

FALL/WINTER 2025

# CHESTER HEIGHTS

## BOROUGH BULLETIN

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# Letter from the Mayor

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*Hello Chester Heights!*

EIGHTY years ago, a group of Aston residents banded together, found an attorney, signed a petition and asked the state for the opportunity to create a new municipality. This was not at all common. Why did this happen? The biggest impetus was Aston's high taxes and the western residents feeling like they did not benefit from the monies collected. Being mostly large tracts of land, our residents paid more money in taxes but felt they received less from Aston than what they should. They also preferred to have less governmental interference in their day-to-day lives than they were getting. The state granted the petition, and Chester Heights Borough was born! Since our founding, we still have (I think) the .lowest property taxes in the County and have traditionally stayed out of your way when it comes to governing you; sticking to our roots. Happy 80th Anniversary, Chester Heights! I am very honored to be your Mayor and only the second female one at that.

Did any of you see the article recently published that our Borough is the 9th fastest growing municipality in the state? According to a quick AI search; As of 2024 estimates our population is about 3,087 up from 2,897 in the 2020 census which was a 14.5% increase from 2010 when our population was 2,531. Around our founding as a borough, we had 474 residents! Most of those highly taxed large tracts of land are now filled with homes and happy families. We hope (by the time this is published, it will be in the past) many of you came out to celebrate this milestone and enjoyed time with your neighbors for our Community Day.

In this issue, you will find helpful articles about fire safety, information regarding a park plan, and an update on the Comprehensive Plan; a document that we need your input to create because it will help guide governmental decisions regarding the borough's feel, flavor, and future.

It's also an election year, so we hope to see you out and about and at the polls!

Happy Anniversary to all of us in Chester Heights!



*Fondly,  
Mayor Gina Ellis*

Chester Heights has approximately 3000 residents, according to the 2020 census, and each one is unique. While we can't introduce you to all of them, we would like to highlight a few remarkable community members who contribute to making our borough such a special place to live.

**Our special highlighted residents are veterans Jim Ribbe, Bill Tyas, and John Ferraro, as well as Yoga Studio Owner Cheryl Spera, and longtime business owner George H. Wilson, Jr., who is remembered.**



## Honoring Our Veterans

As Chester Heights celebrates its 80th anniversary, we pause to honor all veterans whose service and sacrifice have shaped both our nation and our Borough. Their stories span generations — from World War II through the Korean War era — and remind us that the spirit of service has always been part of our community's foundation.

In this issue, we are proud to share the stories of three remarkable men: Jim Ribbe, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1952–1962 (story below); and on the next page, Bill Tyas, drafted into the U.S. Army in 1945, and John Ferraro, who enlisted in the Navy as a teenager and served in the Pacific during the final year of World War II. Together, their journeys show how military service has strengthened our Borough since its founding in 1945.

### ***A Veteran's Story: Jim Ribbe***



#### ***Celebrating 80 Years of Our Borough Through the Eyes of Those Who Served***

In 1952, Jim Ribbe made a life-changing decision; he enlisted in the United States Navy. Over the next ten years, his service would take him across the globe and place him at the heart of history in the making.

James served in the Navy from 1952 to 1962, first committing to four years, then reenlisting for six more. During his decade of service, he was stationed on several different aircraft carriers and also took part in various shore duties.

His first assignment came directly after boot camp, placing him on an aircraft carrier near Korea during the Korean War. "We would launch aircraft that could fly over 200 miles to reach Korea," he recalls. "One night, we were out in the water with nothing around us; just darkness. But when dawn broke, the entire ocean was white. All we could see were ships. We were surrounded: aircraft carriers, submarines, destroyers, cruisers. It was an incredible sight."

Among the highlights of his service, Jim served aboard the USS Intrepid; now a museum ship docked in New York City. He also led a team to test a new catapult system designed to improve the launching of aircraft and contributed to the installation of parts for the USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine.

After his honorable discharge in 1962, Jim transitioned into civilian life by joining an engineering crew for a major company. But his passion didn't stop at engineering — he was also a talented bowler. So talented, in fact, that he became a semi-professional and earned a place in the National Bowling Hall of Fame. He was awarded a ring for achieving an 800 series and a watch for scoring many 300 games.

