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Scudder Stevens, Supervisor

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An Update from the Board of Supervisors

Dr. Richard L. Leff, Whitney Hoffman, & Scudder Stevens

Welcome to Springtime 2021 and our Spring Newsletter. As we all know, the beginning of 2021 was both a time of hope and challenging time in many regards, but spring is finally here! 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. As the COVID-19 vaccine begins to be administered to enough people, and until this epidemic is under control, please remain vigilant about your personal risks, and the risks to those around you.



As of April 12th, 469 people have tested positive and 6 people have died from COVID-19 including Dan Maisano, a long-time magistrate Judge and Township resident. These numbers do not take into account the impact felt by our residents with family members outside of our Township who battled COVID-19. In many ways, there is no accurate count for the total impacts of this global pandemic.

Many people were laid off and others resorted to support from local non-profits for the first time. Neighbors got to work, sewing home-made masks to keep everyone safe when supplies were scarce, and people made donations to local nonprofits of PPE, food, time, and money to help out members of our community. Even now, we have residents like Kathy Corcoran who is helping people find available vaccine appointments online, self-appointed to do what she can to help others. This community spirit is what makes Kennett Township special and we are so proud of everyone for pulling together to help your neighbors where and when you can.

We also have a community that had to scale back or flat out cancel a lot of events: high school and college graduations, birthdays, holiday celebrations, annual community events, meeting new babies, and funerals just to name a few. This lost year will leave an impact on our entire community for years to come, in positive and negative ways. We are, however, confident that our ability to pull together when needed will help see us through the rebuilding process.

Gradually things will return to normal, or at the very least a “new normal,” as vaccines become more readily available. For example, we are working on plans to begin in-person public meetings again. With the increased number of people participating in our meetings through Zoom, we are trying to figure out the best way to make sure you can continue to participate in public meetings both in person and online. The convenience of bringing large groups together online is likely not going to go away even after the virus does, and we are committed to making sure participation and communication about Township business remains a high priority.

We hope that you will find this Newsletter to be informative and engaging as we strive to keep you informed of the activities of your government and community. The Board continues to be available to you either directly via email/call or during our twice monthly meetings. 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 or participate in your government.

Happy Springtime!

Dr. Richard Leff, Whitney Hoffman, & Scudder Stevens
Kennett Township Board of Supervisors

A Note from the Township Manager

Eden Ratliff

Dear Kennett Residents and Business Owners,

I am so happy you have decided to virtually flip through our Spring 2021 Newsletter! I hope you enjoy the contents with many updates about your local government and community. My team and I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to put together community information in this fashion as it is a highlight of the many activities usually reviewed in public meetings.

You will notice that this Newsletter is a little different. Before you get to the Township news and the amazing work that our local nonprofits are doing, you will experience something like a staff directory. As you are well aware, 2019 and 2020 brought many changes to Kennett Township, and one of the major changes was the new staff that joined us - myself included!

We have outfitted a whole new Finance and Human Resources Department from scratch. This included adding a Director, a Finance & HR Specialist, a Finance & Procurement Specialist and an Accountant Assistant. In addition to that, there were several positions that were restaffed, such as my Executive Assistant and a Foreman for Public Works. The Planning and Zoning Department was restructured and we added an Administrative Assistant to assist the Director. New Police Officers have also been added to the Kennett Township Police Department.

I wanted this issue to be an opportunity to formally introduce all of you to all of your Township employees - every single one of them. You'll find a mini biography with some fun facts about them along with a photo so that you can recognize them and say hello if you see them out and about. You will also find mini biographies of the elected Board of Supervisors, who work full time jobs in addition to their sworn responsibilities.

While you may be learning about some of our team members for the first time, I have to take this opportunity to publicly state how thrilled I am to work with every one of them. You will find that they are made up of local government professionals who take a lot of pride in what they do. The talent, experience, and dedication on our team allows for the delivery of first-class government services. Without the full complement of this Township staff the many government services we provide and challenges we tackle would not be possible.

As a reminder, despite the ongoing pandemic, the Township is still accessible to the public. While the office doors are locked, citizens are encouraged to call or email the Township Monday-Friday 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. or visit our website for information. Most of the staff is still working remotely, but they have phone and email access to be able to communicate. In-person meetings are by appointment only on a limited basis to ensure everyone's health and safety. Public meetings will continue to be held virtually for the time being as permitted by the Governor's emergency order. While we have not enjoyed not being able to see you face-to-face in over a year, the increased participation we have seen thanks to our virtual meeting settings has been fantastic. Thank you all for continuing to invest in your community!

Warmly,
Eden R. Ratliff

Board of Supervisors Bios ... 3

Administration Bios ... 4

CCHD COVID-19 Vaccine Update ... 4

Finance & HR Bios ... 5

Planning & Zoning Bios ... 6

Public Works Bios ... 7

Public Works Update ... 8

KT Police Department Bios ... 9

Kennett Township Zoning Task Force... 12

2019 Audit ... 12

KTA Chandler Mill Trail & W South St ... 14

Farming & KACS at Spar Hill ... 16

Bridging the Digital Divide ... 16

KTHS Annual Event ... 17

New Bridge for Hamorton Woods ... 17

National Designation for the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway... 17

Stop! Before you Buy, Go Native! ... 18

What's the Economic Value of Our Open Space? ... 19

HKS: Why Placemaking Matters ... 20

Longwood Fire Company Safety Tips ... 22

Sewer FAQ ... 22

Stream Restoration at Anson B. Nixon Park ... 23

An Update from KAPA ... 23

TLC's New Leaf Sensory Garden ... 24

Springtime Reminders for Dog Owners ... 24

Planting for Birds ... 25

Kennett Library Update: Imagine a Place ... 25

Kennett Township Recycling Schedule ... 31

CCSWA Household Hazardous Waste Events ... 31

2021 Public Meeting Schedule ... 32

2021 Primary Election Info ... 32

Important Contact Numbers ... 32

Pennsylvania 8-1-1 Safe Digging Month ... 32

General COVID-19 Info ... 32

**A Peek
Inside**

Read on for more
great articles



Dr. Richard Leff

Board of Supervisors, Chair

After living in New York, North Carolina, Maryland, South Carolina, Connecticut, and Delaware, Rich settled in Kennett Township with his wife Sara and two sons in December of 1999. With an undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and an MD degree from Yale University School of Medicine, he currently works from home as a consultant to pharmaceutical companies in clinical drug development. He is currently serving in his second term as a Board of Supervisor, having first been elected in November of 2013.

When he's not working, he is playing tennis, practicing yoga, reading biographies, or taking his 16-year-old rescue, Tupper, to Barkingfield Dog Park. He used to be a road bicyclist who and hopes to return to that hobby this year.

