



Board of Supervisors

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

Kennett Township

801 Burrows Run Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610-388-1300 (p)
610-388-0461 (f)
www.kennett.pa.us
kennett.twp@kennett.pa.us

Kennett Police

610-388-2874 (p)
610-388-8594 (f)

*Always call **911** for emergencies
or to have an officer respond*
ktpd@kennett.pa.us

Staff

Eden R. Ratliff

Township Manager
eden.ratliff@kennett.pa.us

Amy Heinrich

Director of Finance & HR
amy.heinrich@kennett.pa.us

Diane Hicks

Director of Planning & Zoning
diane.hicks@kennett.pa.us

Roger Lysle

Director of Public Works
roger.lysle@kennett.pa.us

Matt Gordon

Acting Chief of Police
matthew.gordon@kennett.pa.us

Gretchen Flack

Executive Assistant to the Manager
gretchen.flack@kennett.pa.com

Elizabeth Hutchins

Administrative Assistant to KTPD
elizabeth.hutchins@kennett.pa.us

Dina McIlvaine

Finance & HR Specialist
dina.mcilvaine@kennett.pa.us

Denise Serino

Finance & Procurement Specialist
denise.serino@kennett.pa.us

Jasmin Lopez

Accounting Assistant
jasmin.lopez@kennett.pa.us

Amy Ferris

Administrative Assistant for
Planning & Zoning
permits@kennett.pa.us

Kennett Library Update



The Kennett Library is a true resource for Southern Chester County

by Mary Hutchins, Kennett Library Campaign Associate

The Kennett Library is working hard to provide library and information services to our community. The staff was very quick to pivot when COVID-19 became part of our reality. Story times and other programs went virtual, online Library card applications became available so the community could access eBooks and other online materials, books past their prime were donated to the public, and when it was safe to do, curbside pick-up became available and in July the Library reopened their doors with social distance guidelines in place.

"I think we really stepped up in a big way. We made sure we had something for everyone that kept people engaged," Library Director Megan Walters said.

As a result of the pandemic, usage of Overdrive (eBooks) has increased dramatically this year and Library staff has made increasing the availability of online materials a priority. Led by Kennett resident and Board President Jeff Yetter, a team of volunteers and staff redesigned and launched a new Kennett Library website – www.KennettLibrary.org. The new site is easy to navigate and is full of information for Library users and the community.

Filomena Elliott, the Director of the Adult Literacy Program began hosting classes online. The classes are held in the evenings via Zoom, and they are currently offering four levels of ESL and a citizenship class. This September, they added a citizenship class to the schedule, as they have many students who have applied for American citizenship. From the beginning of 2019 to November 2020, the Library has helped a total of 20 new American citizens!

In addition, in order to provide extra practice for the students, Filomena and her daughter, Laura, created two original resources for students: a biweekly newsletter with information, readings, and comprehension activities, and a website with videos, conversations, and lessons.

Continued on page 24

Board of Supervisors Chair's Corner

Dr. Richard L. Leff



Welcome to the end of 2020 and our Winter Newsletter. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, we are excited to share the contents within as we review the past 12 months, highlight some of our many nonprofits presently doing amazing work in our community, and look ahead to what is to come.

As we all know, 2020 was a challenging year in many regards. The Board of Supervisors is proud of our Township staff who continued to pivot and adapt to the realities of COVID-19 and enable the Board to support the community and focus on our priorities for the Township. As elected officials we

have the responsibility of governing, regardless of the circumstances, to ensure Kennett Township remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play – all while preparing for the future.

We hope that you will find this Newsletter informative and engaging as we strive to keep the community informed. The Board continues to be available to you either directly via email/call or during our twice monthly meetings (the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom). The involvement of our community in the governing process continues to be vital and appreciated. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us and participate in your local government.

Happy New Year and stay safe,
Richard L. Leff, Chair

A Note from the Township Manager

Eden Ratliff



A December newsletter usually assumes a year in review or a glimpse of what is to come. With 15 months behind me as the Township Manager of Kennett Township, and no shortage of topics to review or preview, I

have still debated the topic of this submission.

To begin, I want to thank my team. 2020 was going to be challenging for us and we knew it at the onset. When the realities of COVID-19 set in, the entire Township staff buckled down, stayed focused, and continued to deliver high-quality service to the community. I could not be more proud of every one of them as they navigated the challenges and redefined normal in an abnormal year. An under-recognized part of that team is my Executive Assistant, Gretchen, who helps keep me organized as the Township tackles the priorities of the Board of Supervisors. I would like to thank the Board for their hard work in setting the strategic priorities and proving they will not back down from challenges. They have continued to support us and ensure we have the tools we need to deliver government services. Lastly, thank you to the community who continues to engage,

support, and influence your government. You are valued part of the process and it is our pleasure to serve you.

Now I could discuss the changes to our internal operations post fraud, maybe dig into a review of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), perhaps the delivery of Emergency Medical Services, or even the Kennett Greenway. One of the things I love about our community is that there is so much happening at any given time. I could write about any of it! For this entry, however, I am going to provide a glimpse into the role of local government, specifically a Second Class Township like Kennett, and why our Township is particularly unique.

The Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code essentially charges the Board of Supervisors with providing for the public health, safety, and welfare of the Township (Article VI Section 607(1), PA Second Class Township Code). There is much interpretation and case law that defines what exactly that means, and the opinions vary depending on who you ask. Some matters are quite clear, such as fire, emergency medical service, and wastewater, whereas others are left up to the preference of the elected body and community at large. The interpretation of the charge matters because it will aid in the discussion of community

Continued on page 25

A Peek Inside

Read on for more great articles

KT Police Department ... 3

Finance & HR Update ... 4

Planning & Zoning Department ... 6

Public Works ... 7

Overcoming COVID-19 Challenges ... 8

Land Conservation in the Pandemic ... 8

Kennett Fire & Longwood Fire Company ... 9

Kennett Area Community Service ... 10

SCOON: Education & Equity ... 12

What's Next for Historic Kennett Square? ... 14

KTA Kennett Trails Initiatives ... 16

KAPA Update ... 18

TLC Protecting a Forest ... 19

MS4 Compliance ... 20

Barkingfield Meadow ... 22

Deer Management Committee ... 22

2021 Juneteenth Celebrations ... 23

2021 Public Meeting Schedule ... 28



Ending the Year with Thanks

Matthew J. Gordon, Interim Police Chief

On behalf of the men and women of the Kennett Township Police Department I would like to thank the Manager and his administrative staff, the Board of Supervisors, our Public Works Department, our Fire and EMS units, our surrounding law enforcement partners, the Police Chaplain, and last but not least the residents of Kennett Township for all of your support throughout this wild year that

was 2020. No one escaped the hardships that were brought on by the coronavirus. Collectively we showed that nothing can keep us down when we work together, use compassion, and care for each other.

Here at the police department we had additional challenges beyond COVID-19. Injuries and illnesses plus some personnel departures made it difficult to maintain the work schedule to keep our coverages intact 24/7. Much of 2019 and 2020 was staffed by only six officers, and many of those shifts were single-officer shifts. I am grateful to all of our Police Department staff, sworn and administrative, who worked many extra shifts and sacrificed throughout the year to keep our residents safe. In addition, all of our employees took on additional responsibilities to make our department run in a more professional and proficient manner. I could not be more proud of the job they did and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication.

To the Manager and Board of Supervisors: I know there were many things on your plates this year, yet you still recognized the need for additional police officers. We were able to hire two new officers to cover the vacancies that occurred in 2019 and we have been given the opportunity to hire 2 additional officers in 2021. These staff upgrades are much needed and we appreciate the Board of Supervisors for not only recognizing the need for additional officers, but for increasing officer safety as a result of these actions. Thank you.

To the Director of Public Works and his Road Crew: Like ourselves, you are always on the front lines when things get difficult. The Public Works Department does an outstanding job and are always willing to assist the first responders anytime we need you, which as it turns out, is quite a lot. Thank You.

To our Fire and EMS partners: You are professional, dedicated, and always training to make yourselves better. Your hard work is evident and appreciated. Thank you.

To our law enforcement partners: You have assisted us since we endeavored to become a 24/7 operation. We are the new guys on the block in law enforcement and we are learning to crawl before we walk. I think our improvement since 2019 is exceptional but we know your assistance has made us better and safer. Thank you.

To our Police Chaplain: You were and are always available to us and to our residents in need. In addition, you and your church bakers have kept us steadily supplied with cookies and other sweets, keeping us happy and well fed during our shifts. Thanks for all you do Annalie Korengel.

To our residents: Since I came here in 2016, you have shown us how much you appreciate us. Your cards, letters of support and thanks, food and sweets dropped off to the police station have been non-stop. We are proud to partner with all of you in the hopes of keeping our community a safe and wonderful place to live and raise a family.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas and holiday season. Remember, it is not so much about presents. It is about being grateful and thankful for all that we have while striving to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

I pray for us all that 2021 is truly a new and better year to come.

Sgt. Matthew J Gordon, Interim Police Chief



Winter Holiday Safety Tips from the KTPD

Criminals love the holidays as much as everyone else because it is an opportune time for crime. Follow these suggestions to help keep you and yours safe while minimizing their opportunity.

If you are traveling:

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Purchase video cameras and install an alarm system. This technology is cheap and efficient.
- Ask your friends or neighbors to watch your home, shovel snow.
- Stop mail delivery or have someone get your mail and newspaper.

If you are out for the evening:

- Turn on your lights and TV or radio to make it look like someone is home.
- Activate your alarm system each time you leave your home.
- Be cautious and take the time to lock your doors and windows.
- Don't display valuables that can be seen from outside.
- While out and about, be alert to your surroundings. If it seems suspicious or out of place, it probably is.

If you are Shopping:

- Stay alert to your surroundings and what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lit area and be sure to close your windows, lock your doors, and set your alarm.
- Do not leave your gifts in plain sight. Put them in your trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash if you can pay with a credit card.
- Deter pickpockets by carrying your wallet and/or purse close to your body.

Continued on page 26

Finance & HR Update

Amy Heinrich, Director of Finance & HR

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to thank both my staff and you - the residents. First, the all-star finance team we have worked hard to put in place over the past year - Dina, Denise, and Jasmin - have more than risen to many occasions. They are committed to their work, committed to bringing transparent financial transactions to Kennett Township, and committed to doing all of this in a fluid remote work environment.

As you know, sewer billing has been delayed this year due to staff turnover, extensive clean-up efforts, process improvements and COVID-19 complexities. We apologize for any inconveniences but are happy to note that new low-contact efficient processes have been rolled-out and continuously improved. Changes include a print and mail service from our systems vendor, lock-box capability with our bank and other behind-the-scenes process improvements. Third quarter 2020 billing is expected to go out very soon. Our goal is to get Fourth quarter 2020 billing out on time and stay consistent thereafter. There is a natural delay due to the dependency on water volumes from two different water companies. The normal process results in bills being mailed 6-7 weeks after quarter-end. Thank you, residents of Kennett Township, for your patience and kindness while we've navigated these changes together.

