



Board of Supervisors

Richard L. Leff, MD, Chair
Whitney Hoffman, Vice Chair
Scudder Stevens, Supervisor

Kennett Township

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kennett.twp@kennett.pa.us

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*Always call **911** for emergencies
or to have an officer respond*
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Board of Supervisors Chair's Corner

Dr. Richard L. Leff

We are half-way through, and already 2020 has been an eventful year. Through the storm of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sea change in many American's view of race, Kennett Township has been committed to serving the people, and recovering – fiscally, structurally and emotionally – from the embezzlement that was exposed last year.

In late 2019 and early 2020, we hired a new Township Manager and built a Finance Department to keep up with our growth and to assure that tax dollars are spent as directed. It requires an entire reworking of our procedures, greater separation of duties, modern accounting software, and other changes to ensure that one person stealing from the taxpayers of Kennett Township won't go undetected ever again. We're committed to the recovery of stolen funds, and as the criminal case progresses in the Chester County court system, we'll keep you informed.

In COVID-19, we are up against a new coronavirus that spreads as easily as the common cold, can unknowingly be spread by infected individuals without any symptoms, and is currently estimated to be about 10 times more deadly than the flu. On March 29, we had our first reported case of COVID-19 in Kennett Township, and as of August 24, we are up to 98 known cases with 2 deaths. In Kennett Township, we are doing as well as can be expected with about 12 reported cases per 1000 residents – only slightly above average for Chester County and all of Pennsylvania. We are under extra-ordinary circumstances from COVID-19, which have changed the way we all live and work. Our Township offices are open (with COVID-19 restrictions) and employees are working, but our public meetings, including those of the Board of Supervisors, have been held electronically. As this dynamic situation evolves, we will continue to adapt operations as we learn the best way to proceed. On June 25, we moved into the Green Phase of reopening, which lead to a sigh of relief, yet some trepidation. As you do venture out, please follow the recommended precautions as if you or the people you are meeting may have COVID-19 and not know it. Wearing a mask when in public is one of the most effect ways to help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and doing so will help keep us safe and minimize the chance of needing more drastic measures, which no one wants.

It is hard to summarize America's history on race, but what I can say is that Kennett Township is committed to working for all. Four years ago, we purchased for future generations The Fussell House, also known as The Pines, a key stop on the Underground Railroad. At a time when we as a society are asking ourselves what people and places should be memorialized, we are prouder than ever that The Fussell House was saved. Its preservation can serve as a tangible reminder of both the strength of those enslaved African Americans who overcame enormous barriers to freedom, as well as those with the courage to risk all they had to help the oppressed.

Given these times, I want to comment on our Police Department, which is focused on community policing with respect for all individuals. Out of a believe that shining a light on a wrong – no matter how small – is the best way to stop even worse from happening, we were the first municipal police department in Chester County to utilize body cameras. The men and women in our Police Department are trained and expected to de-escalate tense and challenging situations in order to ensure that minimal force is required to keep the public and themselves safe. All too often, in difficult situations – which police officers find themselves in every day and night – when they or the public lose respect for the individual, that's when unfortunate and

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Communicating Through COVID-19

Whitney S. Hoffman, Vice Chair

When we made the decision back in March to declare a State of Emergency, one of our first concerns was how to make sure we communicated this clearly to everyone in the community.

We have used our website (www.kennett.pa.us) and our email list of residents effectively to communicate important news over the past year, but not everyone is on the email list. So what other channels could we use to get the word out quickly?

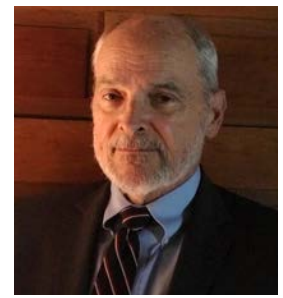
Keeping everyone informed was critical – not just internally, but the entire community needed to know what was happening, how it would impact them, and how to help, if it was needed. We would also have to rely on neighbors sharing time-sensitive information with those that might not spend time checking our website or subscribe to email lists.

We quickly divided up tasks, and I took on communicating information to residents on social media channels, including Facebook and Twitter. This gave us the ability to get information out to residents in real time, and spread information quickly. We learned that the information also was of interest to people in our wider community as well, not just those in the Township.

Sharing facts and the steps that were being taken as things began to shut down, and how we were continuing to meet the needs of our residents was our first job. Eden communicated with the whole staff and police department, coordinating how to keep the Township doing everything we do every day while making sure our employees were safe. This meant having someone in the office, establishing PPE and cleaning protocols, finding ways for staff to work remotely without losing productivity and more. We had to have the same availability to residents – maybe even more, during this crisis.

Eden and Amy moved mountains to make sure everyone had the PPE needed, especially our front line workers in the Public Works Department and Police Department. They also quickly set up a Zoom account so everyone could communicate online while working remotely, and still move all projects forward. Eden also was in regular contact with our Emergency Management Coordinator, our first responders, and the County to make sure good communication was in place, and needs were met as they arose.

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Status of Criminal Action Against Lisa Michelle Moore

Scudder G. Stevens, Supervisor

Township personnel continually receive requests for information regarding the criminal prosecution of our former Township manager, and properly so. She caused great harm to the Township, and not just in the financial implications. Her escapade deeply damaged the faith of the citizens in local government, she disrupted the goals and plans of the Township in moving forward with progressive government and negatively impacted the quality of life in Kennett Township. My goal in this article is **not** to outline the collection efforts directed against the former Manager, and others, but to tell you what the status is in the criminal prosecution of that former manager, and to provide you the resources to follow up with the court system so you can always know the actual status without needing to contact Township personnel directly. **You are, of course, always urged to contact us concerning any aspect of this matter.**

The information I've set forth hereafter is taken from the official court docket. You can reach that docket yourself by entering the following address in your web browser: ujportal.pacourts.us/caseinformation.aspx Choose "Criminal Courts of Common Pleas." Change the Search Type to "Participant Name" and enter Lisa Moore. Select County "Chester" and initiate the search. The information for Lisa Moore should appear at the bottom of the screen, along with an option box on the left offering, among other choices, <docket> and <court summary>. Visit both areas to find what you want to know. If this explanation is confusing, or doesn't work, please call me and I will walk you through it.

Allow me to list a few of the important facts of this case that your search will reveal. Note that this information is directly from the docket described above and is therefore public information:

Lisa Michelle Moore is the defendant and she lists her address as Dewey Beach, DE 19971;

The court docket number is CP-15-CR-000-1020-2020, OTN: U829068-2;

She is represented by Julia Alexa Rogers, Esquire of the law firm of Ciccarelli Law Offices in West Chester, PA;

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A Peek Inside

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A Note from the Township Manager

Eden Ratliff



Eleven months prior to the publishing of this newsletter I authored my first letter to the community in the Kennett Township Fall 2019 newsletter. In some ways that letter where I introduced myself and explained my enthusiasm

to be the new Township Manager feels like yesterday and in other ways much longer. Much has happened since September 23, 2019, my first day, and I am proud of the progress we have made as we have collectively risen to the challenge of delivering government services during challenging circumstances. I would like to take a figurative walk down memory lane to review some items that have been accomplished or initiated since last fall.

2020 Budget Development

Shortly after Amy Heinrich, the new Finance & HR Director, and I came on board we jumped right into budget development with the Board of Supervisors and staff. We administered a public process that allowed the community to provide input on where their tax dollars are spent. The Board discussed with the community several different priorities including trails, the Kennett Greenway, policing, open space, infrastructure upgrades, paving, personnel, and more. There were more than seven budget hearings where staff made presentations on the finances of the Township so that budget decisions could be considered. The Board and community also heard from individual departments including the Police Department, Public Works, Finance, along with Planning & Zoning. In addition, outside community groups made presentations including the Kennett Library and The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. When the process was completed the staff had spent hundreds of hours building a budget that was a statement of the priorities of the Board of Supervisors and community. The total General Fund, Open Space Fund, Capital Fund, and Sewer Fund have a combined spend of \$11,869,025.00.

If you were not part of the budget development process mentioned above, I encourage you to participate for the 2021 budget as it allows for a unique opportunity to understand the interworking of local government and provide input on community priorities. The first budget hearing will be on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. as part of the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Staffing Changes

The Township experienced several staffing changes in 2019 and 2020, which were necessary in order to ensure the Township was professionally meeting its obligations in delivering government services and operating in accordance with municipal government best practices and state standards. One of the benefits we have

seen is enhancing our Planning & Zoning Department.