Rich says he loves the small town feel of Kennett Township and the open space. In his own words: "Local government is where everyone can impact how their community functions. I would like to

encourage everyone to attend Board of Supervisor and Kennett Township Committee meetings and reach out to me with your observations and ideas. Hearing from you helps us represent you better and helps us build a better Kennett Township."



Whitney Hoffman

Board of Supervisors, Vice Chair

Whitney has an undergraduate degree in developmental biology from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from the Dickinson School of Law of Penn State. She worked for a small law firm where she helped design the ADA access program for the NFL and provided on-site services to people with disabilities at the Super Bowl for eight years. Currently, she works as a Senior Digital Strategist at Mingl Marketing, where she specializes in digital media strategy, content creation and management for the web. She has been there since 2014.

Originally from Rochester, NY, Whitney and her family (husband Matt, two sons, James & John, Darwin, their 85-pound bernadoodle, and two cats) have lived in Kennett Township since 2004. They like to keep busy by hiking, cooking and traveling - when possible. She has always enjoyed volunteering, whether for the Kennett Consolidated School District while her boys attended school there, with the Kennett Area Democrats, or even by sewing over 1,500 masks for local

residents and non-profits as COVID-19 took hold. She was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2015 and is currently seeking reelection this November. She says she loves the opportunity to help this community, where everyone truly cares about each other.



Scudder Stevens

Board of Supervisors, Supervisor

Scudder has been practicing law for over 50 years. Currently, he works for Lyons Dougherty, LLC in Chadds Ford, principally focusing on estate planning and administration, elder law, trusts, and Orphan's Court litigation. He is also a certified Mediator. While there may be the presumption that he is never "off the clock," he enjoys cars, motorcycles, tractors (landscaping), bread baking, and home upkeep projects.

His partner of 55 years is Mary Claire, a graduate of Kennett High School in 1962. They have two sons, Scudder II and Colin, and one dog, "Laguna Seca". They inherited Seca after pet-sitting for Colin as he left for a job in CA eight years ago. Somehow the ticket to San Jose for Seca never arrived in the mail! Although named after the CA race track, Seca has never visited his name-sake. Scudder himself used to race automobiles for several years before settling down in Chester County, and was a shepherd with 15 sheep for many years after moving to Merrybell Lane.

Scudder was first elected as Supervisor in 2011 and is in his second term. He says he's very blessed to live in this Township, to interact in a meaningful way with his fellow residents. It is a progressive and beautiful community that offers him inspiration every day!



Eden R. Ratliff

Township Manager

Eden became Kennett's Township Manager in September of 2019. Prior to that, he was the Borough Manager of Ford City, PA and later the Borough Manager of Greencastle, PA. With a Bachelors degree in Political Science, a Masters degree in Employment and Labor Relations, and currently writing a thesis for a Masters in Public Management from Johns Hopkins University, it is no surprise that he enjoys solving complicated challenges that produce positive outcomes for the community. His career is also a passion as he believes local government has the ability to make positive impacts on the members of the community.

Eden is married to Gabrielle and lives in East Marlborough Township with their two dogs, Otis and Ellie. When he's not working, he enjoys having a cup of coffee with Gabby on their back patio, playing golf, volunteering, and riding his motorcycle.

Originally from West Chester, Pennsylvania, he is thrilled to be back in Chester County again. Specifically of Kennett Township, he says he is thankful to work for the citizens here and enjoys how engaged and enthusiastic everyone is about their community.

Gretchen Flack

Executive Assistant to the Township Manager

Gretchen is a Chester County native, graduating from Henderson High School in 2001. She earned a BS degree from James Madison University in 2005. She has lived in PA, VA, MD, and DE but is now ready to put roots down in NJ as she and her fiancé, Brandon, purchased a beautiful home in Mantua this past January. When she's not working on their new home/yard, Gretchen can be found in her craft room creating or in the kitchen baking. She is a huge Flyers fan and even interned with them while in college.

She joined Kennett Township in March 2020. Thanks to COVID-19, meeting people has not been easy. However, through her role as the Zoom host for the Board of Supervisors meetings, she has enjoyed getting to know a lot of you and she encourages you to say hi via Zoom chat at the next meeting!



**CHESTER COUNTY
COVID-19 VACCINE
REGISTRATION**

Chester County Health Department Opens COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments to Everyone Age 16 and Over

press release from Chester County Health Department, April 9, 2021

WEST CHESTER, PA_ The Chester County Health Department announced April 9th that everyone age 16 and over who lives and works in Chester County is now eligible to schedule an appointment to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine. The move by the county health department brings forward the eligibility dates for Phase 1C and Phase 2, originally directed by the State to occur on April 12 and April 19 respectively.

“Our decision to open eligibility to everyone in Chester County age 16 and over was made based on two factors,” said Jeanne Franklin, Director of the Chester County Health Department. “First, the number of people in the county who have already received the vaccine, combined with the number of people currently scheduled with us to receive the vaccine over the coming weeks.

“And second, the fact that we have three large-scale clinics that are administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine this weekend, with a number of appointments still available.”

“We have sent messages to everyone registered with the Chester County Health Department in Phases 1A and 1B to ask them to schedule appointments, and when those appointment rates slowed down, we extended eligibility to Phase 1C. After a brief increase in scheduling, we are now extending eligibility to everyone in all phases, to ensure all vaccine appointments are filled for this weekend, and into the coming weeks,” added Franklin.

Continued on page 26



Amy Heinrich

Director of Finance & HR

After over 20 years in Financial Services working for Capital One, ING DIRECT, Lehman Brothers, Reuters, and Citigroup, Amy made the transition to Local Government to find more meaning in her work and to give back to the community. She started her municipal government career at West Whiteland Township. However, as a passionate resident of Kennett Township who also specializes in all things finance with a BS from Cornell and a MBA from Duke, she knew she was uniquely qualified to help *her* community as the need for a Finance Department was realized.

Amy joined Kennett Township in October of 2019 as the Director of Finance & HR and also serves as the Treasurer to the Board of Supervisors. She is most proud of the team she helped build over the past year. Together they have faced many challenges and worked together to establish the building blocks necessary to run Kennett efficiently and transparently. She knows her work is far from over, as she desires to make this Township the best it can be.

Amy is the proud momma of nine-year old twin boys, Frankie and Jack. She has also recently adopted a 2 year old pup, Maddie. When she gets free time, she often spends it with those she loves enjoying nature and the outdoors – walking, hiking, biking, swimming, and boating.



Dina McIlvaine

Finance & HR Specialist

A local girl through and through, Dina grew up in Exton. She has an Associates degree in Business and a Bachelors in Global Security & Emergency Management. After working with Amy H. at West Whiteland, Dina joined Kennett Township in February of 2020. She loves her coworkers, saying that she works with amazing people who all want to learn, do their best for the Township, and help each other out.