Today, Jim Ribbe is a proud resident of a local senior living community here in the borough. His story is one of service, innovation, and spirit; a reflection of the strength and character that has helped shape our borough over the past 80 years.

### **VFW Post 6613**

## **Bonaventure-Clark-Murphy, Lenni, PA**

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# **HONOR, DUTY, AND ABOVE ALL FREEDOM.**

**Thursday Night Bingo**  
*open Thursday thru Sunday*

**New Members Welcome**



## Honoring Our 1945 Veterans

1945 was a pivotal year worldwide! It marked the end of World War II, the defeat and occupation of Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan. It is also the year the Nazi concentration camps were liberated.

Eighty years ago, 1945 was a turning point for both the world and Chester Heights. While our Borough was officially incorporated that year, young men and women from our community were serving with courage as World War II drew to a close. In the profiles that follow, we honor Bill Tyas and John Ferraro — two residents whose service in 1945 helped define a generation and the community they came home to build. These neighbors remember those times and share a bit of their history with us.

### *John Ferraro - During the Final Year of World War II*



*Carlo on the left and John on the right*

#### **Meet John Ferraro, age 99**

At just 18 years old in 1944, John proudly enlisted in the U.S. Navy while working at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. His supervisor at the Navy Yard was a man named Carlo. Who would have ever thought that, by coincidence, the two young men from Philadelphia would meet again during the war at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa in 1945, where they took a picture together.

After Japan's surrender, John's ship, the SS Xavier Victory, was sent to the South China Sea as part of the mission to establish a U.S. presence in the region. Kadena Air Base was a strategically important U.S. military installation in the Asia-Pacific area, playing a critical role in regional security and defense. Several months after the war, the ship returned home to Norfolk. There were no special celebrations since festivities had already concluded.

John was honorably discharged with the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class in late 1946. He met his wife, Rose, two years after the war ended.

### *William Tyas*

#### ***A Life of Quiet Service: Bill's Journey from the Frontlines to the Pulpit and the Printing Press***

In August 1945, as World War II ended, Bill was drafted into the U.S. Army. Just a teenager from Philadelphia at the time, he soon found himself at Fort Meade, Maryland, beginning a chapter that would set the tone for a life rooted in quiet, steadfast service.

After reporting for processing, Bill was transferred to Camp Lee, Virginia, for corps management training. It wasn't long before a particular skill set changed the course of his assignment.

"They found out I could type," Bill says with a modest smile. That discovery led to his placement with the American Red Cross, where he assisted with emergency furloughs for fellow servicemen; helping them return home in times of personal crisis. "It meant a lot to me. I wasn't on the battlefield, but I was helping people get home when they needed it most."

After 13 months in uniform, Bill felt another kind of calling. He left the military and enrolled in a seminary in Maine, eventually becoming an officer in the Salvation Army. His new mission took him across New York State, where he offered spiritual guidance and support to communities in need.

"I loved the outreach," he says. "But I wanted to be part of a community; not just pass through."

That desire led him to settle into a local Salvation Army branch, where he found not only purpose but deep personal fulfillment. Bill remained committed to service, but he also continued to draw from his background in printing; another skill that quietly shaped his life.

He worked for six years in the printing department at Republic Aviation in Long Island, then returned to Philadelphia, joining Navy printing operations before moving into government printing. Eventually, he found his professional home at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, where he worked in a government printing office for 32 years.

Now in retirement, Bill hasn't stepped away from service. He keeps active in a local bowling league and helps care for his sister-in-law.

"Service has always been part of who I am," he reflects. "In the Army, in ministry, at work, or just day to day; there's always someone who could use a hand."



# From the Desk of Former Council President Marta Driscoll

*Note: Marta Driscoll served as Council President from January 2024 through September 2025, when she stepped down to focus on her health, family, and personal well-being.*

## **Belief + Action = Manifesting Reality**

Since becoming Council President, I've carried a vision in both my head and my heart: an interconnected Chester Heights park system — where our beautiful public parks aren't just stand-alone destinations, but part of a continuous, safe, and scenic network.

A place where you can walk, run, or bike from one park to another, connect with neighbors, and enjoy the outdoors without worrying about safety or accessibility.

This dream has been shaped by community conversations, council discussions, and professional guidance — including a reminder from Rick Tralies of Natural Lands Trust at our Mini Pros Park planning session:

“In order for something to become real, you must be brave enough to put a line on a page.”