Our Zoning Officer, Diane Hicks, was promoted to Director of Planning & Zoning and is working diligently to build up the department to meet the needs of our community. These needs include managing development, promoting smart growth, increasing code and zoning enforcement, building code inspections, and municipal planning. The Planning & Zoning Department also interfaces with several township committees and task forces including the Environmental Advisory Committee, Sustainable Energy Task Force, Historical Commission, and the Planning Commission. Allocating more resources to this department was important for our Township operations. Most recently we hired Amy Ferris who is the Administrative Assistant to the department.

Like the Planning & Zoning Department, the Finance & HR Department also required additional resources. When we think about the needs of a municipal finance department it is important we analyze segregation of duties, internal controls, existence and enforcement of policies, along with managing and reporting. Amy Heinrich was hired as the Director of this department in Fall 2019 and since then we have added three additional team members including Dina McIlvaine, Jasmin Lopez, and Denise Serino. Together they execute the Township's financial arm that spends approximately \$11 million per annum. They execute most of the purchasing for the Township as well as the bookkeeping, reporting, research, and regulatory components. Oversight of these operations is administered by me, the Board of Supervisors, and the public. With the implementation of our new General Ledger system, integration of financial policies, improved oversight, and the addition of highly trained municipal finance professionals, our Finance Department is much stronger than it was eleven months ago. Importantly, no one person has sole control, access, or oversight of any part of the financial operations which adds a strong layer of control and accountability over taxpayer funds.

Staffing additions have also included the addition of two new Police Officers filling vacancies in the department along with Gretchen Flack who is the Executive Assistant to the Township Manager. Gretchen has the privilege of working on special projects with myself and helping to keep the management and reporting of township operations organized. An example of special projects Gretchen tackles would be this newsletter including soliciting articles along with design and formatting.

If you are interested in meeting any of our staff members, new or seasoned, most of them can be found at a Township meeting currently being held via zoom.

Recovery of (Allegedly) Stolen Funds

In December of 2019 the former Township Manager was formally charged with a number of crimes including theft, forgery, and embezzlement of \$3.2 million in taxpayer funds.

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Finance & HR Update

Amy Heinrich, Director of Finance & HR

It has been ten months since Kennett Township hired me to build and lead a professional Finance & HR Department. I am proud of what we have built and accomplished in this time given that we started from scratch on all fronts. That said, we are still very early in our journey towards the ultimate destination and will continue to provide updates as we make progress.

We built a budget from the bottom up and have established controls and procedures to secure our finances and conduct the daily operations in relation to finances and people. Financials for 2019 have been scrubbed to carve out the valid expenses vs. fraud and we are currently undergoing our intensive 2019 audit. A reporting infrastructure is in place to enable financial reporting while we are also implementing our new Sage Intacct General Ledger system. This will enable us to get to our destination state with dynamic efficient reports and dashboards. The refinancing of our Open Space loan is almost complete, which will save money due to the low rate environment. The sewer billing process has been revamped to include low-contact efficient processes consisting of a print and mail service from our systems vendor, lock-box capability with our bank and free online payments via credit card.

On the HR front, we brought benefits in line with other Chester County municipalities. In some cases, that meant reducing benefits such as changing the maximum vacation allotment from eight weeks to five weeks. In other cases that meant improving benefits such as providing sick time and disability coverage for all employees. We are continuing to clean-up other policies and benefits programs.

Most importantly, with the final member joining in late July, we have a robust Finance & HR Department. This includes Dina McIlvaine, Jasmin Lopez and Denise Serino in addition to me. We continue to make forward progress every day as the team is getting up-to-speed.

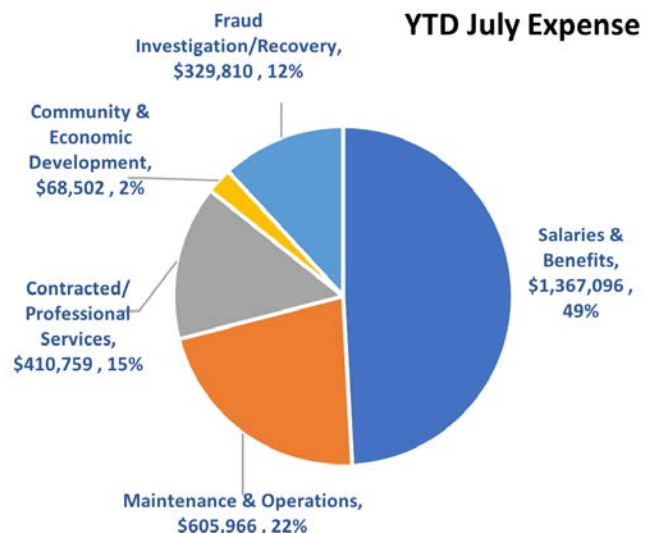
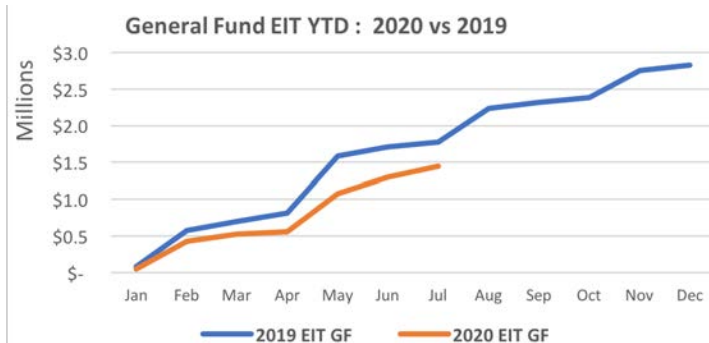
A deep dive into the development of the 2021 budget is in the beginning stages. The budget will be discussed as it is developed through public meetings. We encourage your participation and feedback on how you want to prioritize the use of your tax dollars.

Below you will find some highlights of our current financial position. While Earned Income Tax (EIT) has been impacted by COVID-19, we have also had some expense savings and are holding back on some projects. We recovered \$1M from the former Manager's surety bond. More details are provided periodically via our regular Board meetings and on our website.

Income Statement as of July 2020		
General Fund Only	Amended Budget*	Actuals YTD*
Revenue		
Taxes	\$ 4,783,000	\$ 3,407,346
Fees, Fines, Grants, Interest	\$ 1,082,101	\$ 426,287
Fraud Recovery	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
Revenue Total	\$ 5,865,101	\$ 4,833,633
Expense		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 2,921,488	\$ 1,367,096
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 1,424,662	\$ 605,966
Contracted/ Professional Services	\$ 634,700	\$ 410,759
Community & Economic Development	\$ 243,650	\$ 68,502
Fraud Investigation/Recovery	\$ -	\$ 329,810
Expense Total	\$ 5,224,500	\$ 2,782,133
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$ (652,000)	\$ (401,931)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (11,399)	\$ 1,649,569

*Amended Budget is for the Full Year. Actuals are YTD July 31.

Bank Balances as of July 31st, 2020	
General Fund	\$ 4,549,827
Open Space Fund	\$ 690,054
Sewer Fund	\$ 293,850
Library Fund	\$ 8,387
Traffic Impact Fund	\$ 70,029
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$ 28,185
Capital Fund	\$ 4,588
Checking/Sav/Reserve	\$ 5,644,920
Open Space Loan	\$ 2,829,309



For more details, visit www.kennett.pa.us/159/finance-hr

Planning & Zoning Department

Diane Hicks, Director of Planning & Zoning

BUILDING AND ZONING

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our Planning & Zoning Department has been very busy. Building permits continued to be reviewed throughout the temporary shut down which were released upon re-opening for the construction field. A total of 80 permits were issued for the period of March – June.