This time of year in the financial world, we have the unique task of looking back (2019), looking at the present (2020) and looking ahead (2021). Here is where we are in each of those years:

2019

The 2019 audit has been completed by Maillie and I am reviewing their final report. We plan to circulate the full results and present it to the Board and the public in January. The process was stretched out versus a normal year given both COVID-19 limitations and the unique post-fraud process. The audit was challenging due to the extensive clean-up and reconciliation required on 2018 and 2019 data and lack of back-up materials for early 2019. The findings were as expected and everything of any significance has already been rectified. We will be happy to discuss these details when we present the audit.

2020

The year-to-date P&L and full-year 2020 forecast P&L shown to the right and are on the Township Website. Of note, two large employers with payroll systems issues are causing most of the negative EIT variance. The 2020 forecast includes recouping some of these funds in December, but I am just learning that it may take longer. That would result in upside to the 2021 budget. One large company had staff reductions that caused a decline of \$133K in EIT. Outside of these 3 companies, EIT has increased. Therefore, any COVID-19 impact is more than offset by other favorable factors.

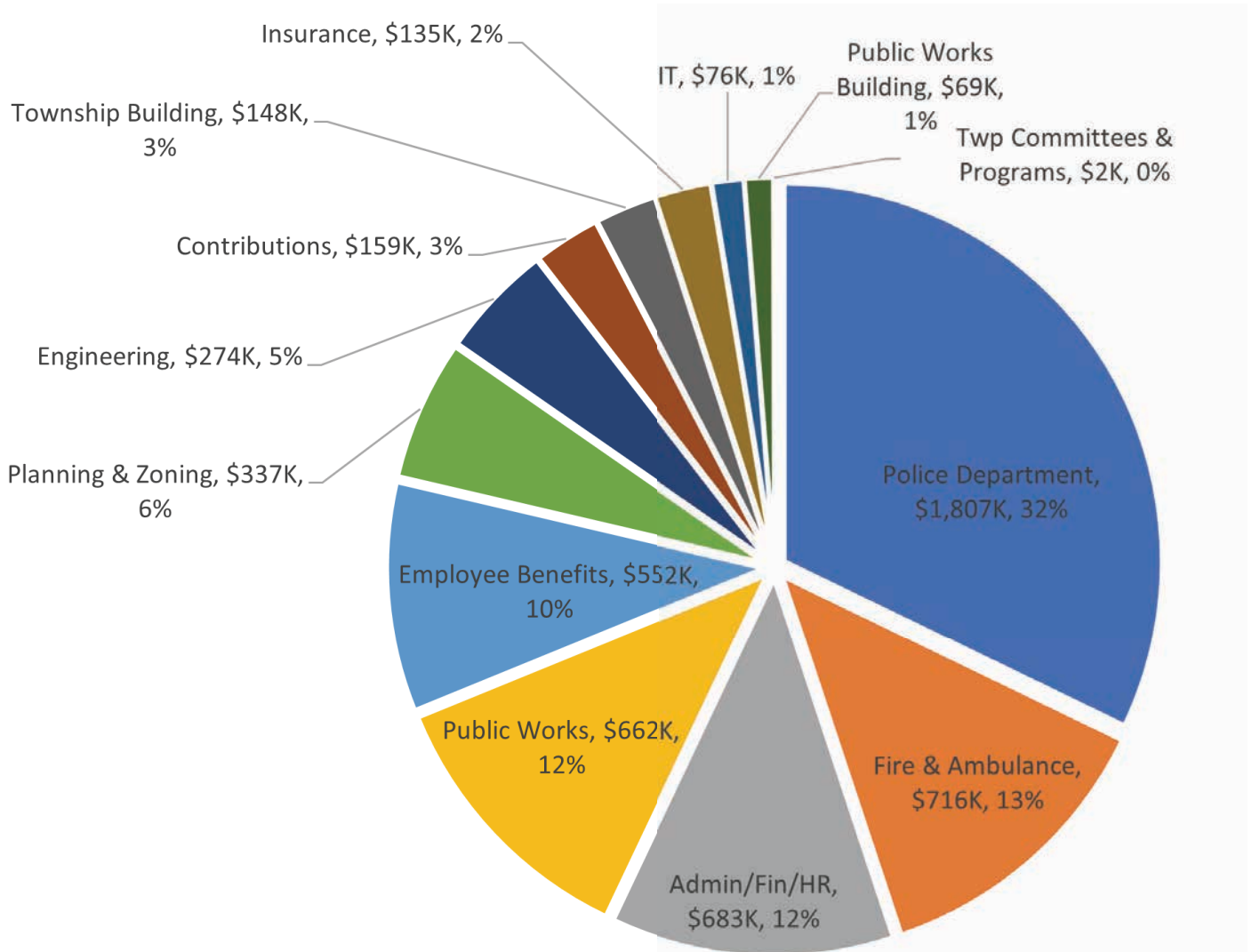
Income Statement as of Dec 16, 2020				
General Fund Only	Amended Budget	2020 YTD	2020 Forecast	2021 Budget
Revenue				
Taxes	\$4,783,000	\$4,845,624	\$4,970,000	\$5,226,000
Fees, Fines, Grants, Interest	\$1,082,101	\$ 919,339	\$ 962,605	\$ 865,986
Revenue Total	\$5,865,101	\$5,764,964	\$5,932,605	\$6,091,986
Expense				
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,979,845	\$2,603,684	\$2,848,008	\$3,367,310
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 788,612	\$ 608,577	\$ 676,618	\$ 782,555
Contracted/Professional Services	\$ 816,417	\$ 668,306	\$ 863,088	\$ 614,720
Community & Economic Development	\$ 365,650	\$ 292,229	\$ 293,224	\$ 162,800
Fire & Ambulance	\$ 597,412	\$ 593,359	\$ 597,834	\$ 692,457
Expense Total	\$5,547,937	\$4,766,157	\$5,278,773	\$5,619,842
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$(650,026)	\$(431,099)	\$(650,026)	\$(465,000)
Operating Gain/(Loss)	\$317,164	\$998,807	\$653,832	\$472,144
Gain/(Loss) With Capital	\$(332,862)	\$567,707	\$3,806	\$7,144
2020 YTD & Forecast do not include a net recovery from fraud of \$517K (\$1M recovery - \$438K YTD recovery expenses). Recovery and related expenses are not budgeted in 2021.				

2021

The 2021 budget was officially approved at the December 16th Board of Supervisors Meeting. Below is a graph that shows the breakdown of operating expenses. For more details, please visit the Finance page on the Township website.

The budget process was an extremely thorough bottoms-up process that began in August. It included all department heads and all Finance, HR and administrative employees. Every line item was individually forecasted and presented at one or more of our eight discussions at the public Board of Supervisors meetings. We gathered extensive feedback from the Board, community partners, and the public in order to get to where we are today with a balanced 2021 budget. I want to express a sincere thank you to the Finance & HR team and all others that assisted with the process.

2021 Budget General Fund Operating Expenses (\$K)



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

Planning & Zoning Department

Diane Hicks, Director of Planning & Zoning

BUILDING AND ZONING

The building and zoning department has been busy putting out over 100 permits since August 1st. Generators and Solar permits are more popular than ever. We have 15 business days to process a complete residential permit and 30 days for a commercial permit, so plan accordingly when submitting a permit. The township will contact you when your permit is ready and provide you with an invoice. No fees are paid until the permit is approved. We now take credit cards for permits.

Permit Basics

Is a permit required? Painting, cabinets, gutters, window replacement, faucets, and roofing where there are no structural changes being made do not require a permit. Projects that do not require building permits may require Zoning permits. These projects include fences over 6 feet, patios, driveways and gazebos. If you are converting from one heating source to another, a permit is required. The manufacturer's installation and operation specs must be submitted with the permit application. If the property is subject to a Homeowner's Association, a letter of approval from the HOA must be included in your submission. Your permit must be posted in a visible location on the property. As a reminder, three days prior to any digging, you must place a PA-1 Call to #811 to have utility lines marked. Permit applications are available online at www.kennett.pa.us under "Forms" or you can contact the office.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The following plans remain under review:

Avello

Location: 558 Creek Road

The submitted plan proposes to construct a 2-floor residential multi-family dwelling building (consisting of 6 apartments). The site is located in the SA – Specialized Agricultural Zoning District and contains 1.371 acres. The six proposed apartments are to be serviced through public water and sewer.

Novak

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

The Plan proposes to subdivide an existing lot, located in the R-1 – Residential Zoning District and containing 42.446 acres, into 4 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 2 ½ story dwelling that is proposed to remain. This plan has received preliminary approval.

Parkside

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

The applicant proposes the creation of 117 parcels from 4 parent parcels totaling 16.15 acres and construction of six apartment buildings containing 72 apartments, 78 townhouses, 8 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. This plan has received preliminary approval.

The following plans have been granted final approval:

Fairville Friends

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

The applicant proposes the revision of the property line between 2 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.

Exelon

Location: 300 Exelon Way

The intention of the plan is to segregate building #300 from building #200 with a security fence to meet the established security setbacks. A guardhouse is proposed to enhance the security features. While the access to the entire site will remain unchanged, a new access road to building #200 is proposed. An existing helipad on the site is to be relocated to the site housing building #200. This plan has received conditional final approval.

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 conditional final approval.



OWN AN ELECTRIC CAR? DID YOU KNOW...

... an electrical permit is required for your charging station? Contact a licensed electrician and the township to install charging equipment and to ensure compliance with all local inspections and permits. Improper installations can cause risk of fire and/or electrocution. The cost for this permit is \$54.50.



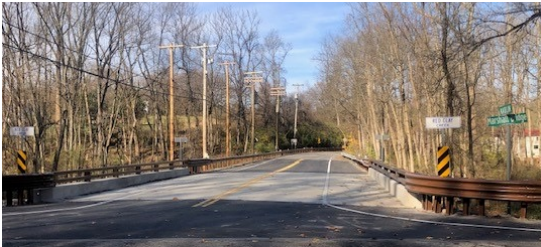
Public Works

Roger Lysle, Director of Public Works

As we approach the end of the year that none of us could ever have imagined, a year full of challenges and changes, we look back at what has happened and look forward to the many things that await us.

Looking back, the great plans that we laid out in the beginning of the year had to change. Our belts had to be tightened so we could proceed forward. Roadwork projects were reduced to allow for correction in our system and refocus in our approach. Even with the reductions we were able to complete two major road projects. A section of Norway Road was reconstructed along with a section of Chandler Mill Road.