In government, that “line on a page” is more than ink — it's a promise. It's the moment we declare that we will make something happen.

On July 31, 2025, we put our line on the page by applying for an \$865,950 DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant to make this interconnected park system a reality.

## **A Connected Chester Heights: The Plan**

Our Borough is fortunate to own three wonderful public parks — DiSalvo Park, Chester Heights Park, and Powell Park. Today, they exist apart. This project will knit them together with safe sidewalks, trails, and crossings, so they function as one connected experience.

For a visual of the proposed plan, see the exhibit prepared by our engineer on page 7.

## **With grant funding, we will:**

- **Create a Drive-Up Entrance to Powell Park** – Build a 24-foot paved driveway through an existing 50-foot easement, leading to a grass paver lot with 16 spaces and 2 ADA-accessible spots.
- **Provide a Temporary Access Solution** – Use a former emergency access easement so residents can enjoy more of our parks while permanent walkways are built.
- **Pave and Connect Fire Company Overflow Parking** – Improve the lot behind Chester Heights Fire Company and link it to Powell Park via a walkway through DeSalvo Park at the corner of Llewellyn, Smithbridge, and Valleybrook Roads.
- **Install New Sidewalks and ADA Ramps** – Add safe pedestrian routes along Valleybrook and Smithbridge Roads, with ADA-compliant dome ramps at all driveways.
- **Add Crosswalks and Intersection Upgrades** – Improve safety for walkers and cyclists traveling between all three parks.
- **Create a Meadow Trail in Powell Park** – Add a scenic walking path that blends recreation and conservation.
- **Connect Brookefield Neighborhood to Chester Heights Park** – Build a walkway under the road via the SEPTA easement, giving residents direct, safe access to the park system.

## **Why It Matters**

The effort to preserve the Powell Property began in 2018. With careful planning and the steady support of our residents, we're now poised to make it the keystone that links all three Borough parks and connects nearby neighborhoods.

This isn't just about paving sidewalks. It's about creating the physical links that strengthen our sense of community — places where neighbors meet, children play safely, and everyone feels connected to our shared spaces.

## **A Personal Moment**

This summer, I met Ian, a 5th grader, and his brother Ivan, a 3rd grader, in the Brookefield neighborhood. I told them about the walkway under the road that will connect them directly to Chester Heights Park and from there to the other parks.

“When will it be ready?” they asked.

“Maybe when Ian is in middle school and Ivan is in 5th grade,” I replied.

They smiled — knowing that some dreams take time, but they're worth the wait.

## **Why We're Waiting**

Under state grant rules, we can't start construction before the award date. Any early work would have to be paid fully from Borough funds and wouldn't be reimbursable. That's why we're focusing on temporary connections while we wait for the award announcement in spring 2026.

## **We're Committed**

If this grant doesn't come through, we'll apply again, set aside funds, and keep moving forward — piece by piece, line by line — until the vision is complete.

## Grant Facts: Interconnected Park System

- Grant Request: \$865,950 DCED Multimodal Grant
- Application Submitted: July 31, 2025
- Expected Award Announcement: Spring 2026
- Why We Can't Start Yet: State rules prohibit early work.

### Stay in the Loop

Our spring newsletter will be printed before the award decision. Sign up for Borough eNews to be the first to know when funding is announced.

Sign Up Here: <https://tinyurl.com/CHSIGNUPFALL25>



## Borough Parks Connectivity and Pedestrian Improvements

### Chester Heights Borough



July 2025

## Higher Ground Recovery & Yoga- Cheryl Spera

Higher Ground Recovery & Yoga, located above Gennaro Restaurant on Pennell Road in Aston, fosters an empowering community where mindfulness flows through movement. Founded by Cheryl Spera, a Chester Heights resident and trauma-sensitive yoga practitioner with a passion for community and connection, Higher Ground is a trusted refuge for individuals seeking balance, calm, and overall well-being. The studio offers a variety of classes seven days a week, including energizing vinyasa flows, meditative Yin practices, and restorative movement. Whether you're an experienced yogi or just beginning your journey, Higher Ground has a class for everyone.

At the heart of Higher Ground's mission are its trauma-sensitive yoga offerings, extending far beyond the walls of the studio. Cheryl and her dedicated staff lead more than 1,500 trauma-sensitive classes each year, traveling to recovery centers and behavioral health organizations throughout the Philadelphia region. Cheryl's commitment to the recovery community has been recognized by both the Shevlin Foundation and Caron Treatment Center.