When not traveling or trying new restaurants, Dina likes to watch true crime shows, read urban fantasy novels, and paint/draw the places she's traveled to. She'd love to own an art gallery someday. You would probably find paintings of Caper there, her chub-chub dachshund. Dina truly loves people and animals, their welfare, and wants Kennett Township residents to know she is here to help in any way she can.



Denise Serino

Finance & Procurement Specialist/Recycling Coordinator

In late July 2020, Denise joined Kennett Township as the fourth member of the Finance Department. Also coming from West Whiteland Township, where she worked for over 20 years, Denise fills the crucial rolls of Finance & Procurement Specialist. She's also the Township's Recycling Coordinator. She says she loves collaborating with her coworkers.

Her family includes husband Fred, son Eric, daughter Danielle, and son-in-law Nick. She, like many Township employees, has some four-legged kids too: Charlie (Labradoodle), Jax (French Bulldog), and Lucy (Yorkie). She enjoys the beauty of Longwood Gardens and spends her free time visiting her two grandchildren, biking, and crafting.



Jasmin Lopez

Accounting Assistant

Jasmin, originally from West Chester, joined the Finance Department in April of 2020. She has worked in both large organizations (US Navy) as well as small ones (Wilbooks) prior to joining Kennett Township. She says her favorite part about working here is being able to help this community, and she loves how much this community cares about their environment.

She enjoys traveling and has visited over 25 states so far with hopes to visit all 50 one day. Jasmin loves spending time with her significant other Alex, two daughters, Jaylyne (14) and Maliyah (11), and 7-month old pup, Oakley.



Diane Hicks

Director of Planning & Zoning

Before joining Kennett Township, Diane worked for almost two decades at West Goshen Township in various departments. While she has worked for Kennett Township for several years, she recently moved into the role of Director of Planning & Zoning. The structure of this department is relatively new and is designed to support subsidiary committees as well as primary Committees such as the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. She says she looks forward to adding to her department in the near future.

Diane has always enjoyed a challenge and the opportunity to continue to learn. Graduating from college with a degree in history, she is a proponent of our past and how it affects our future. The Kennett Township Historical Commission is another committee she oversees, hoping to assist in the preservation of that history.

Diane also serves as Assistant Secretary to the Chester County Association of Township Officials. She enjoys the interaction with other municipalities and the ability to exchange ideas with her peers, in the hopes of bringing something back to Kennett Township and vice versa. In allotted spare time she enjoys reading a good book or simply enjoying the peace and beauty of her surroundings.



Amy Ferris

Administrative Assistant for Planning & Zoning

Amy joined Kennett Township as a temp in January of 2020 and was brought on officially in July of 2020. Prior to joining the Township, she utilized her BS in Business Management from Widener University working for the Wilmington Friends School for 29 years as the Foodservice Director.

She enjoys working with the great people of Kennett and appreciates the amazing serene and peaceful landscape that surrounds the Township building, which she has expertly held down during the pandemic.

She and her husband Bill have two dogs, a German Shepherd mix and a long haired dachshund. Amy loves dogs, making crafts, and is addicted to cruising, having traveled to Europe seven times.

Keystone Municipal Services, Inc.

Building Codes Officials

As Director Diane Hicks explained above, the Planning & Zoning Department is still being built. There are a couple of positions it will be filling in the next year or two. Until those full time employees are hired, the Township utilizes third party Keystone Municipal Services, Inc. for Building Inspectors and a Codes Inspector. Keystone Municipal Services, Inc. was established with a mission to become the best and most complete Building Inspection/Zoning Administration firm in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region. These four guys work closely with both Diane and Amy F. to help ensure your projects are completed properly. They review building permits, building plans, and enforce the building codes of the Township.



Rich O'Brien
Building Inspector



Harry Williams
Building Inspector



Jay Rutherford
Building Inspector



Steve Olkowski
Codes Inspector



Roger Lysle

Director of Public Works

Roger was born and raised in Landenberg, Pennsylvania. He lived on a family farm until the age of eight when he moved to a house off of his grandmother's farm outside of West Grove, PA. During high school, he worked on local farms and worked at Kendal/Crosslands in the kitchen after school. He started his career with Kennett Township in 1981, just two years after he graduated from Avon Grove High School. Today, Roger is the Director of Public Works and takes excellent care of this Township.

He enjoys talking to people and doing everyday jobs that you would do at home. He said the best thing about Kennett Township is the area and the residents. "It's like family." When asked what else he would like the community to know, Roger said it would be how thankful he is for everyone letting him be himself over the years.

He and his beautiful wife and best friend, Anne Marie, have two daughters, a granddaughter, and grandpups. He aspires to be a great Pop-pop, but with his strong desire to help everyone, it will be easy to achieve that goal! Roger is a self proclaimed homebody who enjoys his backyard, grilling, making breakfast, trips to the beach, and simply relaxing.



PJ Groff

Foreman

Prior to joining Kennett Township in September of 2020, 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.

He enjoys helping the Township residents on a daily basis and loves doing something different every day. When he is not working hard for Kennett, he is spending time with his family or volunteering with his local fire department as a firefighter.

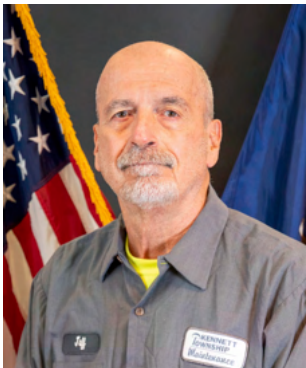


Andrew Earle

Public Works

Andrew has worked with the Kennett Township Public Works Department since 2008. Like his fellow Road Crew teammates, what he enjoys most about his job is working outdoors, especially in Kennett Township.

When he is not working, he can be found reading. One fun fact about Andrew is that he knows how to knit.



Jeff Lawrence

Road Crew

Jeff was born and raised just down the road in Oxford, PA. He joined Kennett Township's Road Crew in September of 2005 and says his favorite thing about his job is working outside where he can take in the scenery Kennett offers. He also really enjoys working for the residents of the Township. While he enjoys his job, he is quick to confess he is looking forward to retirement in a few years.

Jeff has a daughter who lives in Wilmington Delaware. He enjoys going to blues concerts and adding to his tattoos. He is also a certified locksmith and likes collecting vintage skeleton keys and old locks.



Jesus Melendez

Road Crew

Jesus is originally from Puerto Rico but spent much of his life here in Pennsylvania. He came to Kennett Township with a background in HVAC, having attended technical school for his HVAC training and worked for Chelsea Heating & Air in Avondale. Kennett Township has been happy to have him as part of its Road Crew since November of 2016. Like most of his team, he enjoys working outside.

He likes playing baseball and he is a car guy. That means when he is not working, Jesus enjoys building race cars and drag racing.



Matt O'Brien

Road Crew

Matt joined Kennett Township's Road Crew in December of 2015. He enjoys working outside and the back road scenery that Kennett offers. Matt strives to learn and grow as much as he can.