During the year, Mother Nature unleashed a number of storms on us which caused major road issues and damage to infrastructure. Many roads flooded resulting in damaged storm pipes, mudslides, and severe stream bank erosion. All of this, of course, was happening during the pandemic of COVID-19. During the spring months, we operated with a reduced staff as we split into teams to try and maintain a healthy group to handle all the work. My team of dedicated employees worked extremely hard to keep everything moving ahead.



Major roads were closed by PennDOT during the summer months for bridge replacements: the State Street Bridge at Mill Road and the Kaolin Road Bridge at Marshall Bridge Road. We worked diligently to keep all other routes open and were delighted - just like you - that PennDOT completed those bridges in record time. The Kaolin Bridge (pictured left) was completed three months ahead of schedule, even in the midst of a pandemic. Some temporary closures were necessary during other repairs, but we always reopened them as soon as possible to keep traffic flowing. We again appreciate the patience you showed during that time.

Looking ahead, our Road Crew will be able to function more efficiently as a new employee was added to the Public Works Department. Paul Groff, who goes by PJ, joins us as Lead Foreman (pictured right). He is filling a vacancy left by another team member who moved on to become a police officer after completing night school. Prior to joining Kennett Township, PJ worked for East Goshen Township and has over seven years of experience in Public Works. He was born and raised in the Coatesville area where he, his wife Lindsey, children Makenna and Chase, and two dogs Zoey and Teddy still reside today. We know that Kennett Township will benefit greatly from his vast knowledge of roads and sewer. Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome him when you see him as we wish him many years of growth and happiness here.



As we move into the winter months and a new year, I wanted to remind everyone of our snow procedures. Our Road Crew hits the streets as soon as a storm starts and stays on until it is over. Public safety is the number one priority. Please help us by preparing for snow and ice:



- Clean the snow off of your car.
- Clear your windows so you can see.
- Allow for more time when driving.
- When clearing your driveway, do not put snow in the roadway and always throw your snow to the right of the driveway at the road edge. This will help prevent the plow truck from pushing it back into your driveway.
- Remember that your mailman needs to be able to access your mailbox so please clear that area. With over 6,000 mailboxes in the Township, we try very hard to maintain them, but you can help here too. Check your mailbox before it snows to make sure it can handle the snow that will be pushed against it from the plows.

- Also, we ask you not to put trashcans in the roadway as this makes it unsafe for traffic and hinders plowing operations.

As always, any questions can be directed us at the Public Works Garage by calling 610-444-5130.

Let's wish for a great 2021!

Thank you,
- Roger Lysle, Public Works Director



The Township Yard Waste pile at the Recycling Center, located at 557 Bayard Road, is open for Christmas tree recycling. All the lights and decorations must be removed from the trees and no stands or wire or bows are allowed.



Overcoming COVID-19 Challenges

Whitney S. Hoffman, Vice Chair

To say 2020 has been unusual is an understatement. While the Township has been on the road to recovery, we have also been dealing with the pandemic, bringing a new team together, and managing as much as possible remotely through Zoom. There have been technical challenges along the way, getting everyone used to these new forms of communications, and many people forced to learn to work remotely for the first time.

One of the bright spots of the year has to be the increased number of people participating in our Board of Supervisors meetings over Zoom. I miss seeing everyone in person and having some time to discuss things face to face, but I'm glad more people are attending meetings. We've even had younger members of the community join us to ask for support for a local skateboard park, and I hope more younger members of the community will continue to participate and let us know what they want to see in our Community.

To that end, I recently took a tour of the former St. Anthony in the Hills property with New Garden Township Supervisors. New Garden purchased the property to preserve it and develop it into a public park. As we looked at what was there, it's clear the possibilities are almost endless, and I was excited that New Garden asked us to reach out to our residents to see what their ideas were for the space as well, and what was needed in the local community.

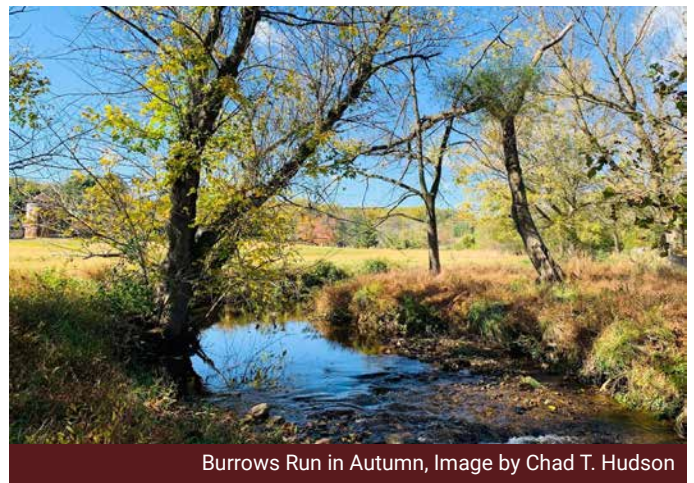
If we've learned anything from the pandemic so far, it's how important it is to help others out as needed. Early on, I jumped in and sewed masks for local non-profits including Kendal-Crosslands, Friends Home in Kennett Square, Willow Tree Hospice, Kennett Area Community Services, Tick Tock Learning Center, a local mushroom farm and more. The Borough and the Township worked together to make sure everyone had PPE, and Longwood Fire Company reports that they are working with Longwood Gardens, Kendal-Crosslands and some others to help get volume discounts when ordering PPE. Everyone pulled together early and I am so proud to live in a community that cares so much about each other, and especially people in need.

Continued on page 26

Land Conservation in the Pandemic

*An article from the Land Conservation Advisory Committee
by Michael Guttman*

The current COVID-19 pandemic has, if anything, increased the value and importance of open space to Kennett Township residents and visitors. With restrictions on congregating indoors, there's been a huge increase in usage of our parks, preserves, and trails. Sometimes it's been difficult to find a parking spot at a trailhead or at a stream access site for those looking to spend an afternoon biking, hiking, canoeing or kayaking. This has underlined how important open space is to our community, and increased our sense of urgency to preserve as much of it as we can for ourselves and posterity before it disappears.



Burrows Run in Autumn, Image by Chad T. Hudson

Since its creation, our township's Land Conservation Advisory Committee (LCAC) has been dedicated to assisting our Board of Supervisors in the identification of properties within our borders suitable for conservation, and to partner with other government agencies and local conservation organizations to protect them, either by acquiring them outright, or by purchasing conservation easements. Our primary goal is to bring the percentage of land area now under protection, about 22%, at least up to the current 30% target set by Chester County. Given the ever-increasing development pressures in our area this won't be easy, but it is doable thanks both to the Township's own dedicated Open Space tax and to other funding available from our partners.

In the last few years, LCAC's efforts have resulted in the protection of several sizable properties, including the township's acquisition of its first municipal park, Barkingfield, and more recently the iconic former farmstead, Spar Hill (along with the adjacent Lord Howe tract), as well as several smaller properties. In addition, LCAC is continuing to work with our principal partner, The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC-SCC), on protecting several other large properties we have jointly identified.

We've recently noticed more than the usual number of 'For Sale' signs on our township roads, many of which quickly disappear,

Continued on page 27

Kennett Fire Company



Wishes Everyone a Safe & Healthy Holiday Season!

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.

- More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Winter Holiday Safety 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. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light 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.
- 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.



nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2019 NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards FACTS

Longwood Fire Company



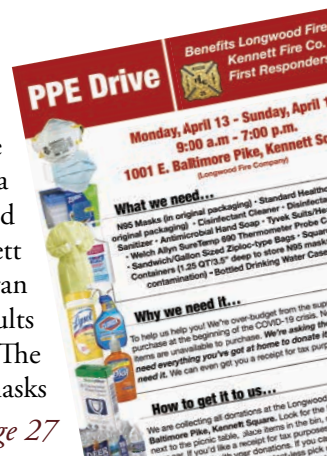
Here at Longwood Fire Company, like all of the Kennett Township Residents, we have had an unprecedented year. The Coronavirus pandemic has caused a big adaptation in the operation of the Fire Company. We thought our residents might be interested to hear the story of how our volunteers and career members navigated the storm.

We first heard reports of the virus in February on news outlets. Just like many of you, we were not in full fledged planning mode or response since there were no cases in the US. We did start some planning as there are many people that travel through this area to work in Wilmington and Philadelphia. We initially thought this would be the only way we could be exposed. We soon learned we were wrong.

As cases were confirmed in the State and County, we started our internal planning. We closed our station to the public, which was a difficult decision to make seeing as our Fire Station is located on a main road through the Kennett Region. Little did we know the hard decisions would continue. We closed or cancelled all of our public CPR training and car seat inspections. While this is a great service to the region, we determined it was necessary to limit possible exposure to our First Responders. Additionally we cancelled our internal training and in-person meetings for members, implemented daily health screenings for all staff when they were working or responded to the station for calls, and mandated mask wearing on calls and around the station.

The next big hurdle was the limited availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). A member of the Kennett Township Community, Marla Palmer, stepped up to the plate and suggested a PPE drive to the Kennett Township Leadership team. This drive ran for a few weeks in the spring and the results were overwhelming and humbling. The drive led to countless donations of masks

Continued on page 27



I think we can agree that this year has been like no other. Despite the hardships arising from 2020, I am humbled and grateful for the unflinching determination of our community to provide food and shelter for our neighbors in need.

In the 2019-2020 Impact Report on the following page, you will see the numbers behind all the people whose lives were changed by this community's contributions to the mission of Kennett Area Community Service (KACS), a nonprofit that provides essential, life-sustaining services. Whether they donated food, money, their time, or expertise, together we changed the lives of the people who live right here in our area. None of this would have been possible without all of us coming together to tackle the ongoing issues of hunger and homelessness.

As you know, our Food Cupboard has been operating at record-breaking levels to keep up with the increased demand for food assistance brought on by the COVID-19 crisis. To date, 16,447 visits have been made to our small food cupboard and amazingly 32 families were stably rehoused through the perseverance of the team in our emergency assistance program. The emphasis on rapid rehousing is focused on getting people's lives back to normal through immediate housing and case management and has made exceptional advances in helping people stabilize their lives.

In this next year, we still face many unknowns as a community and as an organization. However, there is one thing of which we can all be certain and that is KACS's commitment and capacity to strengthen the community in Southern Chester County through food, housing, and crisis services enabling everyone to survive and thrive.

Thank you, on behalf of the many families who depend on KACS, our volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors for choosing to support the health and welfare of your community through KACS. We hope that as you read through these remarkable accomplishments that you feel a sense of pride knowing you were a vital part of making it all possible. For more information please go online at www.kacsonline.net.

Thanks for all you do to love your neighbor.