With the onset of nice weather and the “growing season,” it is a good time to remind resident’s that we have a high grass/weeds ordinance which requires grass to be maintained throughout the season at a height not to exceed 10 inches (see below). Invasive species of weeds are also a concern at this time, so please try to ensure that if you have invasive plants all efforts are made to maintain or eliminate them, and that they are not permitted to spread to neighboring properties.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can easily find Kennett Township Ordinances on our website: www.kennett.pa.us Select “Ordinances” from the main menu then search for a topic, such as “weeds” or “noise” to find all the specifics.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The following plans remain under review:

Parkside

Location: Southeast corner of Route 1 Bypass & North Walnut Street

The applicant proposes the creation of 117 parcels from four parent parcels totaling 16.15 acres and construction of six apartment buildings containing 72 apartments, 78 townhouses, eight twin houses and 13 single-family homes with a total of 161 parking spaces. The project site, which will be served by public water and public sewer, is located in the BP-Business Park zoning district and is to be developed using the Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND-1) option.

Novak

Location: The end of Sunstone Lane, off of Norway Road

The Plan proposes to subdivide an existing 42.446 acre lot, located in the R-1 – Residential Zoning District, into four lots: Lot 5 (4.148 acres), Lot 6 (4.586 acres), Lot 7 (4.816 acres) and Lot 8 (8.023 acres), along with an existing conservation easement (21.562 acres). The development of each lot will consist of a single-family dwelling as well as associated utilities and stormwater management. The lots will be serviced through on-lot wells and septic systems. Lot 6 contains an existing two and a half story dwelling that is proposed to remain.

Avello

Location: 558 Creek Road

The submitted plan proposes to construct a two-floor residential multi-family dwelling building (consisting of six apartments). The site is located in the SA – Specialized Agricultural Zoning District and contains 1.371 acres. The proposed apartments are to be serviced through public water and sewer.

Mitchell Homes

Location: South side of Rosedale Road, west of McFarlan Road

The applicant proposes the construction of 72 residential units, and 30 guest parking spaces on a 21.24-acre site. The project

site, which is located in the R-4 Residential zoning district, will be served by public water and sewer. This plan has received Preliminary Approval.

The following plans have been granted final approval:

Kennett Gateway

Location: South side of East Cypress Street, & the east and west sides of Ways Lane

The submitted plan proposes the construction of a mixed-use building with 24 apartments above 16,326 square feet of ground floor retail space, 53 townhouses, and a total of 345 parking spaces for the commercial and residential uses. The project site, which will be served by public water and public sewer, is located in the C-Commercial, Limited Industrial zoning district and is being developed under the recently adopted Planned Village provisions.

Fairville Friends

Location: West of Pond View Drive & south of Orchard View Drive

The applicant proposes the revision of the property line between two existing lots. The project site, which will be served by public water and onsite sewer, is located in the PRD – Planned Residential Development – Single Family zoning district.

Frick Subdivision

Location: North side of East Hillendale Rd & west of Kennett Pike

The approved plan proposed the creation of two lots.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Location: 623 Millers Hill Road

This project is located in the C-Commercial Zoning District. The applicant proposes to construct a single 2,076 square foot building with associated parking and landscaping. The project will be served by public water and sewer.

Public Works

Roger Lysle, Director of Public Works

The Public Works department is a six-man crew who is responsible for 56 miles of Township roads. We repair and maintain road surfaces, drainage, trees, mowing, signage, line painting roads, crosswalks and stop bars. In addition to that, the Public Works department maintains parks, open space trails, the yard-waste center, recycling center, along with everyday jobs. There are seven sewer pump stations we tend to, with a new one coming in 2020, for a total of eight. The seven Township owned bridges are our responsibility along with many pipe and box stormwater culverts. In the Township, there are eight intersections that are covered by traffic signals which are owned and maintained by the Township. When long power failures occur, our crew ensures they remain operational with the use of back-up generators.

COVID-19 has truly affected us all. It has reduced manpower at times, splitting us into two crews to help maintain social distancing and to ensure the whole department would not become infected if one person contracted COVID-19. We also closed the dog parks within Barkingfield Park but the big outer trail remained open for the community to enjoy.

Our summer activities have been focused on draining and pipe replacement. By the end of the summer we will have replaced seven cross pipes along with 400 feet of perforated drainpipe. Several new inlet boxes were also installed along with these projects. Mowing Township road banks is completed three times annually, taking about two weeks each time.

In spite of COVID-19, 2020 has brought major improvements to Kennett Township. Our Rosedale Road sewer rehabilitation project was started and completed. Many new manholes were installed, along with new sewer lines. Liners were installed in existing lines and all manholes were lined. This was an infrastructure upgrade due to age.

The Chandler Mill Bridge was removed and restored to maintain its historical value. It was reinstalled and is open for pedestrian and bicycles. Soon there will be a gate installed that will only allow access for emergency vehicles. See page 21 for photos of this project.

PennDOT is currently replacing two bridges in the Township. The State Street Bridge was closed in June and should be completed this month. Also, Kaolin Road Bridge at Marshall Bridge Road is closed through February. While they are planning to complete this project in seven months, there is a chance it could be completed sooner. Detours are posted.

The Township yard waste pile, located at 549 Bayard Road, has been ground and hauled away. Due to the major storm in early spring we were over capacity and had to temporarily close until our contractor could arrive. They were delayed, however, due to COVID-19 which prevented them from obtaining the necessary permits required bring the equipment needed to grind. Also, many people are not following the rules leaving the wrong material types and sizes. This is yard waste, not tree removal, and everything must be smaller than 12 inches in diameter and no building materials. Please review the sign.

As always, if you have any questions, please email the Township or call us at the Public Works Shop 610-444-5130. Leave a message and we will call you back.

Thank you
- Roger Lysle, Public Works Director

YARD WASTE LOT



ALLOWED:

Leafy Brush, Grass Clippings, Leaves,
Tree Limbs No Bigger Than 12" in
Diameter

NOT ALLOWED:

Dirt, Rocks, Bricks, Concrete, Building
Materials, Wood Pallets, Furniture,
Fences, Stumps, Shingles



For information on Recycling in
Kennett Township, see page 23.

Kennett Township Police Department

PLANNING ON TRAVELING?

The Kennett Township Police Department can perform a vacation check on your home. Vacation notice forms can be found on our website:

<http://kennett.pa.us/173/Police>

Safety Tips for Your Home:

- Video cameras not only aid police investigations but are also a great deterrent to criminal activity. We encourage our residents to install home surveillance systems, many of which allow residents to check-in and monitor activity through mobile phone apps.
- Install door or window sensors. Many gain access to a home through an unlocked window or door.
- Prominently display your home security sign. Many convicted burglars said they would avoid a potential target home if they see an alarm system is present.
- Set the environment. Keep your landscaping neatly trimmed, especially shrubs and trees surrounding your home. Do not give burglars a place to hide.
- Incorporate motion-sensor, remote-controlled and/or timed lighting into your home and your landscaping. If you have automated lighting all the better. Use settings as if you were home to create a “lived in” environment.
- Store valuables in a secure place, including prescription medication.
- Remember to set your alarm when leaving the residence.



Don't be a Victim of COVID-19 Related Scams

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our state we would like to warn residents about COVID-19 related scams. We have been noticing an uptick of COVID-19 related scams in Kennett Township. One we want to warn our residents about is unemployment compensation (UC) fraud. If you believe you are a victim of a scam, please contact our department and the Office of Unemployment and Compensation.

Scammers are utilizing personal information to apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. After filing a claim in your name scammers are then rerouting these payments to their personal bank accounts.

The Office of Unemployment Compensation offers these tips to help protect yourself from fraud:

- Never give out your personal information over email or text message.
- Don't wire money, and always ignore the following requests:
 - Communications related to your UC benefits from someone asking for money; someone who says they can help you file for your benefits for a fee; and anyone claiming to work for L&I who says they need a fee to complete your application.
 - Don't open or respond to unsolicited emails or text messages.
 - Never give out your personal information on websites or social media channels – especially those that claim they can help you apply for UC benefits. Third parties can't apply for your benefits.
- Don't trust or rely on UC info from unofficial websites – always visit, www.uc.pa.gov for Pennsylvania unemployment program information.