Every Friday evening at the studio, Cheryl offers a donation-based Recovery Yoga class, serving those healing from substance use, mental health challenges, and other personal obstacles. This inclusive practice creates a safe, supportive environment where students can move at their own pace, honor their bodies, and build resilience that lasts on and off the mat. Together with her staff, Higher Ground offers a truly transformative space where individuals can thrive in both physical and emotional health.

For more information, visit [www.yogahigherground.com](http://www.yogahigherground.com)



## George H. Wilson, Jr.

Chester Heights lost a treasured larger-than-life figure earlier this year with the passing of George H. Wilson, Jr. Memories of the auction house, along with George's infectious charisma and generous spirit, will remain with the residents. Mayor Ellis fondly recalls attending Wednesday night and Saturday auctions at Wilson's with her father. Another neighbor, Councilwoman Anne Searl, remembers his distinctive auctioneer chant and how cars would line Valleybrook Road on auction days. George was always kind and allowed neighbors to park in his lot. He passed away on March 13, 2025, at the age of 83.

George was a beloved figure in the community and an esteemed businessman for over 60 years. His journey began as he worked tirelessly alongside his father, George Sr., who auctioned at the Media Armory before purchasing the property on Valleybrook Road. The Graff family owned the Victorian home next to George Sr.'s property,



which he eventually bought to serve as a nice buffer for his business. This home continues to stand beside Wilson's Auction House and Antiques today.

After his father's passing, George H. Wilson, Jr., sold the business to his three sons but continued working as George H. Wilson, Auctioneer, conducting on-site auctions and renting several locations in Cochranville and Aston. Known for his commanding voice that could captivate any crowd, George's honesty and unmatched enthusiasm made him more than just an auctioneer; he created memorable experiences that the community will cherish forever. His legacy as a skilled auctioneer and respected figure lives on in the many lives he touched throughout his career. George had a talent for storytelling and captivating an audience, both through his work and personal stories. While raising his four sons, he also raised steers and never shied away from hard work to provide for his family. His presence promised good times and hearty laughter. He enjoyed the camaraderie of many



friends, including sports greats from the Eagles and Phillies, and instilled a strong work ethic and appreciation for life in his sons.

George H. Wilson's Auction began in Chester Heights, PA, where his grandfather founded the business in 1911. Like his father and grandfather, George, Jr. became a Pennsylvania auctioneer and professional estate liquidator.

Currently, Michael Wilson, owner of Wilson's Auction House and Antiques, is a fourth-generation auctioneer and appraiser, and is in transition, closing in on retirement.

Phone 484-832-5827

Plans include several auctions late in 2025 to clear out accumulated merchandise that fills the auction house and several other buildings.



Fall is here, and that means leaves to rake, testing the batteries in your smoke and CO alarms, and having your furnace professionally serviced. For us at the Chester Heights Fire Company – it is a great time to focus on Fire Prevention Week.

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) – the official sponsor of Fire Prevention – has announced “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week. This year's focus on lithium-ion batteries works to better educate the public about how to buy, charge, and dispose of them safely.

Most of the electronics in our homes – smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, headphones, and toys, to name just a few – are powered by lithium-ion batteries. If not used correctly or damaged, they can overheat and start a fire. “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” provides the information, guidance, and resources needed to use lithium-ion batteries with caution and care.

### **The three key messages from NFPA this Fire Prevention week are:**

#### **BUY only listed products**

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets established safety standards.
- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

#### **CHARGE devices safely**

- Always use the cables that come with the product to charge it. Also, charge the device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
- Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

#### **DISPOSE OF/RECYCLE batteries responsibly**

- Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
- Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them.

The Chester Heights Fire Company is an all-Volunteer organization proudly serving the Chester Heights Borough and surrounding communities. We are always looking for new Volunteers to support our department. You don't have to have any experience to join, just a willingness to support your community. Come inquire on any Thursday night starting at 7:00.



## 2025 Events

Thanks, Natalie Anderson, you inspired us to learn new card/dice games



We learned to make "Seed Bombs" for Earth Day



A memorable Peony Tour and Bud Vase Night



# Events

# Hoarding and Fire Safety



Know the fire-safety risks and how you can keep yourself and first responders safe.