He is originally from West Grove and went to Avon Grove High School along with CAT Brandywine for automotive service technology. Before working for Kennett, he worked at C. P. Yeatman and Sons. In his time off, you can find him with his significant other Jackie, kids Josh and Brayden, and step kids Aleaya and Leo. He enjoys car shows, grilling, four wheeling, and old cars, trucks and Harley Davidsons.



Luke Muller

Stormwater Inspector

Luke always wanted his work to have an impact on the world, big or small. He feels his current role as Stormwater Inspector, which he's had since 2016, lives up to that standard. He aspires to do more in this area as stormwater is becoming a bigger issue every day and Chester County needs solutions and experts.

Originally from Chadds Ford, Luke's favorite thing about Kennett Township is the close knit feel between colleagues and residents alike as it feels like a big family. He says that if you see him inspecting in the community, feel free to say hello! When not working, he enjoys his hobbies of electronics and music, as he is a multi-instrumentalist.

Public Works Update

by Roger Lysle, Director of Public Works

Good-bye winter, hello spring!
Here's what we have been up to and what is ahead...

WINTER: Clean-up from snow & removal of snowplow posts • Yard repairs • Sweeping, removal of snowplow posts • Repair potholes

SPRING: Spring trash pick-up • Grinding of Yard Waste Lot • Delivering mulch to residents who request it

SUMMER: Paving Chandler Mill Rd between Hillendale Rd and South St • Paving Rosedale Rd between Bayard Rd & Hillendale Rd • Oil and chipping on Hillendale Rd (Route 52 to Pennsbury Township) & Center Mill Rd between Burnt Mill Rd and the Delaware State line. • Many drainage jobs and pipe replacements throughout the Township • Mowing, maintaining the parks and sewer, plus whatever else pops up!





Matt Gordon

Acting Chief of Police

Matt joined the newly formed Kennett Township Police Department as the second in command in May of 2016. He then became the Acting Police Chief in November of 2019. In addition, he is the Deputy SWAT Commander of the Chester County Regional Emergency Response Team.

Matt has been a police officer for over 32 years and spent much of his career in the City of Coatesville Police Department where he was promoted through the ranks until he was Lieutenant in charge of all police operations. After retiring from Coatesville, Matt was employed with the Chester County Detectives in the Major Case Squad and the Drug and Organized Crime Unit.

He is proud to serve Kennett Township and appreciates the diversity of not only the Township residents, but of the Police Department as well. He is passionate about maintaining positive relationships with the community and community partners, and is always looking for ways to modernize and maximize the safety and efficiency of the KTPD.

Matt lives in the Coatesville area and has two daughters, one who still lives at home. During his time off, Matt enjoys almost anything you can do outside in the fresh air and tries to divide his time between the beach and mountains equally.



Elizabeth Hutchins

Administrative Assistant to the KTPD

Before joining Kennett Township in December 2015, Liz worked for the United Way of Southern Chester County. Serving the community in some form has always been a passion for Liz. What she enjoys most about Kennett Township is its welcoming and diverse community and its long tradition of environmental stewardship.

Liz grew up Hockessin, Delaware and is a University of Delaware alumni. When Liz isn't working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and cat. She also enjoys hiking, gardening, and local breweries.



Amanda Wenrich

Detective

Amanda has been in law enforcement since 2012 and has been with the KTPD since 2015. She began her career here as a patrol officer and split her time between patrol duties and handling the Department's criminal investigations. By the end of 2016, she was promoted to full-time Detective. She earned a commendation in 2016 for her outstanding work on a burglary investigation.

She loves that no two days on the job are the same and appreciates the beauty Kennett offers. Outside of police work, she enjoys being outdoors, reading, traveling (pre COVID-19), and DIY home projects.



Jeffrey Call

Corporal

Jeff joined the KTPD in October of 2015. Prior to that, he worked with the New Garden Police Department for 10 years and with the Kennett Square Police Department for three years. He was also enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF) from 1993-1996, then joined the Delaware Air National Guard (USAF) from 1996 until his retirement in March of 2020.

Here at Kennett, his favorite part of his job are the daily interactions with the community. When he is not working, he enjoys time at the beach, live music, playing pool and socializing with friends.



Brian Bolt

Police Officer

Brian started his Law Enforcement career in 2008 and was a K-9 Handler with the Chester County Sheriff's Office for over nine years. He joined the Kennett Township Police Department in January of 2021 and is already appreciating the camaraderie within the KTPD. He enjoys being a Police Officer, helping out the community, and likes interacting with the Township residents.

He is a native of Oxford and he and his wife Lauren have a German Shepherd (Zeus), a rescue Pitbull/Shar Pei mix (Wrinkles), and one cat (Pia). Brian likes classic cars, fishing and hunting, golf, and BBQ.



Adam Cramer

Police Officer

Adam has worked in numerous different mechanical trades and a regional police department in Lancaster County for 14 years following high school. He joined Kennett Township in 2017. One of the things he likes the most about being a police officer is helping good people when they're having a tough day. He's received two Life Saving Awards, most recently in 2018 from Kennett Township.

When he is not working, he enjoys numerous outdoor activities such as marksmanship, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, and working on project vehicles. Someday he'd like to compete in drag racing.



Robert Dowd

Police Officer

Robert grew up in Chester County and before joining the Kennett Township Police Department in July of 2020, he worked for the Birmingham Township PD. His favorite thing about being a Police Officer is working with the community. He is currently a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and has been so for six years. Looking ahead, Robert would like to continue his military career as well explore different specialty divisions within law enforcement.

When he is not serving the Kennett Township community, he enjoys fishing.



Jonathan DeLeon

Police Officer

As of March 2021 Jonathan is the newest KTPD Officer. Originally from Brooklyn, NY he graduated from Lower Merion High School and attended a Technical High School for Public Safety. He is bilingual (Spanish) and is trained as a police officer and a firefighter.

He says he wants the community to know that he will treat every individual that he meets throughout his career with the upmost respect. He is looking forward to being there for those in need and building a good relationship with the public. Be sure to say hi and help welcome him to Kennett Township!



Miguel Juarez

Police Officer

Miguel began his career as a Police Officer in 2016 at the Kennett Square Borough Police Department. He then joined the KTPD in April 2017. He likes making a positive impact in the community, especially a community as diverse as Kennett Township with all the opportunities it offers.

Miguel is specially trained in ALERRT Active Shooter Level 1, Child abuse investigation, is Certified in weights and measures, TopGun UC School in 2018, Patrol level interdiction, ARIDE, and has received a Life-Saving Award. When not on the clock, he enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Pedro Melendez

Police Officer

Pedro has been employed with the Kennett Township Police Department since 2019. Prior to that, he was a member of the Oxford Police Department and the Kennett Square Police Department. He graduated from the Police Academy in 2011, holds a degree in Applied Sciences, and is a fluent Spanish speaker. He is also a highly trained School Resource Officer (SRO) which was one of his main duties when he worked for the Oxford Police Department.