Source: <https://www.uc.pa.gov>

Southern Chester County: A Model for Collaboration

by Kate Daneker

Director of Social Initiatives, Square Roots Collective,
Planning Team, SCC Opportunity Network

During these extraordinarily difficult and unprecedented times, it's been easy to feel isolated and disconnected from our neighbors, and to feel anxious about the social and economic uncertainty. But while many communities have struggled to pull together various actors to coordinate some kind of response to the challenges they are facing, Southern Chester County has become a model for how local government, nonprofits, schools, faith communities, and local residents can come together to create a network of care that none of us could accomplish alone.



square
roots
collective

While Chester County may be the wealthiest county in Pennsylvania, and one of the most affluent in the nation, the COVID-19 crisis has reminded all of us of how many families in our community are still living paycheck to paycheck. Just two weeks into quarantine, the numbers of people reaching out to local food cupboards and other social assistance agencies spiked dramatically, as folks who had never asked for help before found themselves in need for the first time, and those who were already living on the edge quickly lost their precarious balance.

Local organizations responded immediately, with incredible flexibility and innovation, but the challenges were enormous. Social distancing guidelines meant that for many, “business as usual” was no longer an option, and new ways of operating were essential both to meet the increasing need and to do so safely. It quickly became evident that if our community was going to rise to the challenge successfully, we were going to need each other more than ever – to share resources, communicate effectively, and make sure that no one was falling through the cracks.

For the past three years, the *Southern Chester County Opportunity Network* (SCCON) has been working to bring together people from across the nonprofit, for-profit, and governmental sectors to address poverty in comprehensive, collaborative ways in our community. As a collective impact initiative, the role of SCCON has always been to support and coordinate that work as it is carried out by our partners on the ground. Founded in 2017 by Kennett Area Community Service (KACS), Square Roots Collective, the United Way of SCC, and other local leaders, SCCON now consists of a network of organizations around Southern Chester County committed to those same goals.



It is that network that stepped up to pull our community together for such a time as this. Shortly after the quarantine order came into effect, SCCON began to host a weekly call for leaders in the social sector to coordinate local responses to the COVID-19 crisis. The goal was to create a space where all the various efforts to adapt and meet the community's needs could be communicated and new collaborative partnerships could form. The calls quickly grew from an original list of 10 to over 50 participants from local school districts, municipalities, faith communities, and nonprofits and became a central hub for information-sharing. Soon after, SCCON developed additional resources in the form of a COVID-19 response section on their website, newsletters, and social media materials to make the information more widely accessible. Organizations began to join forces to take on emerging needs, pooling their resources and connections to reach more people and expand their impact.

The next page features just a few examples of the extraordinary collaborations that were born out of the need of the last three months.

Such a response could only be possible in a community where local leaders put the common good above personal agendas, work hard to develop positive relationships, and are willing to step out into unknown territory. A community like ours.

You can find Square Roots Collective online at www.ksqroots.com
You can find Southern Chester County Opportunity Network at www.sccnetwork.org

The Chester County Food Bank has partnered with Cedar Knoll Builders, dozens of volunteers, & SCCON leader Fran Lutz to distribute over 40,000 meals to 16 local agencies providing food to the community during quarantine.



In response to local needs, LCH (La Comunidad Hispana), Chester County Health & Emergency Services Departments, & area nonprofits teamed up to bring mobile testing sites to local food cupboards & agricultural sites, reaching vulnerable community members right where they are.

The Garage Community & Youth Center came together with Mighty Writers & ScoutReach – all after-school programs for youth – to convert both of their locations into distribution hubs for emergency supplies. Families can visit the Kennett Square location on Mondays or Wednesdays to pick up a box of hygienic supplies, & the West Grove location three days a week to access food & educational supplies for their children.



Mighty Writers & ScoutReach

Distribute food & educational activities to families at The Garage in West Grove.

An Update from Historic Kennett Square

by Tara Smith, Communications Coordinator for HKS

Historic Kennett Square (HKS) welcomed the new year with the arrival of new executive director Bo Wright (pictured on the right). Following an extensive national search, the HKS Board of Directors unanimously approved Bo, who brings a wealth of experience and insight in the areas of town planning, placemaking, communications, and economic development from his position as Development Director for the national media and advocacy organization Strong Towns. No sooner had Bo settled into his new position than his fresh vision and unique and thoughtful perspective were put to the test as the COVID-19 shutdown began.



From the first days of the shutdown, it became clear that one of the key ways HKS could serve the community was by liaising with Township and Borough officials, community leaders, and partners to share up-to-date and accurate information for residents as well as for businesses. To this end, HKS hosted two public “Tele-Town Halls,” one in English and one in Spanish, to share important updates and address questions from the community in the midst of changing and often confusing circumstances. HKS also partnered with Nick Winkler, owner of the new Work2gether coworking space on State Street, in the “Kennett Strong” gift card initiative, which raised over \$30,000 to help sustain 20 participating local businesses through the shutdown.



HKS has also been able to support the local business community through sharing resources and links to state, federal, and county aid initiatives in addition to providing assistance navigating this complex and ever-evolving landscape. “Everyone is confused by what’s happening,” says Bo. “Imagine trying to run a business and follow the guidelines.” Throughout the pandemic, HKS staff have maintained an active program of social media posts, newsletters, and articles, and began a hyperlocal podcast, in addition to continuously updating pages on the HKS website with resources in English and in Spanish, links to community partners offering aid, and opening hours for restaurants offering takeout—and later retail businesses as they began to open. HKS was pleased to be able to reconfigure the Farmers Market so that it could continue to remain open safely and is grateful for The Creamery’s partnership, providing a space that allows physical distancing for vendors as well as customers.

As the shutdown wore on, it became clear that the aid available through state, federal, and county sources was not going to be enough, or the right fit, for many local businesses. So, HKS partnered with Square Roots Collective, who offered matching funds, to create the Small Business Response Fund (SBRF) emergency grant program. As of the end of July, the SBRF was able to give away 59 grants totaling \$260,300 to help sustain consumer-facing small businesses in Kennett Square Borough and Kennett Township. For a detailed breakdown of Small Business Response Fund grant recipients, including data such as average grant amount, how funds are being spent, etc., refer to the info-graphic on the corresponding page.



HKS is also in the early stages of planning a speaker series, which will feature some of the nation’s leading thinkers and experts on building great communities and focus on the question “How do we increase our resilience and ability to adapt to change?” as we move forward as a community working through the ongoing implications of the COVID-19 crisis.

Throughout this difficult and unprecedented time, HKS staff have been encouraged and impressed by the Kennett community’s support for all of the nonprofits working so hard to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community as well as for the small business community. “We’re asking people to name a favorite Kennett small business when they donate to the SBRF,” says Bo, “and the majority of donors have replied with some version of ‘All of them—we love our community.’ This level of social capital and community engagement makes us very positive and hopeful about coming out of this stronger than ever.”