## Risks:

- ▶ Personal items can crowd cooking equipment, making it unsafe to cook.
- ▶ Personal items can crowd heating equipment, putting you at risk of having a fire.



## Difficulties for firefighters:

- ▶ Blocked windows and doors make it difficult for firefighters to get into your home to fight the fire and search for occupants.
- ▶ Piles of belongings make it difficult for firefighters to move through your home quickly.



## Important:

- ▶ Always keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from cooking and heating equipment.
- ▶ Keep doorways and windows clear for escape in case there is a fire. This will also prevent injuries from falling over excessive personal items.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit

[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)



# A Challenge to “Know” All the Codes!

How does one stay on top of all the various building codes and regulations that govern the design professions and construction industry? As one who is certified to administer and enforce codes as well as a registered architect who is required to design buildings that meet the minimum code requirements, I can confess it just “...ain’t easy to be me...”

Since the beginning of this century, when the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adopted the “Uniform Construction Code”, or UCC, which includes most of the International Code Council’s building codes (and there are so many), it is challenging to stay on top of the changes within those codes as they are “updated” every three years. Even the UCC can’t stay on top of them, as Pennsylvania has only adopted the 2018 versions while the 2024 version has been issued. And, the UCC has exceptions to many of them.

One of the most recent “changes” that caught almost everyone I know in the professions of architecture and building code enforcement by surprise is the idea of alternatives to “barriers” surrounding swimming pools. When I placed a call to an advisor at the Pennsylvania UCC to ask the question:

**Does PA UCC require fences around pools or has it accepted the alternative spelled out in the ICC code?**

That advisor indicated that he was not aware of this situation, and he is certified to know these things! He is also there to consult designers and constructors around the Commonwealth on code interpretations, and even he had to look it up, and was just as surprised as anyone.



Another major change that will happen with the 2021 version is the significant increase in building envelope insulation values. For instance, the ceiling “R” values have increased from “30” of just a few years ago to now to “60” in the 2024 version. Other areas will see increases as well. How does one provide that much insulation?

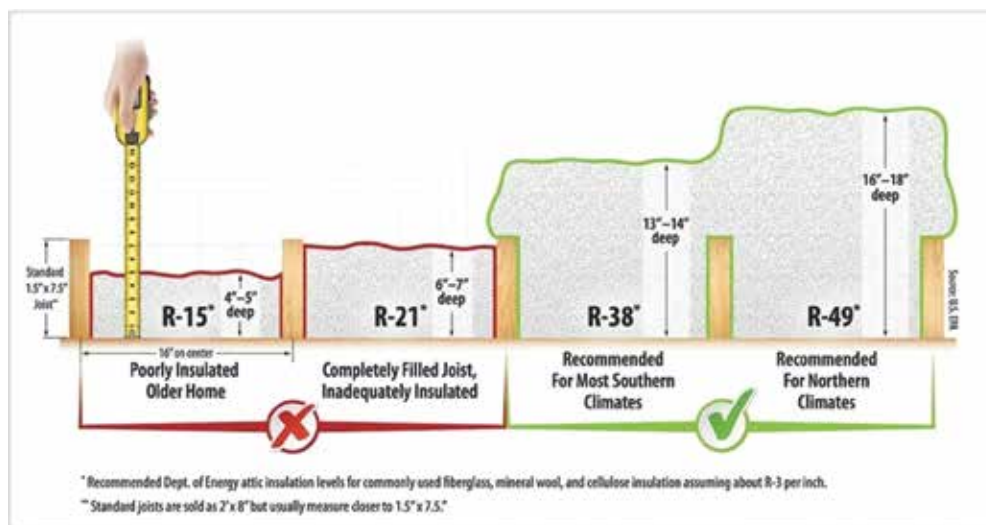
So, how do even those certified in these codes stay on top of these new requirements? Interesting question, indeed. No one I know of knows everything in the various codes (there are 20 ICC codes, and PA UCC has adopted 14 of those), but it is our responsibility to know where to look and make sure that, during the application and plan review processes, everything being proposed is meeting the minimum requirements of the codes. It is easier to catch things while still on paper as opposed to during construction, when it is almost always too late.