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

Find Kennett Area Community Service online at www.kacsonline.net
Facebook: @KennettFoodCupboard

Highlights From Autumn



Lion Jack Schwartz, Lion Debra Swayne, KACS Executive Director, Leah M Reynolds, PDG Richard Taylor, Lions of PA Foundation Director, and Lion Ray McKay pose with two donations for KACS.



Operation Warm and Longwood Rotary provided back-to-school shoes to distribute to our families on a beautiful September day.



Alex from Longwood Gardens was one of the many local gardeners who donated fresh veggies this season.



In October, the Ladies Golf Association at the Kennett Golf and Country Club for held Hit For Hunger fundraising event for KACS.

THE COLLECTIVE IMPACT

OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

\$555,477




total payments for the year

\$441,249
Rent, Mortgage & Security Deposits



\$48,337
short term
hotel stays
(because there are no shelters)



\$3,229 heating oil assistance	 \$38,668 electric bill assistance	 water bill assistance
		\$6,058

\$17,936 Other emergency payments

32
Families Stably Rehoused



18
Graduates of our
Getting Ahead
workshops




FOOD CUPBOARD

Serving our community for over

60 years

16,447
individuals served
at our Food Cupboard




6,051 CHILDREN  1011 SENIORS 

463,232 lbs.
FOOD DONATED BY INDIVIDUALS,
GROCERY STORES FOOD DRIVES
AND THE GOVERNMENT



194
Individuals served through our
monthly delivery service.



308 individual volunteers*
18 volunteer groups*
6,588 hours



306
Families received
Thanksgiving dinner



401
Families received
food, coats & toys
from our annual
holiday event



Southern Chester County: Education & Equity

by Kate Daneker

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

SCCON

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.

Over the past 8 months, every single one of us has felt the effects of COVID, and in many ways it has helped to bring us together as a community. But one thing the pandemic has made very clear is that while we are all in the same COVID storm, we are not all in the same boat. For those families already living on the edge, an existing lack of resources means that the challenges brought on by the pandemic have hit extra hard. In late August, when we came to understand that school would not look the same this year, many of our community partners began to worry. How would students with no internet, with single working parents, with language barriers or food insecurity or any number of other barriers succeed in a virtual classroom? One thing was very obvious: whatever the solutions, no school district, government agency, or nonprofit organization could take them on alone.

In response, the *Education Discovery Group* was formed, the newest of SCCON's community action committees. This cross-sector team is working not only to keep students on track this fall, but also to take on some of the longstanding issues keeping under-resourced students from reaching their potential. Their efforts are focused into three subgroups, each focused on a specific area of need facing families this fall: a safe and supportive place to do virtual school; access to technological resources; and consistent, reliable network of communication for parents trying to navigate the new normal.



Two students log into their virtual classrooms at The Garage Youth Center in West Grove.

Learning Pods

In SCC, low-income families tend to be working poor, meaning that parents are often juggling multiple jobs in essential positions (think agriculture, retail, & health care), often without paid time off. And while district staff worked at warp speed to get internet services out to every household, far too many students were starting a virtual school year with no way to connect.

In Oxford, Avon Grove, & Kennett Areas, multiple community organizations reached out to the schools to offer their support, and several "Learning Pods" were launched, designed to serve kids who would otherwise spend the day unconnected or unsupervised by an

adult. The beauty of these pods is not only in the faces of the children they serve, but in the outstanding partnerships between dozens of organizations that have made them possible. All the while, SCCON has been working to provide a platform where they can connect and share resources so that more children can be reached.

Technology

Internet access is a longstanding issue affecting students of limited means in our community. And while it certainly presented obstacles to academic success before the pandemic, when classrooms went 100% virtual, no internet meant no school. Districts were tasked with supplying hundreds of hotspots and devices to previously unconnected homes, and many families with no previous knowledge of computers had to suddenly become proficient in online learning platforms.

The challenges were enormous. Understanding this, the Technology group brought together staff from each local district to identify gaps and share solutions. Community organizations joined who could offer in-home support



to individual families. While not every issue has been resolved, the vast majority of students in each district are now connected and logging into class each day. A supportive network has been formed around them, and the group has already begun developing plans to ensure that a post-COVID future involves ongoing internet access for every student.



Parent Education

We've known for a long time that a student's success in school depends in large part on having parents who are involved, engaged, and supportive of their education. In families where parents are balancing multiple jobs and living paycheck to paycheck, finding the time and mental energy to focus on school can be tough. Language and cultural barriers can make this even harder. Given the enormity of changes that have happened with school over the past few months, the involvement of parents has become all the more critical, but even more challenging.

The Parent Education group was formed to make sure that every parent has access to the information and support they need to help their child learn during COVID - regardless of their circumstances. Guidance counselors, principals, volunteers, and nonprofit staff began meeting regularly to discuss challenges, identify at-risk families, and make a plan to reach them. Because of them, more parents than ever feel connected to their child's learning process and hundreds of vulnerable kids are receiving the support they need.

What can I do?

Volunteer. Several learning pods are in need of in-person volunteers to support staff as they keep students engaged with online classrooms. A few hours a week, volunteer clearances, and a clean bill of health are all that's needed.

Donate supplies. Many local nonprofits across SCC are accepting donations of food, hygienic items, and school supplies to support struggling families through this time.

Give. Financial donations are needed to cover things like transportation, technology upgrades, and extra staff time for those organizations supporting students. Any amount can make a difference!

Advocate. Find out what local, state, and federal officials are doing to provide for the additional support families, organizations, and schools need to make it through this crisis. Ask what they are doing about longer-term issues like universal internet access and childcare subsidies.

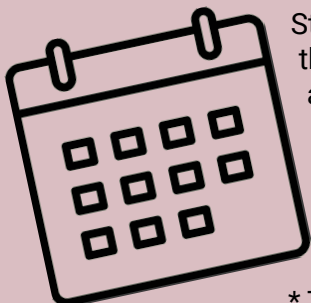


Contact us the [SCC Opportunity Network](#) for details on where and how to help, or check out our [Community Resources page](#) to find more details on specific organizations who need your support.

You can find Southern Chester County Opportunity Network at www.sccnetwork.org

Mark Your Calendar!

A Reminder from the **Kennett Township Historical Commission:**



Starting in January 2021, the Kennett Township Historical Commission (KTHC) will meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. using Zoom (changed from the 4th Tuesday). All are welcome to join us as we focus on collecting, preserving, and sharing our Township's history. If you'd like to attend our monthly meeting, see what we've got, or if you have any items you'd like to donate, please let us know. We welcome your interest, contributions of books, pamphlets, letters, photos and other memorabilia. Contact Fredda Pennock at 302-750-4497 or freddapennock@gmail.com for more.

* The Zoom link and password is available on the Township Calendar at www.kennett.pa.us.

What's Next for Historic Kennett Square?

by Tara Smith, Communications Coordinator for HKS



The organization we now call Historic Kennett Square (HKS) began in 1986 as the Kennett Square Main Street Association. When it became a nonprofit in 1995, the name was changed to the Kennett Square Revitalization Task Force. For many years, it served primarily as a Main Street organization, tasked with breathing new life into Kennett Square's downtown. Following the Main Street America model and the example of many similar organizations, HKS focused on four key areas to guide the continued growth of the Kennett Square community: economic vitality, design, organization, and promotion. HKS was incredibly successful across each of these areas, and today Kennett Square and the surrounding region are beneficiaries of this work.

The staff and board of Historic Kennett Square began 2020 with a view to refocusing and reimagining how the organization could best serve the needs of our growing community. In late February, just a few weeks before the COVID-19 shutdowns began, we put together the following vision statement:

At HKS we know that Kennett Square has the potential to be an inclusive, beautiful, and evolving community. We provide expertise in community development and thought leadership, and we host events to build community so that Kennett Square will become a beautiful community where everyone can belong and prosper.

We also determined that we hoped to be defined by the following characteristics:

Collaborative. HKS works with others to help define and achieve the goals of the community.

Inclusive. HKS exists to serve the entire Kennett community, and therefore makes every effort to reach across and break down the dividing lines in our community to ensure that all voices and perspectives are heard and honored.

Empathetic. HKS seeks to understand the struggles of every community member or group.

Focused/Strategic. HKS will help frame the clearly defined goals for the community and stay focused on the achievement of those goals.

Quality. HKS will always act in an exemplary and professional manner. We will aim for the highest quality in events, placemaking, and economic development.

The vision statement and characteristics are aspirational—that is, they define the type of organization we hope to become. But we are proud of the work that we have done over the past nine months to both adapt and take steps in the right direction towards becoming an organization that serves the entire Kennett community.

Below are a few highlights from the past nine months.

Support for Businesses during COVID-19. HKS provided information and support for business owners in Kennett Township and Kennett Square Borough who faced an overwhelming and complex array of loan and grant programs—from sharing up-to-date information as aid became available to advice on which aid sources were most appropriate for a given business to assistance filling out applications.

The Small Business Response Fund (SBRF). HKS raised over \$130,000 in funds from local corporate donors and foundations as well as from community members. With a matching grant from Square Roots Collective, the SBRF distributed \$267,800 in grants to 61 small businesses in Kennett Square Borough and Kennett Township. These grants made a critical difference for these small, locally owned businesses and restaurants at the heart of Kennett's local economy. The [SBRF Impact Report](#) details the program's success and its significant impact in the community.

Parklet. HKS received an AARP Community Challenge grant and used some of these funds to build Kennett's first parklet, which has provided safely distanced outdoor dining space for four different restaurants on State Street. While the parklet had to be taken down for the winter due to concerns around snowplowing, HKS hopes to bring back this popular outdoor dining space in the spring.



Historic Kennett Square's parklet on West State Street has been providing safely distanced outdoor dining for guests of Talula's Table, Philter, Lily, and Grain. (Dylan Francis, photo)

Newsletter. HKS adapted its monthly newsletter to a weekly format in order to share community updates, stories of resilience and community spirit, and ways to support local. If you're not already receiving these emails, you can sign up [here](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page and select "General Around the Square").

Kennett Square Farmers Market. The pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of growing and sourcing food in our local context, and HKS quickly pivoted the Farmers Market so that it could remain open safely. The winter season continued in a modified format in the Kennett Library parking lot until May, when the regular season opened in the parking area of The Creamery. Our goals were to keep everyone safe while continuing to support local farmers and producers and to give the community access to fresh food direct from local farms.

Christmas in Kennett. With anchor sponsorship from Longwood Gardens in addition to support from local businesses and community members, HKS has expanded last year's successful Light Up the Square tree lights and added décor, signage, and placemaking elements so that everyone who visits Kennett over the holidays will experience a safe, festive, and spirited place to shop and dine. Our fundraising for Light Up the Square continues, and more information can be found [here](#).



With anchor sponsorship from Longwood Gardens and support from community businesses and individuals, HKS has expanded their Light Up the Square holiday lights and decor this season. (HKS photo)

Final thoughts...