Officer Melendez lives in southern Chester County with his family.



Elysia Simmons

Police Officer

Elysia has worked in both the private sector and different police departments since 1999 before joining the KTPD in 2018. She loves knowing she can make a change, have a positive impact, and personally know the residents she protects and serves. Elysia says Kennett Township truly has the best residents ever!

She looks forward to growing within the KTPD by being a part of the past, present, and the future success of the department. When she gets time off, Elysia loves to spend it at the beach or the mountains with her family, her wonderful husband, and her two Cavalier King Charles fur babies.



Colin Vanicolo

Police Officer

Before Kennett Township, Colin worked at Kennett Square Borough Police Department and Westtown East Goshen Police Department. He joined KTPD in July of 2020. He is a 2017 graduate of West Chester University (Criminal Justice) and a 2018 graduate of DCCC Police Academy. He aspires to become a field training officer and eventually to be in a supervisory role.

When Colin is off the clock, he coaches track and field at West Chester University. He is, after all, the school record holder in two track and field events there, so don't run away from him!

of an invoice paid twice in the QuickBooks system because the unique invoice number identifying system was not being utilized. This was immediately discovered by new staff in early 2020 and was implemented then. The Sage system also utilizes unique identifiers to help prevent duplicate payments. After being notified of the duplicate found by Maillie, finance staff contacted the vendor and received a refund for the overpayment.

Maillie discovered multiple weaknesses, or highly recommended improvement in, the following approval and oversight processes:

- There was no system for review of purchases
- Not all invoices had evidence of approval
- Some checks were signed using a stamp
- Checks for smaller amounts only had one signature
- Manual journal entries were not reviewed and approved
- Annual salary increases were not approved by the Board of Supervisors

In addition, annual budgeted contributions were not paid consistently and had limited backup, and very little documentation was provided to the Board for oversight of financials. A few of these deficiencies occurred in early 2019 before the Township was stabilized by the Board and the Interim Manager. Now, all invoices are approved by one or more managers, signature stamps were eliminated and all checks require two Board member signatures. All non-recurring journal entries have back-up while recurring entries have an established process and back-up. Also, all annual salary increases are now documented and approved by the Board.

For purchases, not only is every anticipated purchase budgeted, but manual Purchase Orders for large items were created in 2020, and we have implemented the new Purchase Order system in Sage starting in 2021. Contributions were compared to the budget and shown to be correct, even if paid in illogical increments. All payments of this type are now accompanied by extensive backup and documented rationale if not paid in equal intervals. For oversight by the Board, they now receive a Bill Voucher to be approved at every Board of Supervisor meeting (twice a month) with invoices provided as backup for their review. Monthly financial reports are now sent to the Board and posted on our website. They include revenue and expenses by General Ledger account versus budget and prior year. Sage enables even more sophisticated reporting and dashboards, which we are in the process of building.

Another issue closely related to approval and oversight includes segregation of duties. In the beginning of 2019, there was only one other finance team member other than the Township Manager. This created potential for misstatements and errors. By the end of 2020, we had a Finance/HR Director and three additional team members where duties could be segregated in accordance with Maillie's recommendations. Cash is no longer accepted as we now take credit cards for all payments. Sewer payments go to a lockbox service to reduce check volume coming into the Township. Any checks that are received at the Township building are now received, scanned, and documented by the receptionist while a finance team member stamps, records in the General Ledger, and deposits into the bank. Bank statements are reconciled versus the General Ledger and approved by the Finance Director. We are in the process of implementing a third person to review the deposits versus the receptionist's documentation.

As of 2019, records for the individual Escrow Funds held were not complete and possibly inaccurate. Each escrow account has been reviewed in detail in conjunction with source documents, and accounting of each escrow has been created and/or updated, and statements have been issued to the developers. In 2020, all escrow transactions were recorded in QuickBooks at the project level. In 2021 with Sage, we now have the ability to track every detail for each escrow project.

Finally, Maillie recommended several improvements to our Sewer Billing process which we either have addressed or continue to address. Before 2020, water usage was manually entered into our sewer software (Flexibill) which was prone to errors. The volume is now uploaded electronically, and totals are verified against the reports received from the Chester Water Authority and Kennett Borough. We continue to monitor and improve processes involving resident changes and additions to ensure we capture all sewer users in the Township. By automating the payment process, we have also drastically reduced the potential for errors.

Summary

As mentioned in the beginning, most of these findings were as expected due to the circumstances and the discoveries made by the staff over the year. We anticipate 2020's audit to be much smoother and with far less deficiencies as we continue to improve processes, keep each other in check, and build a finance department that is both transparent and compliant.



See
Page
22

for a helpful list of
Frequently Asked
Questions pertaining to
Sewer Billing.

Township Approves Moving Forward with Final Design for New Trails & Sidewalks

by Christina Norland, Executive Director, Kennett Trails Alliance

On April 7, 2021, the Township Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to continue with the engineering and design of two future trails and sidewalks for Kennett Township.

The Kennett Greenway on Chandler Mill Road

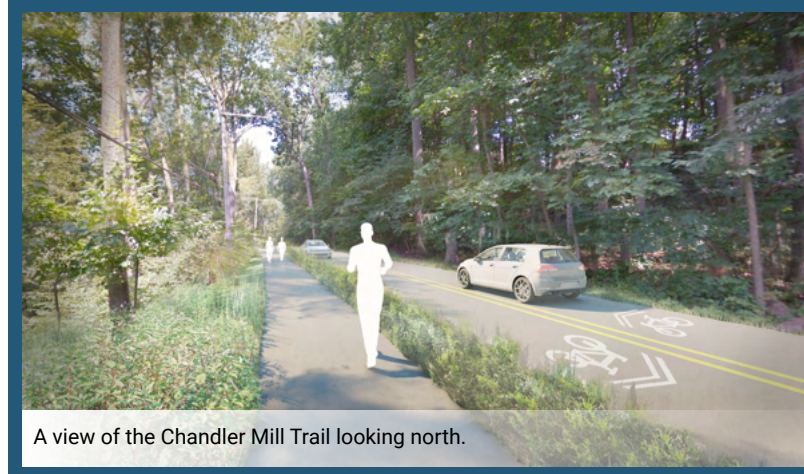
The Chandler Mill Trail will be a milestone project for the Kennett Greenway, a future 14-mile trail loop that will connect Kennett residents to nature and each other. The trail will extend approximately 1.5 miles from the Parrish Trail at West Hillendale Road to the newly restored Chandler Mill Bridge.

The trail will enable residents to closely experience the serenity of the west branch of the Red Clay Creek and connect to the natural trails at the Chandler Mill Preserve, which is the headquarters of the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County.

Preliminary designs were developed by the Township's trail consultants, including Biohabitats, Unknown Studio, McMahon & Associates, and Meliora Design.