Find HKS online at www.historickennettsquare.com



Total Businesses Funded

59

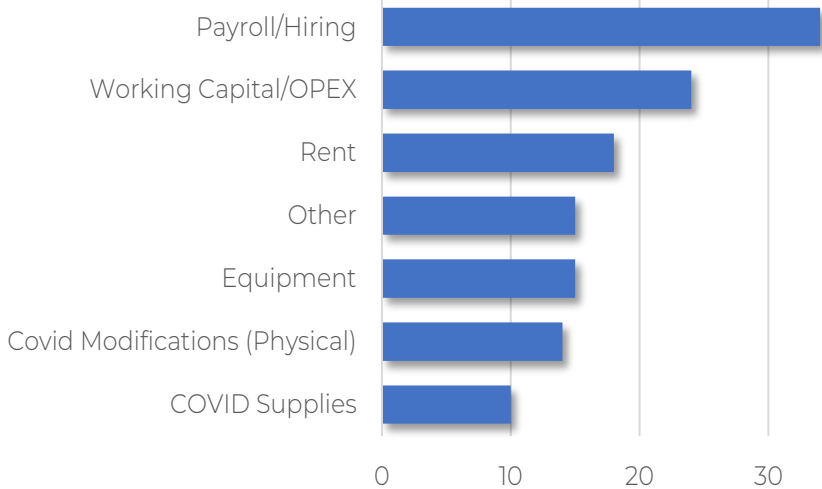
Average Grant Amount

\$4,412

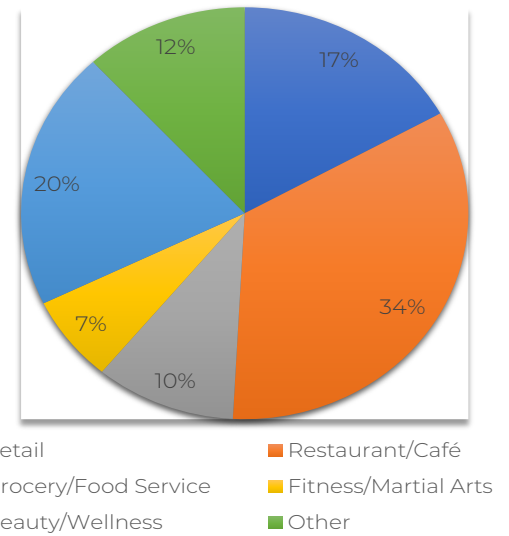
Total Funds Disbursed

\$260,300

Use of Funds



Business Type



% Woman or Minority Owned

75%

% Open 2+ Years

81%

% Open 5+ Years

58%

Average Number of Employees

7

Total Number of Employees

401

% Household Sustaining

75%

The Fussell House

by Scudder G. Stevens, Kennett Township Supervisor

“The Pines,” as it is often referenced, was built circa 1751. From 1802 until 1826 it served as one of the safe houses (“stations”) of the Underground Railroad; the stationmaster was Jonathan and Ann Thomas. Bartholomew and Lydia (Morris) Fussell bought “The Pines,” and from 1827 until 1837, it served as the focus of his abolitionist efforts. They moved to West Vincent in the northern part of the County, and continued their efforts in support of the anti-slavery effort. During this period, and through the Emancipation Proclamation, the Underground Railroad, and Kennett Square, continued to provide a safe haven for escaping slaves. Thanks to two years of hard work by the National Youth Foundation, the House is now recognized as one of more than three dozen Underground Railroad sites in Southern Chester County, and is part of the largest concentration of Underground Railroad sites in the United States.

In 2016 the Township Board of Supervisors were inspired to preserve the House, and to preserve its legacy. Scudder G. Stevens, then Chairman of the Board, met with the owner of the House and negotiated an arrangement that would transfer the property to the possession of the township. Sara Meadows, then Chair of the Township Historical Commission, observed in 2016, “Because the house is so visible and is a well-documented stop along the Underground Railroad, it will become a very important way to tell the story.”

Fast forward to June 19, 2020, Juneteenth, 2020, and the story continues to be heard. Sophia Hanson, co-founder of The National Youth Foundation (NYF), and a resident of Kennett Township, received a grant from the Gucci Changemakers Fund. With a portion of that Grant, Sophia’s 14-year-old daughter, Isabella Hanson, put together in two weeks a Juneteenth celebration focused on Black Lives Matter and The Fussell House. Over 100 residents were present to honor George Floyd, and to learn that the NYF had been successful in their efforts to have the House added as one of 600 locations now recognized by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, which, through collaboration with local, state and federal entities, organizations and individuals, honors, promotes and preserves the history of resistance to enslavement. Charlene Holloway provided uplifting musical support, and the Reverend Kyle Boyer of the Chester County NAACP, Vanessa Briggs of the Brandywine Health Foundation, Richard L. Leff, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Eden Ratliff, Township Manager, all spoke in support of the efforts of The National Youth Foundation, Black Lives Matter, and the significance of “The Pines” as a crucial symbol of emancipation from the tyranny from slavery.

During this pivotal time of pre-Civil War slavery, the Fussell House was an exemplar of the efforts of Kennett Township residents, and others, to address the blight of slavery. For a period of more than 40 years, the House served as a refuge for more than 2,000 runaway slaves to find safety, shelter, food and clothing along the journey north to freedom. Through the inspired work of Sophia Hanson, and her daughter, Isabella Hanson, the message of freedom is being carried forward even as “The Pines” is being preserved. The Township is honored and proud of the example that the Hanson’s have set for all of us.



Preserving Our History for Generations to Come

by Katina Ahling, Volunteer with NYF

The National Youth Foundation (NYF), a diverse and woman-led, local non-profit, provides students with creative and inclusive literacy programming centered around equality and diversity. Since its inception in 2017, Founder and Director Sophia Hanson knew she would need to shine a light on our nation's history to have a lasting impact. That's why NYF was proud to sponsor the designation of a local Kennett Township landmark as an official Underground Railroad "Network to Freedom" site—one of approximately 600 across 40 states, Washington D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This historical status was awarded after two years of research, advocacy, and applications by NYF.

Located at 721 East Baltimore Pike, the historic property known as "The Pines" is a 2.5-acre Federal-style home built circa 1823. The house sits just about a mile east of Kennett Square, a hotbed of abolitionism at the time due to the high number of "stationmasters"—those who hid and aided fugitive slaves—and "conductors"—those who guided them to their next point of safety.

A few years after the construction of the home, it was purchased by Quaker-born abolitionist Dr. Bartholomew Fussell. Dr. Fussell was raised by a liberal minister. He taught school by day and studied medicine at night. He even opened a Sunday school for slaves, where he taught them to read the Bible—a defiant and rebellious act in the early 19th century. While living at The Pines, it is estimated that he and his family assisted more than 2,000 slaves travel to freedom via the Underground Railroad. He and his wife also frequently hosted other abolitionists on the property, risking their own lives to discuss the resistance.

In the late 1830s, Dr. Fussell and his family relocated to West Vincent, Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter, The Pines changed hands to Hannah and Chandler Darlington, also committed abolitionists. In fact, Chandler himself acted as a conductor. They operated The Pines as a station and safe house until Hannah sold it following Chandler's death in 1879.

The Pines is an important reminder of our nation's troubling past, and perhaps most importantly, a symbol for what we can accomplish together moving forward. Now, with its historical designation, The Pines will go on a national list to share our local history for years—and generations—to come. In fact, one of the goals of NYF is to raise funding for the renovation of the interior. NYF intends to use the venue to host diversity-focused writing workshops and meetings, as well as tours.



The National Youth Foundation (NYF) is dedicated to enriching the lives of children through creative educational programming. It aims to promote diversity, inclusion, and gender equality through innovative team literary projects. The NYF has four core programs:

I Matter! poetry contest: Students in grades K-12 submit poems on the topic of "Black Lives Matter."

Amazing Women's Edition competition: Youth share stories of heroines in their communities in the only national student book competition focused on gender equality.

Student Book Scholars writing contest: With superstar athletes from the NBA, NFL and MLB serving as judges, students in grades K to 8 write and illustrate original books on bullying.

Youth Writing Workshops: NYF visits cities and towns across the country and collaborates with community centers and schools to host diversity-focused Youth Writing Workshops. NYF is currently working with a local team of students on a book project with 97-year old trailblazer, Hettie Simmons Love, the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School.

For more information about The National Youth Foundation or to get involved, visit www.nationalyouthfoundation.org.





STOP
Before You Buy,
Go Native!



An article from the Environmental Advisory Council by Marla Palmer and Mary Beth Oberg

Many of us used our recreational time during lock down to escape into our yards, enjoy the beautiful weather and garden like crazy. With nurseries closed, mail order companies and seed companies struggled to keep up with demand. Nurseries are open now and it is the perfect time to remember to avoid purchasing non-native and invasive plants and, instead, help our local ecosystem by purchasing native plants, including native trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, herbs and aquatic plants.

Did you know that non-native and invasive plants threaten our local ecosystem and wildlife? Many non-native and invasive plants escape into our environment through suburban plantings and the process of cross pollination.



