Charles Buck

The Brightside Farm Community Garden is looking for interested regional gardeners who are able and willing to make a full season commitment to managing a plot.

There is a short waiting list for the 2016 season, but the Garden operates on a rolling enrollment basis should plots become available.

Please contact Charles Buck, Garden Coordinator, via e-mail at garden@charlestown.org for more information.



At right: the Community Gardens at Brightside

Winter - an Ideal Time for Radon Testing

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is tasteless, odorless and colorless. It is prevalent in this part of the country, and is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. There is no known safe radon level. Radon gas enters your home through openings in the foundation floor or walls, wherever the foundation is in contact with soil.

The only way you can know whether your home has elevated radon levels is to test for it. Winter is an ideal time to test when windows and doors are kept closed. Area home improvement and hardware stores carry inexpensive, easy to use testing kits. If a high radon level is detected, you can then take steps to correct the problem and protect your loved ones. For more information, the Environmental Protection Agency has a Citizen's Guide you can view or download:

<http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-05/documents/citizensguide.pdf>

Radon Levels are high in Chester County. The average national indoor radon level is 1.3 pCi/L (picocuries). The average indoor levels of Chester County is 7.2 pCi/L. Mitigation is recommended for levels above 4.0 pCi/L. [source: Bureau of Radiation Protection, Harrisburg PA]

New Meeting Time!

The Board of Supervisors have changed their meeting start time for 2016 to 7:00 p.m. Meetings are scheduled for the 1st Monday of the month at the Great Valley Middle School. If Monday is a holiday, the meeting is held the following day.

Save the Date – Charlestown Day 2016

This year’s Charlestown Community Day is scheduled for September 24th. This year’s event will be better than ever with the brand new pavilions, play areas, parking and restrooms all completed.

Yellow Springs Road Bridge

The PA Turnpike’s bridge replacement project will soon be underway, with the bridge and road closing scheduled to begin on February 22nd. Work is expected to last 8-10 months with completion by the end of November.

Website - www.charlestown.pa.us

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 currently have over 200 people signed up and would like to add you to our list!

Roads

We welcome your help with road safety concerns. Please contact us if you see a hazardous road condition, particularly during winter weather events. Call the Roadmaster, Jim Thompson, at (610) 656-9315, the Township Office (610-240-0326) or email admin2@charlestown.pa.us to report any problems. For State Roads, call PennDOT’s hotline at 1-800-FIX-ROAD

Parks & Recreation Board

Are you interested in getting involved? We have two vacancies on the Parks & Recreation Board.

Formal education in the field is not necessary, but some demonstrated experience or involvement in parks and recreation projects or planning is highly desirable.

Charlestown Park

The improvements are over 50% completed! We anticipate having the new pavilions, playgrounds and restrooms open by Memorial Day.

Two Recycling Events –May 7 & June 18

Charlestown is teaming with neighboring townships to host two events this Spring: A free shredding event on May 7th from 8 am – noon at CCIU Technical College High School (formerly CAT Pickering) and a new electronics recycling event on June 18th through a firm called EForce from 9 am to 1 pm at the Phoenixville Area Middle/High School. There will be a \$20 charge for each CRT TV or computer monitor. See our insert in this newsletter.

Ready Chesco

Sign up for the County Emergency Notification System – it’s free and you choose the type of notifications you want. Go to: www.readychesco.org/

Communications Award

For outstanding efforts and achievement in citizen communication, Charlestown Township was presented the Second Place Award in the Special Reports Category by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) in January 2016 for the 2014 Annual Report.

New Zoning Hearing Board Member

The Zoning Hearing Board welcomed Jean Bomm to the board as Alternate member.

Charlestown Township Meeting Schedule

Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. Call the Township Office if you'd like to confirm a particular meeting at (610) 240-0326. Any changes are advertised in the Daily Local News.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Board of Supervisors Great Valley Middle School, Room 154 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA, 7:00 p.m.	4	1	7	4	2	6	5	1	6	3	7	5
Planning Commission Great Valley Middle School, Room 154 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA, 7:30 p.m.	12	9	8	12	10	14	12	9	13	11	8	13
Historical Commission Great Valley Middle School Guidance Office 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA, 4:00 p.m.	19		15		17		19		20		15	
Parks & Recreation Board Great Valley Middle School, Room 154 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA, 7:30 p.m.	21	18	17	14	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	15

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