At HKS, we believe that when communities are connected and inclusive and have strategic leadership, they grow and change in positive ways that benefit everyone. We believe that successful communities are built by many hands, but they require leadership and strategic direction—whether they are experiencing rapid growth pressure or trying to fill vacant buildings. Without leadership guiding a shared vision, the Kennett region will experience the kind of haphazard growth that destroys its unique character and strong social fabric. Worse, without strategic leadership, too many community members will be left out of economic progress.

At HKS we're committed to not letting that happen. We look forward to continuing to host community-building events like Third Thursday, Brewfest and Winterfest, and the Holiday Village Market when it's safe to do so once again. We're also looking forward to imagining new events that are welcoming and inviting to everyone in our diverse community and to hosting conversations about what we want our community to be as we create a shared vision that best serves the entire community.

We long to see Kennett Square become the most beautiful town in America, where people from different backgrounds, generations, and walks of life can afford to live and contribute to the community, where new architecture complements old, where creativity flourishes, and where everyone can belong and prosper.

Please stay tuned to the work of Historic Kennett Square by signing up to receive our [weekly newsletter](#). You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



The HKS Light Up the Square donor tree features personalized ornaments in honor or in memory of loved ones. (HKS photo)



Find HKS online at www.historickennettsquare.com

Facebook: [@historickennett](#)

Instagram: [@historickennett](#)

2020 Year in Review

Kennett Township Trail Initiatives

by Christina Norland, Executive Director, Kennett Trails Alliance

During this COVID-19 crisis, many of us have sought out local public parks and trails to improve our physical health, reduce stress and find fun activities for ourselves and our families. This pandemic reaffirms the fundamental need for all of us – no matter where we come from, what we look like, the neighborhood we live in, or how we identify – to have access to healthy, quality outdoor facilities and spaces.

In 2020, the Kennett Trails Alliance has continued its partnership with Kennett Township to help create these spaces in our community. Specifically, we support the Township in achieving its goal to implement the Kennett Greenway, a 14-mile continuous loop and trail network that will connect local residents to each other and to nature.

Kennett Trails Alliance, a Square Roots Collective organization, is committed to developing a trail system that:

- connects people, community assets and nature together
- enhances our community while preserving and healing our natural resources
- promotes health, safety, environmental stewardship and community
- is inclusive and equitable in its design, operation and programming



Here are some of the highlights of the Township's collaborative efforts in 2020, together with partners such as Kennett Trails Alliance and the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County.

Welcoming the New Township Trail Consultants

This year, Kennett Township retained new trail consultants after its former consultant, Penn Trail's Amy Lusko, departed for a new and exciting job opportunity in New Jersey. The new trail consultants were vetted by the Kennett Township Trails & Sidewalks Committee and approved by the Board of Supervisors. They include:

- Biohabitats: an ecological firm whose mission is to restore the earth and inspire ecological stewardship
- Unknown Studio: a landscape architecture firm who through design and collaboration seek to create new places and microclimates, tell stories, unearth memories and amplify the culture and ecology of the places in which we live
- Meliora: a civil, water and structural engineering firm, whose mission is to create better relationships with our environment by developing engineering solutions that build respectfully and enhance our communities, while protecting and restoring our natural resources.

Check them and their amazing work out! We are looking forward to seeing their positive contribution to our community.

Collaborating for Connections Regionally

Regional Trails Committee

In 2020, Kennett Township also became a charter member of the Kennett Area Regional Trail Committee. The committee, founded and chaired by Kennett Trails Alliance, includes representatives from Kennett Township, Kennett Borough, New Garden Township, East Marlborough Township, the Chester County Planning Commission, Bike Kennett and Friends of New Garden Trails. The committee is founded on the principle that a well-connected regional trail network is critical to the effective stewardship of our open space, our region's economic and recreational development, and the health, safety and welfare of our residents and visitors.

The goal of the committee is to coordinate the planning, development, implementation and maintenance of trails and sidewalks across local municipalities. The committee has met monthly to share local priorities and progress, coordinate potential funding strategies, compile regional resources and determine a set of regional priorities, which will be presented to the various municipalities in January 2021 for their review and approval.

Joint Application with Kennett Borough for Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant

In addition, Kennett Township and the Borough of Kennett Square partnered together in a joint application for a [Multimodal Transportation Fund](#) (MTF) grant. If the grant is awarded, the funding is aimed at addressing

complementary segments of the Kennett Greenway and local trail system through the creation of a “complete street” along Birch Street in the Borough, and the construction of a railroad underpass, to be known as the Magnolia Underpass, in Kennett Township. Birch Street, located a few blocks from downtown Kennett Square, is plagued by several structural deficiencies and safety issues, which include lack of adequate sidewalk infrastructure and bicyclist facilities, as well as significant stormwater issues. The proposed Magnolia Underpass will eliminate the physical barrier between the Borough and Township that prevents pedestrians from easily and safely accessing Pennock Park and downtown Kennett Square. When completed, the Magnolia Underpass will enable pedestrians and bicyclists to connect from southern Kennett Township on Chandler Mill Road all the way to shops, restaurants, and services in Kennett Borough. This grant application was supported unanimously by both municipalities.



Get ReKenneCted on the Future Chandler Mill Trail

On October 3, 2020, Kennett Township, Square Roots Collective and The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County hosted an event called Get ReKenneCted on Chandler Mill Road, in celebration of the rehabilitation of the historic Chandler Mill Bridge. The event was a free, family-friendly COVID-compliance activity trail that allowed residents to enjoy reconnecting with the joy of community, history, nature and the future Greenway. Participants got to enjoy activities with the trail consultants, celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Casa Guanajuato and Kennett Multimedia and explore nature and untold stories with TLC and Voices Underground. Kids and families alike also entered #chalkthegreenway mural contest. Special thanks to Kennett CrossFit and the Friends of New Garden Trails for also joining us.

Up Next: Construction of the Chandler Mill Trail in 2021

In 2017, the Commonwealth Financing Authority awarded Kennett Township a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant to support its efforts in building the Kennett Greenway. Some of this money was used in 2020 to rehabilitate the historical Chandler Mill Bridge. In 2021, our hope is to see Kennett Township use this award to complete construction of the Chandler Mill Trail. The Chandler Mill Trail will connect the Parrish Trail -- which starts at Pennock Park and ends at Hillendale Road -- to the Chandler Mill Bridge. This new 1.5 mile trail on Chandler Mill Road will allow residents to safely walk, bike or run while enjoying the incredible mature trees and creekside landscape of the west branch of the Red Clay Creek. At the end of the trail, the Land Conservancy of Southern Chester County offers many opportunities to explore Bucktoe Creek, go birding, and explore their nature programs. Imagine walking, biking or running all the way from Pennock Park to Chandler Mill Preserve by the end of 2021!

As part of the Kennett Greenway, the Chandler Mill Trail will eventually enable residents to connect south to Marshall Bridge Preserve and Auburn Heights in Delaware. We are very excited about this project and its design goals – which will protect and enhance nature, thoughtfully address stormwater management, and enable people to connect to some of our most important township assets without a car. After receiving valuable citizen feedback about Chandler Mill Road becoming one-way, the Township has engaged its consultants to perform a preliminary engineering study for a trail design that will also allow vehicular traffic to remain two-way. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to provide input!

Did You Know?

Scientific studies indicate that access to nature

- Predicts your physical health
- Increases longevity in the elderly
- Supports more rapid healing in the sick
- Reduces obesity & related public health problems

Studies also show access to nature

- Improves mental health
- Reduces stress

Access to nature is beneficial to children across urban & rural settings

- Increases creative play
- Improves cognitive function
- Improves self-discipline, including concentration, inhibition of impulsive behavior & delay of gratification

Public green space provides public safety benefits and leads to

- Reduced crime
- Decreased violence
- Decreased property crime
- Less litter

A recent survey by the National Recreation & Park Association finds that 66 percent of US adults support local governments funding public parks and recreation. Visit nrpa.org/ParkPulse for more information.



**ANSON B. NIXON PARK
KENNETT SQUARE**

An Update from the Kennett Area Park Authority

by Sheila Tekavec, Office Manager, KAPA

Despite local and global concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has been a wonderful year in the Park! The Kennett Area Park Authority Board of Directors continues to work diligently, making sure the Park offers plenty of safe outdoor space where residents and visitors can enjoy leisurely recreation along with a sense of community and belonging. We are now in the midst of our annual appeal and would like to thank everyone who has made a donation. Please consider monetary support of the park, especially at this time. Each dollar counts, and we sincerely appreciate donations of any amount. To make a secure donation by PayPal you can visit our website for the link: www.ansonbnixonpark.org

Highlights from 2020

- With funding provided by Kennett Township and the Borough of Kennett Square, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the PA Department of Environmental Protection, work began in March on a stream restoration in the Park. This water quality project is a partnership between the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and the Kennett Area Park Authority. Already, portions of the East Branch of the Red Clay Creek, and a tributary have been restored. Stream restoration addresses sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous pollution in the creek, and helps reduce erosion. It can also save trees along the creek bed by helping to stabilize eroding stream banks and connect the stream to its flood plains. This, in turn, improves fish and aquatic habitats. Several trees have already been saved. The work is ongoing.
- New Wayfinder signs have been installed at various locations throughout the park. Have you seen them?
- Thank you for keeping our wildlife safe and tangle-free by using the new receptacles in the Park to recycle used fishing line. Dawn Thomforde, a local resident and wildlife advocate, brought the mono-filament reel-in & recycle program to our attention, and she helped install several of the units, which are conveniently located in several places around the ponds.
- Thanks to a generous grant from the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation, enhancements to the area surrounding the Community Garden were made to help improve runoff and alleviate flooding issues.

Looking Forward

- The Annual Trout Rodeo in the Park, which was cancelled this past spring due to COVID-19, is being planned for Saturday, May 1, 2021. Mark your calendars for an event that is sure to be bigger and better than ever!
- On Wednesday, June 16, 2021, the FREE Summer Concert Series kicks off with a performance by Tony Vacca from 7 - 9pm. We hope you will join us!

REMINDERS:

- The Park is open from sunrise to sunset, every day.
- Reservations are currently not available for the Pavilions or the Stage.
- For the safety of our staff, park visitors, and the greater community, the restrooms are currently closed. There are portable toilets located next to the main parking lot, and also by the soccer fields.
- Visitors to the park are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer, wear a mask, and maintain proper social distance (at least 6 feet) at all times. Please be mindful of those around you.
- Alcohol is not permitted in the park.
- When using the dog park, please keep your pets leashed while entering and exiting. Please clean up after your pet. Dog waste bags have been provided for your convenience.