The Carolina Chickadee illustrates the risk of this threat. According to University of Delaware entomologist, Doug Tallamy, a single Chickadee requires the consumption of 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to reproduce and support one clutch of hatchlings. The caterpillars that feed the Chickadees cannot feed on non-native and invasive plants that escape suburban areas and now dominate many wooded areas. When few caterpillars are available, clutches die. This demonstrates how landscaping with non-native and invasive plants can lead to starvation of local birds and wildlife. Read, Z. (2017, December 5). Delaware’s ecological task force is attempting to eliminate non-native and invasive plant species. Retrieved from www.whyy.org/articles/delaware-report-recommends-non-native-plant-reduction.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THINGS WE CAN DO TO HELP OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE:

- 1. Landscape with native plants and refrain from purchasing non-native and invasive species.** Beware of impulse purchases as many invasive plants, including Norway Maple, Bradford Pear, Burning Bush and European and Japanese Barberries, are still available at nurseries and other retail outlets. Many nurseries also sell “native plants” that are hybrids or cultivars that also may be a threat to our ecosystem. The Township website offers extensive information about landscaping with native plants. A list of suggested native plants for perennial gardens may be obtained from the Penn State Extension website at www.extension.psu.edu/pennsylvania-native-plants-for-the-perennial-garden. A list of retail nurseries that sell native plants in our local area may be viewed at www.mtcubacenter.org/action/nursery. The Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware also has an annual native plant sale each Spring.
- 2. Learn to identify invasive plants and develop a plan to remove and replace them with native species.** A comprehensive list of invasive plants in our area with photographs is available at the website for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at www.dcnr.pa.gov/conservation/wildplants. There are non-toxic strategies for removing invasives and often inexpensive ways to replace them with native species over time. Strategies are discussed on the Township Website at the “Sustainable Development Office” tab.
- 3. Learn to identify native plants and distinguish them from invasive species.** This is difficult at times since some invasive species can be tricky mimics. Downloading and frequently using the iNaturalist app on your mobile device can help. Download and open the app, upload a photo of your mystery plant and the app will provide you with a likely plant identification and a link to information about it, right at your fingertips. The Mt. Cuba Center has a searchable native plant database at www.mtcubacenter.org/native-plant-finder that is a valuable resource for confirming identification and obtaining detailed information about native species along with corresponding photographs. See also Sarver, M. et al. (2008, November). Mistaken Identity? Invasive Plants and their Native Look-Alikes. www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf.



Did you know the popular Burning Bush is **NOT** recommended!? It is an invasive and you should seek an alternative for your yard or business. Click **HERE** for more info and some alternative options.

4. **Convert a portion of your lawn into a native pollinator garden or wildflower meadow.** When local wildlife find food in a self-sustainable meadow or pollinator garden, they often leave plantings close to the home alone. Pollinators, including local birds, bees, hummingbirds and bats will be drawn to your meadow or pollinator garden and will reward you with more plentiful flowers and higher, healthier yields if you have a vegetable garden. Our Township is proud of its designation as an “Audubon Bird Town.” You can learn more about this designation and how to plant to attract and support birds as well as which native plants perform best under various conditions through the Township website at www.kennett.pa.us/390/Bird-Town. For firsthand experience, you can learn more about pollinator gardens and meadows by visiting the Township’s **Barkingfield Park**, located at 575 Bayard Road. This beautiful park has multiple native wildflower and pollinator gardens maintained by resident volunteers. Each garden models different techniques for clearing vegetation and establishing the garden and signage explains the process. More information about Barkingfield Park is available on the Township website.



Planting native species and excluding invasive and non-native plants will help local nature thrive and create a healthier environment for all of us and for future generations. Your efforts will also support our designation as an “Audubon Bird Town” in Pennsylvania.

So, while out shopping, **STOP** before you buy and remember to go native!

Spotted Lanternfly

Invasive plants are not the only thing we need to try to prevent. No doubt you have all seen a spotted lanternfly - or perhaps 1,000 of them - around your yard and along the trails in Kennett Township. The Penn State Extension website has great information on how to report them, identify them and how to manage them. To explore this site to learn how to do your part to stop these invasive insects, visit:

www.extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly

PennState Extension MENU SEARCH ACCOUNT CART

HOME | SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Spotted Lanternfly

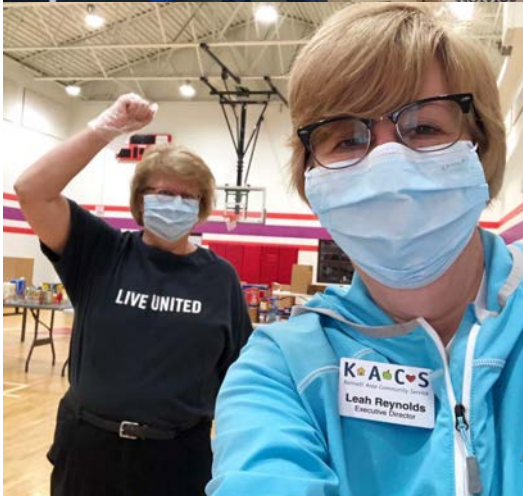
Spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect that has spread throughout Pennsylvania since its discovery in Berks County in 2014. SLF feeds on the plant sap of many different plants including grapevines, maples, black walnut, and other important plants in PA. If you see SLF, help us stop it in its tracks! To **report a sighting**, use our reporting tool below or call our hotline at 1-888-422-3359.

Report **Identify** **Manage**

I wish I could report that we are seeing a decrease in emergency assistance requests. I had hoped that at this point I could tell you that less people are coming to the food cupboard. I want to be able to announce that poverty has been eliminated and that homelessness is a thing of the past. *Navigating the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented. Unfortunately, our numbers have not decreased. They have dramatically increased.*



As a leading life-sustaining organization, Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) offers food and emergency assistance to residents in need in southern Chester County's Avon Grove, Unionville-Chadds Ford and Kennett Consolidated School Districts. Before the pandemic, there was an average of 550 families (approximately 75 senior households, 900 children) registered for a 5-7 day supply of food KACS provided once a month. 90% of what was distributed prior to COVID-19 were food donations KACS secured weekly.



Since March 13, the food cupboard has now had **over 5,729 visits** and KACS has provided meat, produce, dairy, and non-perishable food for a 5-7 day supply (according to family size). All of the perishables are being purchased by KACS at costs of about \$3-4,000 a week. (COVID-19 forced KACS to suspend their 75 volunteers to protect their safety and no donations were being made to KACS because stores and markets had nothing to donate.) From these 5,729 visits to the food cupboard we have provided food to over 500 seniors and more than 2,000 children. 900 of these families are new to KACS and have never come to us before.

Since March, the KACS Emergency Assistance program has provided **over \$276,588** in rent, mortgage, and utility payments to help many families impacted by COVID-19's devastating economic fallout. Also, the work KACS does with housing assistance for those who are experiencing homelessness or about to be homeless has continued. **Since March, KACS has successfully rehoused six families with permanent housing and helped four more families into housing with leases in their own names.**



In an effort to manage the COVID-19 crisis in our community we knew that it required broad cross-sector coordination and collaboration with other organizations. That means coordinating collective efforts to maximize the end result. In this spirit KACS worked with The Garage, the United Way of Southern Chester County, Tick Tock Early Learning Center, The Kennet YMCA, the United Way of Chester County, Square Roots Collective along with churches, communities and individuals.

Together, we organized a safe, socially distanced food drive that yielded over 61,000 lbs of food donations. The incredible generosity of this community has helped us, help many others. This much-needed food drive has now moved to the New Garden Township offices and will restart on Tuesday, July 7th from 9am-4pm and be open to accept donations every Tuesday after that for the next several months.

Additionally, KACS partnered with the Chester County Health Department in an effort to provide a place for testing and over 600 people have been able to have the COVID-19 test here in front of our Resource Center. Some of the people that came for testing shared with me that they need a negative test result to be able to return to their jobs, some people came because they have symptoms, and others because they are worried that they might be asymptomatic and infecting others with COVID-19.

For all the victims of COVID-19, for their families, and the health and well-being of our community KACS will continue to help others with these important life-sustaining needs and create opportunities with other organizations for collective impact. Collective impact takes us from common goals to uncommon results. All of these conditions together here in this wonderful community have produced extraordinary results.

Thank you for all you do to love your neighbor.

Warmly,
Leah M. Reynolds, M.S.P.L.
Executive Director, Kennett Area Community Service
www.kacsonline.net

Greetings from the Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce



As I am, I hope you and yours are beginning to feel a sense of renewal as we continue to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. For many across Chester County, this feeling may very well be a combination of relief and pride. I share the feelings with you, and at the same time, realize that the efforts of the Southern Chester County Chamber (SCCCC) to support our members and communities across the region, have largely worked.

Understandably, it may be difficult to wrap your mind around the thought that what we are doing *has* worked, so it may help to think about all of the stories we have shared – and continue to share – in the Chamber’s weekly “Good News” e-blast, plus countless other stories you may have been inspired by about people and businesses making a difference – these are the true heroes. If you are one of the local heroes I’m referring to, thank you!