The approved design includes a six-foot-wide pedestrian trail next to the West Branch of the Red Clay Creek, which at times will be widened to eight feet. The design will provide for increased pedestrians and bicyclist safety, traffic calming, introduce a reduced speed limit, enhance the floodway embankment by the creek, and address the deterioration of culverts.

The Chandler Mill Trail will include a couple resting and viewing areas and planted roadside buffers. Two segments of the road will also be reduced to a two-way, single lane road as shown in the below rendering by Unknown Studio, which would increase traffic calming and cost-effectively address areas where the creek runs close to the road. Fire and EMS are being consulted on an ongoing basis to ensure ease of emergency access.



A view of the Chandler Mill Trail looking north.



A view of the Chandler Mill Trail, south of the Hillendale intersection, where it would be a one-lane road with the trail next to the creek.

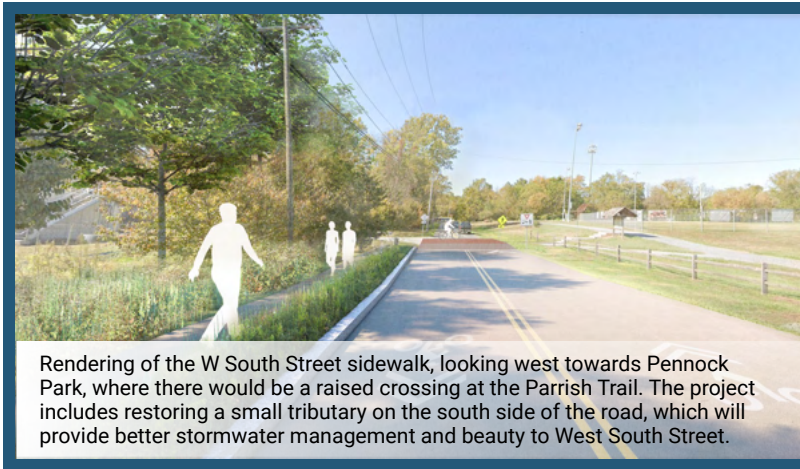


[Renderings by Unknown Studio]

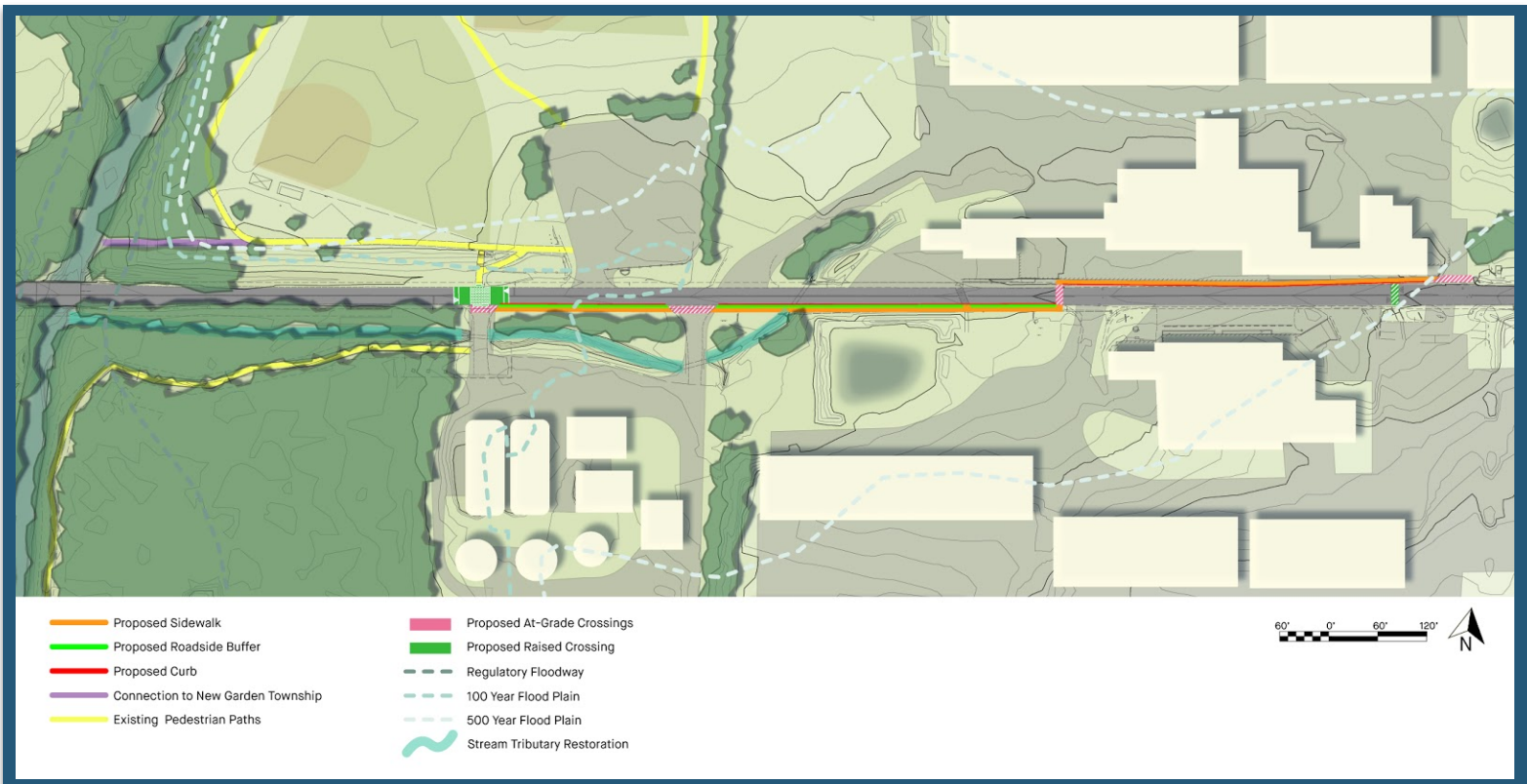
West South Street Sidewalk Project

The West South Street sidewalk project is a long-awaited project to improve east-west connectivity and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists near Herb Pennock Park. The first phase of this project will complete sidewalks from Kennett Borough to Pennock Park and the Parrish Trail. Future phases will include (i) a trail that connects Pennock Park to Scarlet Road, which will run up to the New Garden Shopping Center, and (ii) a trail that connects New Garden Shopping Center up to Cypress Street. The Township is working closely with New Garden Township to coordinate these future phases for engineering, grant funding, and construction.

Unknown Studio's rendering below shows the proposed West South Street sidewalk. The sidewalk would run west on the north side of the road from Kennett Borough to the intersection of Chandler Mill Road. After crossing the street, pedestrians would be able to continue to walk west to the Parrish Trail. Current designs are contemplating up to three raised cross walks to calm traffic on West South Street: one at South Mill Champs' entrance, one at the loading area of South Mill Champs, and one at Pennock Park.