Top: Stream restoration sign.
Middle: One of the fishing line receptacles.
Bottom: Summer Concert Series opener
Tony Vacca.

Community engagement is important. To contact the Kennett Area Park Authority about an idea or with a concern, please email us: AnsonBNixonPark@gmail.com

Protecting a Forest Forever, One Tree (and One Vine) at a Time

by Abbie Kessler, Preservation Director of The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County
and Peter Doebring, Vice Chair, The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County Board of Trustees



Since March, more people than ever sought refuge on one of TLC's preserves. The timelessness of a pristine forest like that at Marshall Mill House Preserve is a potent vaccine against a news cycle that careens between disease, politics, and civil unrest. Walking amongst trees that have grown quietly and steadily through 250 years of war, recession, and pandemics helps us feel like COVID-19 too shall pass, as surely as each fall passes into winter and each winter passes into spring.

Our responsibility as a conservancy to protect these lands is as timeless as the forest itself. In Kennett, this includes almost 260 acres over TLC's five preserves, plus 500+ acres of conservation easements. Conservancies are perhaps the only entity whose obligations extend into perpetuity. Forever is a very long time to plan for! To meet this obligation, we have to act today to prevent a problem that a typical visitor might overlook, but we know can have real impacts down the road. This is especially true with regards to the management of invasives.

For example, vines such as oriental bittersweet and Japanese honeysuckle cause a great deal of damage. These are so common in woodlands and hedgerows across Kennett that most residents don't recognize they don't belong here. With some growing as thick as trees themselves, it is easy to see how such vines wrapped around the trunk and branches of a tree are unhealthy. In fact, vines left unchecked over a period of many years can cut into the bark and eventually kill even the tallest and strongest of trees by "girdling" them, the same technique Native Americans used to efficiently clear whole forests. All of these vines will weaken trees to some extent, leaving them more vulnerable to other diseases, wind, or the stresses introduced by climate change. Weakened trees also increase the risk of property damage and power outages as we see more frequently.

As is the case with many invasives, however, systematic monitoring and timely action can protect our timeless forests. We look forward to this change of seasons, because winter and early spring are the best times of year to combat invasive vines. Once the undergrowth dies back, it becomes possible to work our way to the interior of the forest, through the understory brush that makes passage at other times of year difficult. Now that we can reach each tree, we cut through each vine several feet off the ground and then again a couple feet higher. Removing a chunk of the vine instead of just cutting straight through it makes it very difficult for the vine to re-sprout and reconnect. We leave the vine to die, rot, and eventually fall out of the tree on its own, instead of risking injury trying to pull large vines down. This simple method is a great excuse to get outside this winter and improve the health of the trees on your property. Watch a demonstration at <https://www.tlcforscc.org/invasive-species-management>.

When we helped Kennett to acquire the 63 acre Lord Howe property on Burnt Mill Road, we found a beautiful forest becoming overrun with vines. Kennett agreed to contract with us to undertake an aggressive program of management. Over a two year period, our land managers and interns used these same techniques described above, while also cutting new trails through the woods. Protecting the irreplaceable, and then helping others to enjoy it, is what we love to do!

This project also underscores that protecting the land forever is a lot less daunting with a partner at your side. In this case, we were happy to help Kennett, and doubled Kennett's investment in managing Lord Howe's vines by marshaling teams of volunteers through our outreach and education programs. In fact, through grants and fundraising, we match every dollar contributed by Kennett towards protecting land throughout the township and maintaining preserves held by TLC. Additionally, other grants and fundraising provide area residents a variety of educational programs and events that TLC offers residents annually. A partnership that protects the irreplaceable in Kennett, and then helps its residents to enjoy it, is a partnership we hope to sustain for years to come!



Winter is perfect for vine management access!

Kennett Township Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Compliance

by David J. Athey, P.E., Principal Water Resources Engineer, AECOM

Kennett Township, like thousands of municipalities throughout the United States, hundreds in the Commonwealth, and dozens in Chester County, is required to comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Detection and Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Compliance requires the submittal of a Progress Report to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (which administers the program in Pennsylvania) annually and preparation of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan.

The NPDES permitting program has its origins in the 1972 Clean Water Act and was initially focused on better controlling the discharges from wastewater treatment plants. In the early 1990s, EPA broadened the program to include stormwater discharges first from large (greater than 250,000 in population) and medium (greater than 100,000 in population) counties and cities along with organizations such as railroad companies and then to small (less than 100,000 in population) jurisdictions in 2003. The MS4 permit requires permittees to develop and implement a comprehensive program that includes pollution prevention measures called *best management practices* (BMPs), monitoring, use of legal authority, and other appropriate measures to control the quality of stormwater discharged to the storm drains and waters of the United States.

The annual Progress Report (most recent submittal is available on the Township's website) describes activities in six program areas. These six *Minimum Control Measures* (MCMs) and the Township's efforts are:

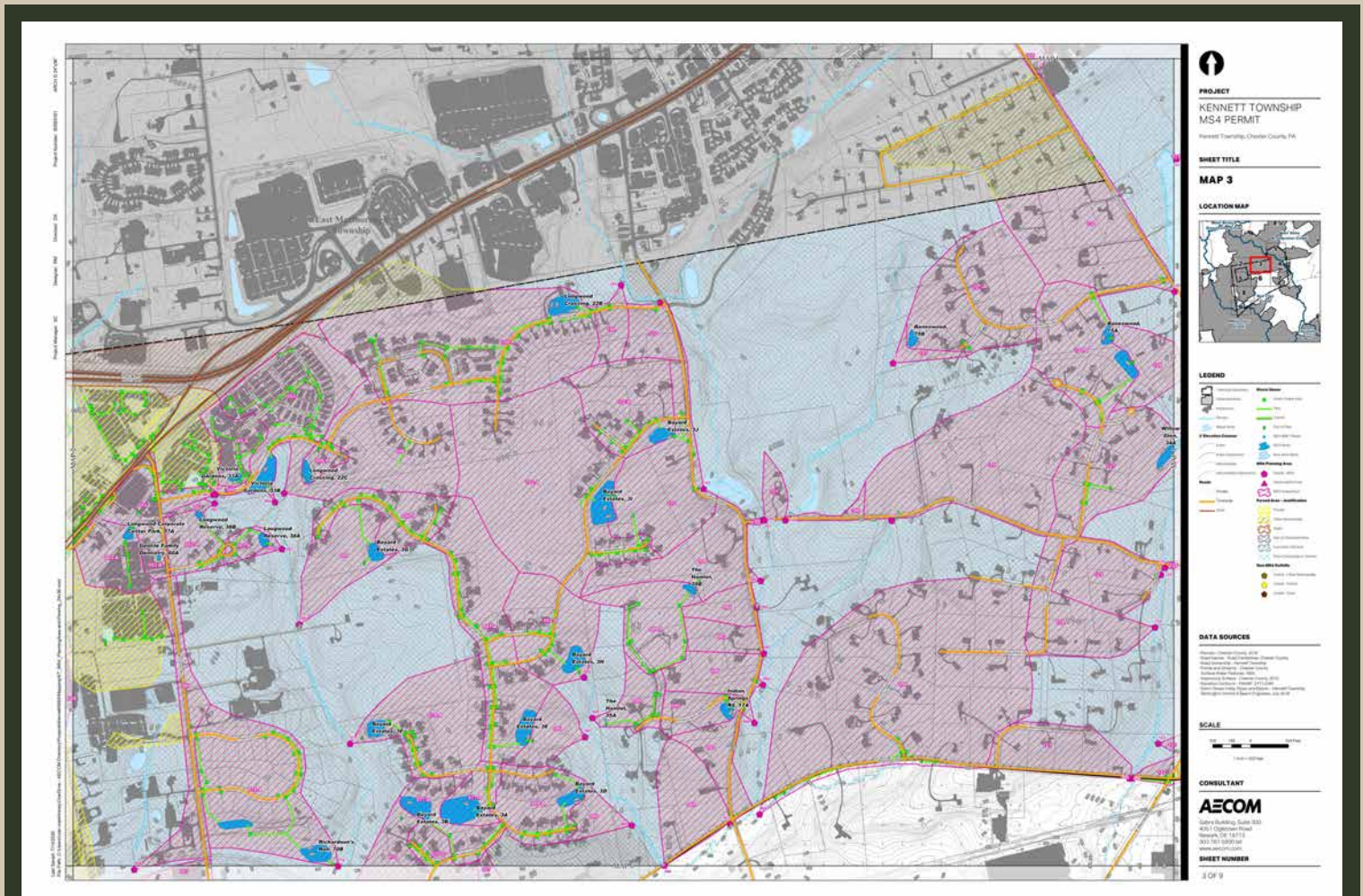
1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
 - Articles (such as this) in the Kennett Township Newsletter
 - Coordination with others (such as the Park Authority and Brandywine Red Clay Alliance)
 - Pamphlets regarding stormwater issues in the lobby of Township Building
 - Newspaper advertisements
 - Website updates
 - Public presentations
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDD&E)
 - Mapping of outfalls
 - Routine screening for "dry weather" discharges
 - Analysis if or when flow is found
4. Stormwater Management During Construction
 - Proper erosion and sediment control measures
5. Post Construction Stormwater Management
 - Long-term operations and maintenance of permanent BMPs
6. Good Housekeeping
 - O&M Program for Township-owned BMPs
 - O&M Program for vehicle maintenance facilities
 - Training of Township Employees

While the Six Minimum Controls are programmatic in nature, the TMDL Plan specifies projects that have been or will be implemented to reduce pollutant loadings to receiving waterways. A TMDL represents the amount of pollution a surface water body can receive and still maintain its *designated use*. The Plan entails a very detailed process that includes mapping of the *Urbanized Areas* drainage to stormwater management basins and / or Township drainage infrastructure, calculating sediment or nutrient loads to receiving waterways, preparation of a plan for BMPs to reduce loads, and implementation upon DEP approval.



Kennett Township is inspecting all of the stormwater management basins within the Township and notifying homeowner associations (HOAs) when deficiencies are noted.

In the Red Clay Creek Watershed, sediment is the pollutant of concern and reductions are measured in tons/year. In the Brandywine Creek Watershed, phosphorous is the pollutant of concern and reductions are measured in pounds/year. The Plan specifies short-term (5 years) and long-term (15 years) actions such as retrofitting of existing BMPs, construction of new BMPs, and implementation of streambank stabilization and buffering projects. Some of these projects may be located on private lands which could necessitate easements and / or agreements.



Kennett Township's consultant AECOM has mapped stormwater outfalls and management basins as well as determined drainage areas flowing to each.

The Township has sought to meet the TMDL requirements as efficiently as possible. The streambank stabilization project in Nixon Park is being funded through a partnership with Kennett Square Borough and Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRCA) and in coordination with the Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA). Furthermore, the Township was able to account for the ongoing stream buffer projects led by the Land Stewardship Initiative and being funded through grants.