I believe that, being a Building Code Official, Zoning Officer, Fire Marshal, Building Inspector or Borough Engineer, it is our duty to assist our neighbors at the review process and treat the responsibility as a “public service”, and not a negative process, in order to help protect the public health, safety and welfare of not just you and your property but those who come to visit you or even come to the property or facility unexpected or uninvited!

And we all must do just that: we are here to serve.

*Patrick J McFadden, AIA*

Zoning Officer, Borough of Chester Heights.



Source: ENERGY STAR

# Chester Heights Borough Comprehensive Plan

Communities work by working together. Chester Heights Borough has many people working together, on the Borough Council, Zoning Commission, Planning Commission, professional staff, many volunteering their time and energy. These groups are focused day-in and day-out to support everyone working and living across the Borough.

To support these efforts, long-range planning is helpful to express our vision and goals for the long-range future, including a Comprehensive Plan for the Borough. A Comprehensive Plan is designed to guide the future growth, development, and conservation of Chester Heights. It assesses the Borough's existing conditions like population, land use, and much more, outlines long-range goals, and includes specific plans, recommendations, and strategies for achieving those goals. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires every municipality to create and update its Comprehensive Plan. Chester Heights Borough issued its last update in 2013. (<https://chesterheights.org/community/comprehensive-plan/>)



Chester Heights Borough Council has appointed a Task Force to update the Comprehensive Plan over the next 18 months with the expertise and experience of Sarcinello Planning & GIS Services. The general schedule includes:

- Gather background data and information (about 3 months) – [doing this now]
- Identify priority planning issues including a public workshop (about 3 months)
- Conduct focus group meetings (about 5 months)
- Draft the Comprehensive Plan (about 2 months)
- Public review and adoption process (about 4 months) (specific dates and times will be announced later)

We have a great Task Force working on the Plan but we need your input, feedback, and your participation to make a truly effective Plan. Please start by participating in our Community Survey, found here or call the Borough Office for your copy. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PERSPECTIVE AND PARTICIPATION !**

**(Task Force members include:)**

Marc Hanlan, Ph.D., Chair  
Tim Searl, Vice-Chair  
Jessica Wood, Pro Tem

H. Fred Hamel  
Tim Hudak  
Eileen Lehmann

Pat McFadden, AIA  
Thayer Schroeder  
Natalie Young, Esq.

**We need your voice! Please take a few minutes to complete our Comprehensive Plan survey.**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY**



**CHESTER HEIGHTS**  
*Planning Tomorrow, Together*

# 2025 General Election Important Dates



Oct.  
**20**



Last day to register to vote in the general election.  
[vote.pa.gov/Register](http://vote.pa.gov/Register)

Oct.  
**28**



Last day to apply for a mail ballot.  
[vote.pa.gov/MailBallot](http://vote.pa.gov/MailBallot)

Nov.  
**4**



Election Day. Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm.  
[vote.pa.gov/Polls](http://vote.pa.gov/Polls)

Nov.  
**4**



Completed mail ballots must be received by 8 pm.  
[vote.pa.gov/County](http://vote.pa.gov/County)

Visit [vote.pa.gov](http://vote.pa.gov)



# DON'T MISS A THING

SIGN UP TO THE BOROUGH EMAIL LIST



<http://tinyurl.com/CHSignUP24>



Polling Place Address for  
CHESTER HEIGHTS BOROUGH OFFICE BUILDING  
53 W. BALTIMORE PIKE, 1st FLOOR  
GLEN MILLS, PA 19342

Polling Place Accessibility



## Prepare Your Home For Winter

As winter approaches, our thoughts turn to other activities as we plan for the annual hibernation to the indoors. This is also a good time to plan a safe hibernation for your house as well. The constant change in the weather can have a significant effect on your house that, if left unchecked, may result in major repairs in the future.

Now is the time to inspect your house for anything that does not appear to be normal. Things to look for include loose siding, missing or torn shingles, broken or sticking doors, missing caulking around windows or any other item that will leave your home exposed to the elements. Now is the time to start addressing these items before the cold weather sets in and these items are forgotten.

You may also want to take a look at other items that are often overlooked until it is too late. One important item is your home heating system. Most people who are not on a maintenance program forget to have service performed until well into the heating season when the furnace decides to stop working. Unfortunately, this is the time that most heating contractors are busiest and you may have to wait for service. Avoid the headache and plan ahead.