Rendering of the W South Street sidewalk, looking west towards Pennock Park, where there would be a raised crossing at the Parrish Trail. The project includes restoring a small tributary on the south side of the road, which will provide better stormwater management and beauty to West South Street.



The Engagement Process & Next Steps

The Board's approval to move forward occurred after an extensive, four-month community engagement process, which included a public survey, localized and Township-wide community meetings, individual meetings with landowners and business owners, and several Board of Supervisor meetings. The consultants also conducted traffic and speed studies, a survey, a wetland delineation and a comprehensive tree study which they will be using for final design.

Next steps include permitting, further design development, additional public engagement and feedback sessions, and developing final engineering documentation.

The Township currently has approximately \$2 million in grant funding to apply to construction costs for trail projects in the western part of Kennett Township. In addition, the Township is seeking additional funds to complete these projects through various state grant agencies. Construction timing will depend on permitting and funding.

Stay tuned for additional opportunities to learn more and provide input as the Township invests in creating a sustainable future for our community!

Emergent Abundance Farming Collective at Spar Hill to become part of KACS

by Eden Ratliff, Kennett Township Manager



At the end of last year, Kennett Township was approached with an exciting proposition by the Emergent Abundance Farming Collective (EAFC). The EAFC is a volunteer group started by Julia Smagorinsky who currently gardens on private land. Their mission is to create an abundance of food and an ecological habitat – and to share the food, knowledge, skill, and access to land with the local community. The owners of their current garden have requested an increase in privacy, so the Collective set its sights on Spar Hill.

The Township acquired Spar Hill Farm in 2018 for the purpose of preserving open space and natural resources. The majority of Spar Hill is still farmed by a local farmer and is used by many residents for trail walking and other passive recreation opportunities. The farm is technically closed due to the need to address the dilapidated buildings on the property, which is an action item in the 2021 budget. Agriculture uses and passive recreation are both activities supported by the deed restriction of the property.

The EAFC proposed to use one-acre of land at Spar Hill to engage in natural and organic growing practices to produce vegetables and other foods to support those facing food insecurity. In 2020 the EAFC produced over 1,000 lbs. of food that was donated to local area food banks including Kennett Area Community Service (KACS). Utilizing Spar Hill will allow for greater growing opportunities, enhanced visibility, increased volunteer participation, and decreased costs. The EAFC is interested in using Spar Hill to continue this operation to mainly support KACS.



This proposition gained the approval of all three Supervisors at the March 17th Board of Supervisors Meeting, with Vice Chair Hoffman saying that it is great to preserve the history of Spar Hill by continuing to farm some of the land. The agreement with the EAFC, which was created by Township Solicitor Dave Sander, only provides for Kennett Township to provide

Continued on page 26

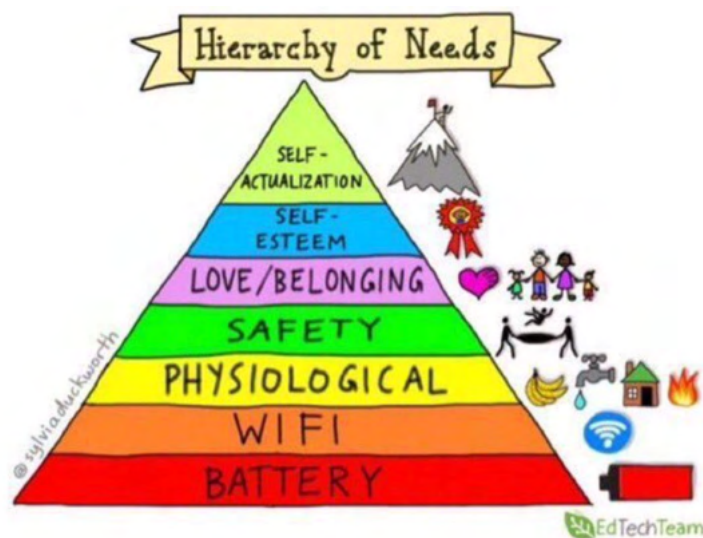
Bridging the Digital Divide

by Whitney Hoffman, Vice Chair

It's been a little over a year since the start of the pandemic. While people who have been telecommuting to jobs for years may have noticed little difference in their day to day routine, many more people have had their daily lives reshaped by the need to work, "attend" school, and in general, conduct more tasks than ever before online.

As more and more of our daily tasks, including Township meetings, have moved online, the difficulties faced by those who do not have speedy broadband connections at home has grown. And while we used to be able to just pop by the library or a local coffee shop to "borrow" a Wi-Fi connection, the pandemic has made that much more difficult, if not impossible.

The Pandemic Changed our Perspective and Needs



When the pandemic required the closure of schools and offices in March 2020, the demand for strong internet connections, through cellular and broadband connections skyrocketed across our community. Dan Maguire, the technology coordinator for the Kennett Consolidated School District said recently that "our five year plan to make sure every child had access to the internet had to be condensed down to five weeks." It meant rapid deployment of not only computers, laptops and tablets throughout the district, but also the means to connect to the internet with hotspots and other solutions for people that did not have cable or fiber connections themselves.

Likewise, small businesses and restaurants who had not really seen themselves as needing an internet-ordering system were forced to figure out a way to conduct business online as well as in person in order to remain viable.

We all started to learn about video conferencing, for day to day business and to visit with relatives. People who never

Continued on page 26

Join the Historical Commission for “Revealing Historic Home Secrets”



What historic home secrets are hidden in a nail head, a hinge, a doorknob, a floorboard? Any of these could yield a world of information. Want to learn how?

Join us for the Kennett Township Historical Commission’s Annual Program on **Tuesday, April 29, 2021 at 7:00 PM.**

The program features noted architectural historian, Seth Hinshaw. Some of you may remember a few years ago, when Seth presented BARNs to a standing room only crowd. He is returning with a wonderful new virtual presentation explaining how he dates structures by finding architectural elements. Sometimes they are hidden in plain sight.

Add this to your calendar and we are looking forward with sharing this program with you!

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87617609517>

Dial by Phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: **876 1760 9517**

Passcode: **505069**

New Bridge Allows Ease of Transit for Hamorton Woods Residents

by Joey Fournier, Kennett Resident & Scouts Troop 24

On the last day of construction, I stood atop my now completed bridge. It was solid under my feet and I understood my hard work had paid off. The road there however was somewhat long and arduous.

As time to my eighteenth birthday drew smaller and smaller, I realized I had to develop my Eagle Scout project, and fast. I contacted a family friend, and he agreed to work with me on what I believed to be a rather simple endeavor: the construction of a footbridge over a small gully.