The Township also evaluated the efficacy of new and innovative approaches such as the Revolving Water Fund (RWF). A partnership between several for profit and non-profit entities, the RWF is a market-based approach that provides *credits* for BMPs undertaken and then maintained by others and offsets a portion of the Township's obligations. This partial *privatization* approach is part of a growing trend that recognizes the financial pressures of permit compliance on public agencies. More common in other parts of the Country, processes for the use of credits are now evolving in Pennsylvania and by providing a test-case to DEP, Kennett Township is at the forefront.

The latest version of the Plan was submitted to DEP in August 2020 as an Interim Report. Upon approval from DEP, a public hearing will be held.

The Kestrel Quest: An Update on Barkingfield Park

by Don Coats, Volunteer



The Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk) is our “poster bird” for Barkingfield Park, representing hope for returned wildness. In only one year, the meadow has become enriched with insects and small rodents, which are a favorite food for this special bird.

This vision follows the Community Based Stewardship Plan of 2017 assembled by the Brandywine Conservancy. The goals of the plan are to restore native habitat while engaging the community with recreation and education initiatives. Seven acres of wildflower meadow have been successfully sown and 2500 plugs of wildflowers set, resulting in a dramatic flush of beneficial insects, including grasshoppers, katydids and similar “bird food.” Over 400 native trees have been planted by the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) over the past two years.

Another conservation function demonstrated in the Park are contoured swales that retain rainwater runoff and recharge our regional groundwater supply. A sample of the hedgerow has been saved from invasive plants and replaced with native shrubs and trees. Volunteer opportunities for working with the Barkingfield “action group” will be periodically scheduled for invasive plant removal and restoration in the hedgerows, stream buffer, and meadow as well as family themed nature workshops. Anyone interested in helping these efforts should email the township at kennett.twp@kennett.pa.us.

Above is the prized Kestrel, also known as a Sparrow Hawk, preys upon grasshoppers and small rodents found in our created meadow. Below left, kids search for insects for identification at Barkingfield Park. They found an Asian Praying Mantis (center) and an Angular-Winged Katydid (right).



Kennett Township Deer Management Committee

by Marlyn Dietz, Committee Chair

For those who don't know, The Deer Management Committee coordinates qualified hunters with landowners who allow hunters on their properties. we are continuing to support and work with existing owners and groups who have had agreements for several years. This past year we did speak with some new owners and provided information for them to consider programs on their property. If any property owners need assistance in the creation of a program we are always available through the township office.

Also we would like to remind hunters and property owners that the Homeowner's Authorization to Hunt on Private Property Form is available on the Township website (www.kennett.pa.us under “Forms” then under “Community”). The form was created to help our law enforcement officials who deal with complaints about trespassing or other violations. Every season, private property owners need to provide this form to hunters and the Deer Management Committee. This greatly helps our local law enforcement and Game Commission staff that may be addressing complaints about trespassing or illegal hunting on private property. Permission needs to be renewed annually to avoid any conflicts. Hunters should know the property lines of the property they are hunting and also be aware of all safety zones within the property.

Since the inception of the Authorization mentioned above, we have received fewer calls over the past few seasons. Please keep in mind that the Deer Management Committee has no authority regarding trespassing on private property however we can assist property owners with suggestions to help address this issue on private property.

At this point, we are more than halfway through deer hunting season. In our area (a special regulations area, 5C & 5D), the season

Continued on page 27



Save the Date (Month) for Chester County's Juneteenth Celebration 2021



Overview: Voices Underground, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, the Chester County History Center, and the County of Chester are working together to create a county-wide event to recognize and celebrate the county's rich heritage of embracing social justice and equality. With a primary focus on the Abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad in the 19th century, the celebration will also honor the courage and humanity of all who continue to build a community of courage and justice. The headline events will take place in and around Kennett Square and may include an African American theater performance, a keynote public event, an art exhibition featuring African American artists, a joint service held by Faith Communities, and a dinner catered by African American chef Elijah Milligan and served at Auburn Valley Park along the Mason Dixon Line. Other events are still under consideration.

The overall commemoration of Juneteenth and Chester County's antislavery movement, however, will also be county-wide featuring local programming at historic sites and communities throughout the county. Just as the Underground Railroad functioned, bringing hundreds of people together on the quest for freedom and justice, Chester County will celebrate together. At a time when continuing racial inequities are a part of our national dialogue, a renewed focus on social justice is essential.

Our goals are:

- To promote African American heritage through the stories of the Abolition movement and Underground Railroad in Chester County, as well as ongoing events in the struggle for racial justice;
- To create an event that invites meaningful engagement for all audiences, especially African American visitors and participants;
- To nurture community collaboration, bringing organizations together to share in a widespread, multifaceted event;
- To expand the community narrative, linking past to present;
- And, to serve as a model for other communities who are also on a shared journey toward racial equity.

The values that will animate and govern the creation of this festival are the following:

- **Community Creation** Like the Underground Railroad itself, this work must be a collaborative effort. To serve this goal, we will do the work of honesty and inclusion, integrating the ideas and gifts of each of our team members and community partners into the work of sharing ideas, sharing power, and sharing in the fruit of the creative work;
- **Comprehensive Equity** By the nature of its subject matter, this work seeks to address historic injustice and pervasive inequity. Therefore, it is crucial that each of the elements of this project – authority and ownership structure, decision making process, role delineation, vendor relationships, etc. – embody a deep commitment to equity;
- **Financial Transparency** Because of the danger of being perceived to exploit African American culture for the financial gain of a largely white community, we commit to full transparency about the financial dimensions of this process, including the sources of festival funds, the use of funds, and the use of any profits that emerge from the project;
- **Creative Excellence** The story of the African American struggle for freedom is one of the world's great stories. Because of this, we commit to undertaking this work with the highest possible degree of excellence;
- **Community Benefit** The true test of our work will be the way in which it is used to benefit the communities we serve. Even as we aspire to significant cultural change, we commit to keeping our work accountable to the well-being of local communities;
- **Leadership** This expansive project will be guided by an overarching leadership committee led by Gregory Thompson of Voices Underground and Beverly Sheppard of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. We anticipate forming additional committees to coordinate the events that will take place in and around Kennett Square, as well as a committee that will coordinate the numerous events that will take place in local communities.

The numerous historic sites, museums, and historical commissions around the county have been invited to add to the Juneteenth commemoration with exhibits, programs, and tours. Each organization will determine how best to tell the stories of their region, drawn from their individual histories. These programs will be identified in a master program, listing all events throughout the month of June.

Sustainable Energy Task Force

Did you know: Kennett Township purchases all of our electricity from a Green-e Energy Certified Renewable Energy program?

The goals of the KT Sustainable Energy Task Force (SETF) are to: save money, increase energy efficiency, and convert to renewable energy.

In 2021, we aim to

1. Educate Residents on electrification (eg heatpumps – which includes geothermal heatpumps), Solar panels (installations)
2. Lay the foundation for lowering costs and buying green energy through a group purchase agreement.
3. Outreach to businesses on C-PACE – although run by the County, would be good to find out how KT businesses can tap into it and then outreach to local businesses
4. Consider ways to incentivize developers for electrify new development (eg TDR-like)

If you are interested in mitigating global climate warming and helping your neighbors and Kennett Township businesses do so in a cost sensitive manner (and maybe even save money) please email kennett.twp@kennett.pa.us. You can also find more information at:

<https://kennett.pa.us/382/Sustainable-Energy-Task-Force>



Don't Be an Easy Target Lock Your Car

Over the past few months, there has been an increase of thefts from vehicles in Kennett Township and the surrounding area. We encourage our residents to lock their cars this is one of the easiest ways to prevent thefts. Predators usually target unlocked cars with valuables in sight. Having adequate driving lighting can also be helpful. These incidents tend to happen where individuals have access to a large number of vehicles like neighborhoods. They are unlikely to use force to enter a vehicle, so they won't be detected. We also encourage our residents not to leave your running car unattended. This is an easy target for car thieves, even in your own driveway.

Kennett Library Update

Continued from page 1

"We hope that these will continue to give our students additional opportunities to practice their English skills," Filomena said.

Since its inception in 1979, ALP has had more than 8,500 students take advantage of its classes. Even with the loss of the traditional classrooms due to COVID-19 restrictions, there are currently 103 students attending virtual classes this fall semester.

Megan also worked with Chester County Voter Services to have a ballot box in front of the Library so the community could safely vote in our national election. The box was constantly monitored by volunteers and the ballots were picked up each evening.

Capital Campaign Update

The new Kennett Library & Resource Center is taking shape ... dare to Imagine! Over the last six months, the Board of Trustees has been working hard finalizing the vision and preparing detailed plans. What is being built will be bold and exciting and have a major impact on southern Chester County for generations to come.

"As someone who has lived in the Kennett area for 30 years, I am thrilled to see this project moving forward," Kennett resident and Campaign Chair, Collis Townsend said.

The new library will be a place where people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds can come together and exchange ideas about everything under the sun. Children can dream about a future with endless possibilities. The Library will also be a Resource Center, a place where people can attend life-skill programs, get job training and readily access the internet. The auditorium will host everything from TED Talks to free first-run movies. "When you build for those that have the least, we will get the most for our community," added Township Manager Eden Ratliff.

The current schedule is to break ground next July (2021) and open the doors to the new Kennett Library & Resource Center by the end of December 2022.

Jeff Yetter thanks the Library staff and Board of Trustees for all of their hard work. "This is a hard-working group that believes in the Library and the role it plays in the Kennett community. We are creating an important resource for all residents of Southern Chester County."

For more information on plans for the new Library or make a donation, you can visit the Campaign website at www.campaign4KennettLibrary.org or reach out to Mary Hutchins at 610-444-2702 or mary@kennettlibrary.org.

A Note from the Township Manager

Continued from page 2

priorities set out by the elected body, which directly impacts how government funds can be spent. A stricter view of the meaning of public health, safety, and welfare can sometimes lead to less local government involvement whereas a broader view can lend itself to the Township being more involved in community affairs. I do not profess to determine which interpretation is right or wrong, in part because it varies from community to community, but will shed light on how community involvement can drive the discussion.

The frequency in which citizens call or email the Township office to inquire about concerns they have, or lobby for an opinion they have, might surprise you. Generally, people tend not to think about their local government until they have an unanswered question or concern. There are challenges our community is facing that do not “belong” to a particular level of government, but they matter to our friends and neighbors. It would be easy for any level of government to say, “not our problem” and tell you to call someone else, but that is not the answer our community expects to hear. So, the Board of Supervisors, myself, and my staff continue to meet these needs or support the amazing community partners working on them. Here are just a few examples of those partners and our support.