It’s no surprise that Chambers of Commerce across the Commonwealth are being relied upon as community leaders, advocates, and trusted sources of information. From the very beginning (mid-March), SCCC led the way partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and PA Chamber of Business and Industry bringing critical support, resources, and information to our region. We fielded countless questions, provided leadership and support to businesses and individuals, offered viable options for every challenge that faced our communities, held informative webinars, and more. We worked alongside federal, state, and local elected officials to be sure the Governor’s office and the White House heard us, and – we were available practically 24/7 to support members and the business community if they hit a roadblock. We partnered with local main street organizations including Historic Kennett Square and Oxford Main Street and offered our resources and support to their members, and, we participated on the Chester County Commissioners’ Business Task Force, ultimately bringing “Restore Chester County” to all who needed it.

Think of all of the things you and your staff have done to make a difference. This is truly impressive and important work. And, just when we think we have it covered, when we have mastered every video chat application that exists, when we get used to “networking” on a computer screen, and when we master the skills to lead and manage and cajole and politic all from our dining rooms, basements, guest rooms or home offices, we realize that all of this was a preamble for the next step.

Now, as we slowly but surely enter the restore and renewal phase, the path forward begins to clear – but not without new challenges – and – here is yet another moment that Chambers were made for. Leadership.

We assumed the right to leadership over the years when things were going well – and now – *we earn the right to leadership, when our members and communities need us the most.*

SCCCC stands for you in this time of recovery and renewal to guide your business, your employees, and your Boards in these challenging times. Call on the leadership of our Chamber the Board of Directors to help you find your way down a challenging path; build new contacts, or use relationships with Chamber members to help you solve difficult problems, and last but certainly not least, use me as a resource. Do not hesitate to reach out for any reason.

We will come out of this stronger, wiser, and ready for the next challenge – together.



Cheryl B. Kuhn, IOM
President & CEO, SCCC
*Your Success Is **Our** Business*
Ckuhn@sccc.com

Resource Links:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Guide
PA Chamber of Business & Industry – Bringing PA Back
County of Chester – Restore Chester County
Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce
SCCCC “Open For Business” List
SCCCC “TIP JAR”

TLC Expanding in Kennett Township!

by Todd Pride, Managing Director of The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County



I'm glad to be able to write to all of you here for the first time since joining to lead the TLC team last June 2019. Our work in, with, and for the Township is even more important during this unprecedented time for all of us, as we navigate through COVID-19 and its impact.

The pandemic is coupled with the rise in racial issues we have seen across the country after the George Floyd tragedy on Memorial Day. As many of you know, this has been a challenging time, in which I shared in my June 6th message, "Breathing the Same Air...Nature and Wildlife helping us through this time," written from my perspective as a person of color. TLC is now in its 25th year, and we're using the skills and expertise to help our community through this time and into the future.

Over this past year, we've tripled our school and after-school programs to over 90 classes and locations serving some 1,300 students in schools alone. Going into the 2020-2021 school and business year, TLC is focused on helping teachers and after-school program leaders deepen their impact as they gather when able, and virtually at home. TLC is offering students' families even more programs on nature, wildlife, conservation, agriculture, and gardening activities. These programs not only help strengthen student's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education learning, but also help students better understand traditional subjects like history, English, social studies, and others, all rooted in observation and control of the natural world.

We know it's going to be a challenging year for students and their supporting adults, including mental health and wellness challenges in reaction to the social realities of the pandemic. TLC highlighted this in my March 24th article in the Chester County Press on "Nature and the Outdoors." The ability of students to engage in hands-on nature-oriented activities, whether indoors or outdoors, will be important tools to continue to help increase self-esteem, confidence, problem-solving, patience, and determination. Adults benefit as well, exemplified by the wonderful experiences of our volunteers working on our preserves, taking advantage of TLC's at-home activities, and participating in our new Guided Nature Excursions for employee and adult groups.

For more on all of this, look for the launch of our new website - a resource for you to explore these nature, conservation and wildlife opportunities in your area, at our 5 preserves in Kennett Township, Spar Hill, Barkingfield Park, Anson B. Nixon Park, and at your homes.

Kennett Township is our HQ and a partner in many of our efforts to lead the community in preserving beautiful natural resources and wildlife habitat open spaces. As some of you know from Chester County's "Return-On-Environment" study released last May 2019, protecting open spaces is an economic contributor to homeowners and local townships. *Homes located within ½ mile of protected open space are worth more than \$11,000 in increased value. It's less expensive for communities to preserve land than develop it: for every \$1 received from agriculture and open space taxes, local governments spend 7 cents on services. In contrast, for every \$1 from residential developments through taxes, local governments spend \$1.11 on services.*



We hope you'll help TLC expand all off the benefits of Open Spaces and the outdoors in the Township and in our work in developing young and new stewards of our land and waters. See the next page for some of the highlights of our work this past year. Look for even more of these opportunities in Fall and Winter through your local schools as they can, and hands-on projects for staying at home and in our neighborhoods. We need your help so please join us in this effort!



Highlights of TLC's work this past year. Join them in these efforts and more at www.TLCforSCC.org

Board of Supervisors Chair's Corner

Continued from page 1

tragic actions occur. Our acting Chief of Police, Matthew Gordon has spoken firmly and passionately about his views and expectations from every officer to carefully protect the rights of everyone at every encounter.

At a time when natural lands are being lost and irreversible harm done to the environment, another front where Kennett Township can be proud are the gains we are making in preserving open space. While the dog runs were temporarily closed of the pandemic, Barkingfield Park has remained open. After several years, the historic Chandler Mill Bridge restoration is complete and open for pedestrian and bicycle traffic and is key part of the long-planned trail network to allow everyone to access to enjoy open space. We'll keep working to "build" more open space in Kennett Township in order to allow nature to thrive and people to connect, during stressful times and also for the happier times to come.

Stay safe,
Richard L. Leff, Chair

Communicating Through COVID-19

Continued from page 2

Then it became clear people needed other information – including information about what we were learning about the virus, how we could protect ourselves, and even what businesses needed to know about who was 'essential' and who was not. We got together with Historic Kennett Square and other community leaders to make sure the business community knew what was happening, and how to find the resources they needed as well.

I also started a separate website to keep people up to date about public health information, news as it came out about everything from what symptoms to look for to testing availability. (www.kennettcovidinfo.com) We even added patterns for homemade face masks, and I am proud to say, with the help from my two sons, we've made and distributed over 1,450 masks ourselves. Local groups including Sew for PA Essential Workers and the Chester County Maskateers have helped coordinate sewers across the community and have distributed over 10,000 home-made masks to groups throughout Chester County.-including special masks with material provided by Chester County Hospital.

We were also able to move our meetings online via Zoom, so our community could still attend and participate in our public meetings. If you have been to any of our public meetings, you know they can go long from time to time, and often are attended by older residents in the community. With the CDC and WHO reporting that long periods of time in an enclosed space, especially where there's lots of talking has a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission, we may keep having our meetings by Zoom for some time in the future, to minimize the risk to those most vulnerable. While this is not ideal and not everyone has access to technology, we are trying to find the proper balance

between safety and making sure everyone is informed about our local government, and hope to resume in person meetings as soon as we can – we miss seeing you!

I've been touched by how many people across the community have reached out to me, often on Facebook, to ask a question, ask for help or resources, or comment on what's happening. It's let us respond and help residents quickly, and that's been very important.

While Gretchen has assumed running the Facebook and Twitter accounts for the Township, I am still keeping up the website and you can often find me on Facebook. While my personal Facebook account is not an official township "channel," feel free to reach out there and I'll be as responsive as I can – but it's usually best to contact me, or any of the other supervisors by our Township email addresses for official business.

It's been a challenging time, and we've had to grapple with a lot of issues "on the fly." We appreciate your patience, your engagement and your understanding. And we look forward to hearing more from you about what went well, and what we could do better in the future. Communications in the Township is evolving, and we're working hard to make sure we keep people in the know.

Whitney S. Hoffman, Vice Chair

Status of Criminal Action Against Lisa Michelle Moore

Continued from page 2

The prosecuting attorney from the District Attorney's Office is William J. Judge, Jr., Esquire, ADA ;

The presiding judge is David F. Bortner, Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Chester County;

She is free on unsecured bail of \$500,000.00, effective December 10, 2019;

She surrendered her passport on the same day;

Magisterial District Justice Albert Michael Iacocca, Judge, presided;

She is charged with 138 different criminal counts, of which 112 are felonies and the balance misdemeanors;

She was arrested on December 10, 2019;

She waived formal arraignment May 7, 2020;

There was a scheduled hearing for July 20, 2020, however there was an "Order Granting Motion of Continuance" filed. (Based upon my experience in how criminal cases often proceed, this Continuance, requested by her counsel, is common and often granted.)