Items such as your water heater may need your attention as well as other home appliances. Remember to check and make sure water pipes are properly insulated and not exposed to freezing temperatures. Be sure that leaves and debris do not obstruct water flow from gutters and downspouts. Water that freezes and is allowed to back up rooftops often provides you with unwelcome leaks. The lists are endless, but remember your home is a major investment - take good care of it.



# Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



## Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

## FACTS

- ! **Holiday decoration fires** are most likely to happen in the living room, family room or den.
- ! **Almost half** of all home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

# Rachel Kohl Community Library

## BY THE NUMBERS Library Usage & Statistics – May 2025 Report

The Rachel Kohl Community Library is an independent nonprofit organization. They are governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees appointed by the five municipalities of Bethel Township, Chadds Ford Township, Concord Township, Thornbury Township, and Chester Heights Borough. The Board of Trustees is the only group authorized to make decisions regarding the Library.



- The five townships/boroughs served accounted for 85% of the library's total circulation in May.
  - Chester Heights Borough patrons made up 6% of that circulation.
- Total circulation for all five township patrons in the combined Delaware County Libraries was 13,871.
- Total circulation for the Rachel Kohl Community Library in May was 7,355.
- In May, the library processed 82 new library card applications from the five townships.
  - Chester Heights Borough represented 11, equaling 13%.
- Chester Heights' contribution is \$5.60 per resident for the total of \$17,000 a year.



The recent fundraiser held at The Crown Tavern on September 16th produced a packed house. The donated baskets were on display at the library for the previous two months and were very popular. Congratulations to the many winners! Please remember to support our library. Please stop by to learn more about the various programs and services we offer.

*(L to R) Debbie Miller, Library representative for Chester Heights, Jeanne Montgomery, Chester Heights Council, Rayna Whitright, Director of the Rachel Kohl Library*

## Contact Us

687 Smithbridge Road, Glen Mills, PA 19342

Phone: 610-358-3445 Fax: 610-558-0693 • kohllibrary@delcolibraries.org

## Lightning Safety

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike!

### Safety Tips

## Indoor Safety

Turn off computers. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You **can use** a cell or cordless phone.

**Do not** wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.



## Outdoor Safety

- » If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.
- » Do not go under trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- » Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- » Stay away from windows and doors. Stay off porches.
- » There is no safe place outside. Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used.
- » If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1. Get medical help right away.

## FAST FACTS

Lightning may strike as far as 10 miles from any rain.



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## BOROUGH OFFICIALS 2025

### COUNCILMEMBERS

Acting President, Natalie Young  
Pro Tem, Jeanne L. Montgomery  
Councilmembers: Drew J. Baum, Philip Block, Marta Driscoll, Timothy Hudak,  
Anne Searl's position is vacant as of this print  
Mayor, Ginamarie Ellis

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Engineer.....	Michael Kissinger, PE	Constable .....	Steve Luongo
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Vice Chair .....

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Vice Chairperson.....

Member .....

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Greg Chestnut

### LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE

Debbie Miller

### AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

7-Year Term

Appointments Coming Soon

## 5 TIPS for Exercising Safely in Cold Weather

Don't let falling temperatures stop you from exercising outdoors. By taking a few extra steps to stay safe, you can walk, run, ski, ice skate, and more.

- 1 Warm up and cool down.** Stretch or walk in place to prepare and restore your muscles before and after a workout.
- 2 Pick the right clothes.** Dress in several layers of loose clothing to trap warm air between them. Wear a waterproof coat or jacket if it's snowy or rainy, and don't forget a hat, scarf, and gloves.
- 3 Be extra careful in snow and ice.** Check sidewalks before using them. Wear nonskid, rubber-soled, low-heeled shoes to help prevent slipping.
- 4 Check the forecast.** If it's too windy, cold, icy, or wet outside, consider staying indoors and using an online workout video or your own routine.
- 5 Be prepared.** Know the signs of hypothermia, inform others of your outdoor whereabouts, and carry a fully charged mobile phone.



To learn more, visit [www.nia.nih.gov/health/exercising-outdoors](http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/exercising-outdoors).



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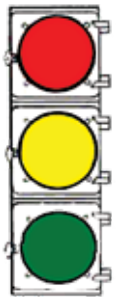
**FALL/WINTER 2025**



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