Do you know there are areas in Kennett Township where there is no cell phone service? Addressing this issue is outside of the direct purview of local government, however, it is impacting our citizens and could fall under safety and welfare for some. Since it is impacting our citizens, and our police who cannot call for backup in those areas, should we get involved? The answer is maybe, but the Board of Supervisors approves us working on this with a local non-profit through the Southern Chester County Opportunity Network (SCCON, <https://sccnetwork.org>).

Some Kennett residents have public sewer and at times require payment assistance. The Township has limited capability to offer this kind of program which leaves financial needs unmet. Kennett Area Community Services (KACS, www.kacsonline.net) has given over \$500,000 in emergency assistance in 2020 and fed over 16,000 of our community members. Though the Second Class Township code does not require the Township to support this non-profit (though it is a matter of public health, safety and welfare), the Board of Supervisors recently approved a \$5,000 donation to support the good work KACS is doing.

You no doubt saw the appropriate headline to this newsletter featuring the Kennett Library and their capital campaign to build a new library serving seven municipalities, including Kennett Township (<https://campaign4.kennettlibrary.org>). Is a local public library locally addressing public health, safety, and welfare? Candidly, there are not a lot of new libraries being built these days, so why one here in Kennett? While a

new library is not my sales pitch to make, there are some hard facts to address. The Kennett library saw over 100,000 visitors in 2019, hosted over 1,000 programs in English and Spanish, offered adult literacy classes (yes, reading is a privilege) and English as a Second Language, held nearly 5,000 hours in tutoring, and helped 15 students earn their American citizenship in 2019 - all at no charge to the participants. A library is not just a quiet place to read and relax, it is a community gathering center that welcomes everyone. In 2019, the community adopted a referendum providing an earned income tax to support the library operations and the Board of Supervisors authorized a contribution to the capital campaign for six years to support the new construction.

During COVID-19 local businesses have been struggling. Did you know that our community raised over \$100,000 which was matched by another \$100,000 from a local non-profit to provide direct aid to local businesses in financial need? The ground work for this initiative and the fundraising was led by Historic Kennett Square (HKS, www.historickennettsquare.com) and the matched donations were provided by Square Roots Collective (SRC, www.ksqroots.com). These small non-profits are no doubt busy with their own clearly defined missions, but when help was needed they quickly pivoted to provide for the public health, safety and welfare of the community. The Board of Supervisors authorizes an annual contribution to the budget of HKS and continues to work with SRC on various initiatives.

The debate over the role of local government and over what constitutes public health, safety, and welfare is fascinating, with no clear answer. As the Manager, I do not determine the priorities of Kennett Township, which dictates how your tax dollars are used. It is up to the elected officials and public to do so. The tax bill for local government is always the smallest with much larger bills coming from the school district, county, state, and federal levels. However, it is often this local government you call first, because we are closest to you, within your community, and might be able to do something to address community needs. The Board and I know these needs are important, and we want to do as much as we can to address them.

At the beginning of my article I said that Kennett Township is unique. Our community is what makes us unique. While I am proud of the capabilities of our local government, I am amazed at the work of the local non-profits and community. Having worked across the Commonwealth I can say that our community makeup is different and special. Addressing the public health, safety, and welfare is a community mandate and we are proud to implement that along side of our many community partners every day. To all of our partners, thank you and we look forward to the work we will do in 2021 and beyond.

Have a safe and happy New Year.
Eden R. Ratliff, Township Manager

Winter Holiday Safety Tips

Continued from page 3

If a Stranger Comes to Your Door:

- Criminals sometimes pose as couriers or delivery persons so be cautious as they may be casing your house for a future burglary.
- Criminals sometimes cruise your neighborhood stealing mail, gift cards, and cash you leave for the mailman and trash pickup personnel.
- Criminals target your neighborhoods during trash pickup days to see what items you received on Christmas. Bag and conceal these bags and boxes as much as you can.
- Trust your intuition and your instincts. No one knows your neighborhood as well as you do. If something seems suspicious or out of place, call 911 immediately.

Take a Holiday Inventory:

- After Christmas is a great time to update your inventory. Take photos and videos of all your belongings for insurance purposes.
- Make sure you document the make, model and serial numbers of all your electronics, firearms, and tools.

Celebrate Responsibly:

- The holiday season is a time of celebration and revelry. Drinking and driving is a danger to everyone on the road. Please drink responsibly. There is no reason to drink and drive with alternative transportation such as taxis, Lyft and Uber.

Package Thefts:

- Track your deliveries online so you know when your package was delivered. You can also sign up for email notifications for all your package deliveries.
- If you know you are not going to be home have your packages delivered to your work place, if possible.
- You may also have your packages delivered to a local store or post office where you can pick them up at your leisure.

Not to Steal the Fire Department's Thunder...

- Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.
- Make sure that you maintain your fireplace to reduce the chance of fire in the home.
- Do not leave your cooking unattended.

*Happy Holidays from KTPD
and all of your first responders.*

Overcoming COVID-19 Challenges

Continued from page 8

The Southern Chester County Opportunity Network has a bi-weekly call, headed by Kate at Square Roots Collective, to make sure all the regional non-profits are sharing their needs and ideas to help those throughout the community. It's been amazing to see how people are jumping in to share information, problem-solve, and work together to make sure every member of our community is cared for. If you are able, please consider making a donation this holiday season to one of the many non-profits in the area, working to help those in need. With the surge in COVID-19 cases nationally and locally, we are seeing increased need throughout the Community, so please do what you can to help others.

I also want to thank everyone who reached out during the recent budget process to let us know what you thought and voice your concerns. I really appreciate it when you ask questions, get information, and offer your suggestions on how we can improve. I have said and continue to believe that we are a community of neighbors, and by working together, we'll be better and stronger for it.

This has been a year during which we've had to rebuild a lot of processes from the ground up, including the budget process. We'll work on making the process even better next year, and try to keep meetings from going so long that we're all exhausted by the end. With our new finance team in place, we're building a strong foundation so you'll know where every penny is being spent, and can have input into setting the priorities for spending in the community. With this increased transparency throughout the process, we hope we can continue rebuilding the community's trust over time.

This year has been full of challenges, and I believe that in the end, we'll find that each one has made us stronger and more aware of what's truly important. Making sure we have a community where people can raise their families in peace, safety and happiness is part of that.

Have a safe and happy holiday season, and hopefully we'll be back to in person meetings sometime in 2021.

Whitney S. Hoffman, Vice Chair



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!

Land Conservation in the Pandemic *Continued from page 8*

indicating a very active real estate market. This is a good time to remind our residents that the LCAC is interested in protecting every property in the Township with ten acres or more of open space, particularly larger properties with woodlands, farmland, wetlands, streams, historic sites, or scenic qualities. Of course, we cannot afford to purchase every open space property from every land owner. However, at a minimum, the Township can usually offer to cover a landowner's costs for the donation of a conservation easement to a land trust or to the Township, which typically provides the landowner with significant income tax benefits.

A conservation easement is a legally binding agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency. When a landowner donates an easement, he or she gives away some of the rights associated with the land, such as the right to construct buildings or dwellings, the right to subdivide, or the right to clear cut the woodlands. Conservation easements offer landowners the flexibility of protecting their land while living on the property and retaining the right to build or develop the specific portions of their property designated in the easement. A landowner who has donated a conservation easement can sell the land or pass it on to heirs. All future owners of the property are bound by the terms of the easement. A land trust or conservancy is responsible for making sure that a landowner adheres to the conservation terms of the easement.

If you (or anyone you know) are interested in learning more about conservation easements, or if you have any other land conservation questions, please contact Jeff Yetter, Chairman of the LCAC, at 302-545-7984 or at jjetter1@comcast.net.

Longwood Fire Company *Continued from page 9*

(including the necessary N95 masks), cleaning products, meals and snacks, and so much more. These donations were used by Longwood Fire Company and distributed to Kennett Fire Company, Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company as well as the Police Departments of Kennett Township, Kennett Square Borough, and East Marlborough Township. We cannot be more thankful to the residents of Kennett Township and the surrounding community for this support.

Just like many of you, Longwood Fire Company had a negative financial impact from COVID-19. There was a loss in anticipated revenue from contracted EMS services to Longwood Gardens and other large community events. We also had a surprising decline in Ambulance calls for service for three months which impacted our billing revenue. As winter continues, we continue to feel these strains. We are proud that even in these challenging times we were able to maintain our level of services and we were able to avoid layoffs to maintain the number of career staff.

Longwood Fire Company will continue to be available to answer your calls for help as we continue to drive ahead through these uncharted times. We want to ensure all residents that if you call 9-1-1 you will get help. Again, thank you residents of Kennett Township for your continued support as we push through the next wave of COVID-19 together.

We would remind everyone that the use of masks and social distancing will significantly decrease your chance of exposure. During the Holidays remember there are other unique ways to visit with family and limit the possibility of exposure.

On behalf of Longwood Fire Company, we wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Matthew Eick, EMS Captain

Kennett Township Deer Management Committee *Continued from page 22*

opened on September 19, 2020 and will end on January 23, 2021. The primary PA Firearms season has now closed as of December 12th. The antlerless deer permits issued by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for our Deer Management Areas were all purchased this season. The Game Commission Deer Management Areas in our areas are separated by Route 82 in our Township. Hunters should have made that adjustment this season to ensure they have the correct permits based on where they hunt. Further information can be obtained on the Pennsylvania Game Commission web site at www.pgc.pa.gov. Residents can review the entire Hunting and Trapping Digest for Pennsylvania online also.

In closing I would like to remind residents that the vast majority of the hunting in our township is done on private property with personal agreements between the land owners and their hunters. The Deer Management Committee looks forward to any input or suggestions from property owners especially when it comes to getting a harvest count for deer in our township. I would also like to thank our local Game Commission personnel, Pennsylvania State Police, and our own Kennett Township Police Department for the role they play in our area regarding hunting and safety. If you have questions regarding hunting you can reach our local Game Commission personnel at Southeastern Region Office at 610 926-3136 or 3137. For any questions or concerns regarding Deer Management in our Township, please contact a member of the committee through the township website or call 610 388-1300. We appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in our community.

2021 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.

Please check our website calendar for each meeting's Zoom link (until we can return to in-person 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 Monday of the month 7:00 p.m.

Land Conservation Advisory Committee

3rd Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

2nd Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m.

Sustainable Energy Task Force

4th Wednesday of the month 5:30 p.m.

(Every other month)

Trials & Sidewalks Committee

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

Safety Committee

(postponed until in-person meetings resume)

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.



**CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19**

For information on all things COVID-19 related, including testing locations, please visit their website and click on "COVID-19 Updates":

www.chesco.org

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

610-344-6225



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.

*From all of us here at Kennett Township,
we wish you and yours a safe*

Happy Holiday & New Year!

This cover has been designed using resources from Freepik.com