The Township will continue to make available to the residents of the Township any new information or developing issues that relate to this criminal prosecution. Be sure to watch the Township website. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns as this matter continues to develop.

Scudder G. Stevens, Supervisor

Chandler Mill Bridge

Rehabilitation Project



A Note from the Township Manager

Continued from page 3

In the Fall of 2019 The Board of Supervisors contracted Philadelphia Law Firm Blank Rome, LLP to lead the efforts on recovery in order to make sure the Township is made whole. Recovery efforts can be complicated and time consuming as much can be tied to the criminal proceedings managed by the District Attorney's Office. As of the publishing of this newsletter \$1,080,000.00 has been recovered with efforts still strongly underway. The Township has continued to give updates about the progress of the trial and recovery at its twice monthly meetings in order to keep the residents informed.

Capital Projects

The Township received a \$1.7 million grant in 2016/2017 to rehabilitate and restore Chandler Mill Bridge and to develop a part of the Kennett Greenway from the bridge to South Street and through the Penns Manor Development. After being closed for nearly ten years Chandler Mill Bridge was restored through a process that allowed the Township to continue to use the 100+ year old beams, allowing the bridge to retain its historical designation. The bridge will remain closed to vehicular traffic, with the exception of emergency vehicles, and is now open for all pedestrian traffic. Additionally, the Township is working with trail developers to design and engineer the Kennett Greenway from Chandler Mill Bridge connecting into the Borough and through Penns Manor. The Greenway will be a wonderful destination for walkers, bikers, families, and more providing passive recreation opportunities for anyone to experience the natural habitat our community has to offer. The project is made possible on part from funding provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Construction on this segment of the Kennett Greenway is expected by June 2021.

COVID-19

I would be remiss if I did not mention the impacts of COVID-19 on our municipal operations. This pandemic has forced all of us to experience a new way of life and managing our obligations. Municipal government is not exempt from that. Kennett Township decided to split the public work crew into two teams to allow for socially distant working and avoid cross contamination. Additionally, nearly all the administrative staff was working from home. We were fortunate to have a technological infrastructure that allowed for remote work with relative ease. To date some of our administrative staff are still working remotely on a part time basis. Throughout this process we have ensured that we are fully accessible to the public via phone and email so we can be responsive to your needs.

The Police Department has been running business as usual while using every precaution they can to stay safe and healthy. Our Officers wear masks always and handle calls for service in a way that is safe for them and you. Their dedication to serving the public during this pandemic has been truly impressive.

The Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and other Township Committees and Commissions have continued to meet remotely so that business can be conducted in a safe and efficient manner. Unfortunately, at this time, meeting in person is not our safest option though we do look forward to when we can do so again. The Supervisors have continued to address policy matters pertinent to our regular course of business in order to keep the Township moving forward. We appreciate all that have participated in our virtual meetings.

While the pandemic has made operations more difficult and quite unique, I am pleased to say we are still operating efficiently which is a testament to the dedication and resilience of the staff who has shown their flexibility and insistence to get the job done.

Conclusion

Kennett Township is a wonderful community with many great things happening. This newsletter only begins to scratch the surface of the happenings in our community. I hope you enjoy the materials within and that it encourages you to seek out more information and celebrate all that our community has to offer.

Thank you.

Eden R. Ratliff, Township Manager



If you have a great idea for an article or topic for a future newsletter, please let us know by emailing kennett.twp@kennett.pa.us!



Kennett Township Recycling Center

Location - 549 Bayard Road

Hours of Operation - Monday - Saturday: Dawn to Dusk | Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - Dusk

See Below for Accepted/NOT Accepted Single Stream Recycling Materials (no sorting necessary)

Scrap Metal Recycling Station Accepted Materials - Steel, Aluminum, Copper, Brass, Stainless, and/or Appliances

Scrap Metal Materials NOT Accepted - Propane Tanks, Closed Vessels/Containers including Gas Tanks, Boilers, Heat Exchangers, Fire Extinguishers, Aerosol Cans, Dirt/Debris, Asphalt/Concrete, Batteries, Hazardous Waste, Asbestos Containing Materials, Radioactive Materials, Explosives, Chemicals, Furniture including Mattresses, Wood, Household Garbage, Porcelain Toilets, Televisions, Computers/Monitors, Copiers



All-In-One Single Stream Recycling



Paperboard Boxes
Cajas de carton
(Cereal, pasta, tissue)

Corrugated cardboard & paper bags
De carton y bolsas de papel corrugated (flattened)



Cartons
Cajas de carton



Metal cans & clean aluminum foil, pie plates, trays, loose lids & caps
Las latas de metal y limpia papel de aluminio, platos de pastel, bandejas, tapas sueltas y tapas



Plastic food & beverage containers. #'s 1,2,4,5,7 only
Comida y bebida de Plastic contenedores. #'s unica 1,2,4,5,7

Follow Guidelines Carefully



Newspaper, brochures & inserts
(No plastic bags, do not tie & bundle)
Periódicos, folletos y las inserciones
(No hay bolsas de plástico, no vinculan y tian)



Junk mail, catalogs & magazines
El correo basura, catálogos y revistas



Glass bottles and jars
Las botellas y frascos de vidrio



File folders & office papers
Carpetas de archivos y papeles de oficina



Phone books
Guías telefónicas



Paperback books
Libros de bolsillo

Not Acceptable

No Need To Remove

Paper clips, stamps, address labels, staples, metal fasteners, cellophane address windows, rubber bands, spiral bindings, plastic tabs

- Please flatten all cardboard boxes.
- Empty and rinse all containers

ABSOLUTELY NO TRASH!
Violators will be prosecuted



- No scrap metal
- No VHS/VCR tapes
- No plastic bags
- No needles or syringes
- No window panes, mirrors, ceramics & Pyrex dishware
- No stickers or address label sheet waste
- No plastics other than those listed
- No electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, computers)
- No paint, pesticides, oil & cleanser
- No motor oil or antifreeze containers
- No organic material and food waste
- No waxed paper or waxed cardboard
- No styrofoam or paper to-go containers
- No plastic caps
- No hard cover books

Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority

Public Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be conducted virtually until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions. These meetings are open to the public - we encourage you to tune in and participate! Instructions and the link or phone number to "attend" these meetings are available on our website calendar the week of the meeting.

It is important to check our website calendar as the times may change to accommodate the virtual meetings.

www.kennett.pa.us/calendar

Board of Supervisors

1st & 3rd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

4th Tuesday of the month 7:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

4th Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m.

Land Conservation Committee

As Needed

Planning Commission

1st Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m.

Sustainable Energy Task Force

4th Wednesday of the month 5:30 p.m. (As Needed)

Trials & Sidewalks Committee

1st Tuesday of the month 1:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board

As Needed

**EMERGENCY
CALL 911**

The **Kennett Township Police Department** would like to encourage all residents to

call 9-1-1

if they see anything suspicious in the Township. We like to use the motto "no call is too small." Our administrative line should be used for administrative purposes only, such as report requests or general inquiries.

CCHD **CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19**



**TESTING
INFORMATION**

All COVID testing is managed by the Chester County Health Department. For information on testing locations as well as general information about the coronavirus, please visit their website:

www.chesco.org

You can also call them
Monday - Friday | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.:

610-344-6225

November 3, 2020 General Election

October 19, 2020: Last day to register to vote before the election

October 27, 2020: Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot (ballots must be received by 8 PM on 11/3/20)

November 3, 2020: Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM. Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8 PM)

For all questions related to voting, please visit:

www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services

www.votespa.com

There is a chance polling locations will be modified due to COVID-19. Kennett Township will update you on our website as the information becomes available.

Kennett
TOWNSHIP

Here at Kennett Township, we are striving to be financially responsible with every decision. That is why we are providing this newsletter digitally via our website:

www.kennett.pa.us/156/Newsletters.

This means all the links you see are true links - and we save some trees too! Still want a paper copy? Simply call the Township office at **610-388-1300** to arrange to pick one up.