We got to work taking measurements, understanding the tools and materials we would not have to acquire, etc. I went ahead to the Township and procured the permit necessary. When that was all done, we tore out the remnants of the decayed bridge in place and a few weeks later began construction. Post construction, we placed wood chips down on the path to help mitigate the muddiness that plagues the trail.

The bridge received tons of support from the community.

Continued on page 28

PennDOT Announces National Designation for the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway

*by John Haedrich, Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway
Commission Chair*

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced in early March that the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway in Chester and Delaware counties has received a National Scenic Byways (NSB) Designation from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

“We are thrilled that another one of our Pennsylvania’s Byways has achieved National Scenic Byways status,” said PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian. “The beautiful, historic Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway is more than deserving of this honor.”



Montage courtesy of theBrandywine.com

The Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway directly adjoins a national scenic byway of the same name in the state of Delaware and extends the route into Pennsylvania’s Brandywine Valley. The history encompassed within the Byway spans from the settling and early development of the nation through the Revolutionary War, the struggle for freedom on the Underground Railroad, to the creation of world class cultural institutions by the families who had made the Brandywine Valley their home. The scenic qualities arise from the land itself, which fortunately has been protected due to its fine agricultural assets and the forward thinking and means that the residents possessed to protect and conserve the landscape.

The 25-mile route in Pennsylvania, when joined with the Delaware Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway, forms a figure eight encompassing Route 52 starting at the Delaware state line, traveling north to Route 162, and returning via Creek Road back to the Delaware state line.

The vision, as developed as part of the Byway Corridor Management Plan, states that the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway will continue to be a place with a deep and varied history recognizable in the landscape and intertwined with a distinctive natural environment and pastoral scenic vistas—vibrant threads which together make a rich tapestry for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

First recognized as a state designated Byway in 2005, the Byway is now managed by a cooperative government entity, the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission (BVSBC), created by the five-member townships who each appoint two representatives to serve on the Commission. The BVSBC meets

Continued on page 28



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

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

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

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



Did you know the popular Bradford Pear Tree (left) is **NOT** recommended! While it’s pretty flowers that bloom in April/May make it a popular choice, it is an invasive and you should seek an alternative for your yard or business.

A good alternative is the Flowering Dogwood (right). According to the Mt. Cuba Center’s website, the "Flowering Dogwood is one of our finest native trees and is attractive in all seasons. It has gorgeous white-bracted flowers in spring, red berries and leaves in the fall, followed by striking bark and branch structure all winter long."



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

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

Please check the EAC’s link on the Township's website for any additional information on related topics and the EAC's areas of focus.

What's the Economic Value of Our Open Space?

by Jeff Yetter and Michael Guttman - Land Conservation Advisory Committee (LCAC)

Kennett Township residents regularly tell us that our rolling hills and rich farmland are among the most beautiful places in America, and that this is one of the main reasons they choose to live here. Many acres of our scenic landscapes have already been preserved, providing everyone with endless opportunities to enjoy the outdoors on foot, bicycle, in the saddle, or just driving by.

That's reason enough to preserve as much as possible of what remains of KT's open space. However, since we regularly spend taxpayer dollars to conserve and maintain open space, it's fair to question how much economic value we also get in return. Fortunately, our own Chester County Planning Commission has already neatly summarized this in a May 2019 report entitled "Return on Environment: The Economic Value of Protected Open Space in Chester County." Let's use the data from this report to estimate the economic benefit of open space in KT.

As it turns out, KT's area comprises about 2% of Chester County, and contains roughly 2% of its population. Meanwhile, KT is also nearly average in the amount of open space already conserved (22%). Therefore, simply taking 2% of the county figures from the report above actually gives us a pretty good rule-of-thumb for KT, as the table to the right summarizes. [*Note: annualized from an estimated \$1.65B in total additional property value appreciation in Chester County during the 16-year period 1981-2017 cited in the report.]

Annualized Benefits	Chester County	Kennett Township (2%)
Extra Property Value Appreciation*	\$ 45,800,000	\$916,000
Extra Property Tax Revenue*	\$ 27,400,000	\$548,000
Environmental	\$614,000,000	\$12,280,000
Recreation and Health	\$446,000,000	\$ 8,920,000
Economic Activity	\$307,000,000	\$ 6,140,000
TOTAL ANNUAL BENEFITS	\$1,440,200,000	\$28,804,000

You can find out more about each of the benefit categories from the report itself, but these estimates suggest that KT receives nearly \$29M in total benefits from open space each year. Pretty amazing!

So, how much does it cost to acquire and maintain those benefits? KT collects an annual dedicated tax currently netting about \$800K, from which it pays for all its share of open space expenses, including the purchase price of land and easements and various maintenance costs. A very small portion of state and county taxes are also used to support open space, with KT's taxpayers likely sharing less than a total of \$100K annually, bringing its total costs to less than \$900K. This means that the entire cost of our local open space program is easily paid for by just the first item in the table - the \$916K annual benefit of additional property value appreciation, which goes right into the pockets of our taxpayers. That means that the rest of the annual benefits from open space - about \$28M or \$3K per resident - are essentially cost-free!

Of course, you might wonder just what economic benefits we are losing when a piece of land is conserved rather than developed? This depends largely on how it might be developed. Land developed for industry and commerce obviously generates substantial on-going taxes and employment, providing sizable net benefits to a community. But such land currently represents only about 3% of Chester County (2.2% of KT) and is concentrated around already densely developed urban areas and transportation hubs like our neighboring Kennett Square. Therefore this kind of development does not typically compete directly with preserving open space.



On the other hand, Chester County residential land use currently stands at about 20% (24% for KT) and developing more of it typically competes directly with preserving open space. It is tempting to imagine that turning a farm into a subdivision will generate lots of local tax revenue, and indeed it does. Unfortunately, for each residential tax dollar collected, local governments end up spending an average of \$1.11 in infrastructure costs - schools, roads, public safety, utilities, etc. By comparison, for each \$1 in taxes collected from open space, local infrastructure costs are a measly 7 cents! This makes preserving open space an even better deal for Kennett Township.

So, next time you take a stroll in one of our beautiful preserves, or just gaze across a lovely open field, remember that you are not just enjoying green nature. You are also receiving a whole slew of other valuable benefits while saving a nice chunk of taxes and expenses in the bargain!

Why Placemaking Matters: Reimagining and Repurposing Places—for People

by Tara Smith, Communications Coordinator for HKS

If the Jeopardy clue were: “The Center for New Urbanism defines this as the process of creating quality places that people want to live, work, play, and learn in,” you might not have chimed in with the answer “What is placemaking?” But Kennett residents are becoming more and more familiar with this concept as they see and experience placemaking initiatives around town.

If you’ve ever been to a Third Thursday, or if you dined in the street or sat in the parklet last year, or if you enjoyed the tree lights, beautiful planters, festive décor and Christmas trees, or took a selfie at the snow globe over the holiday season, you’ve participated in placemaking efforts.

While the possibilities for placemaking projects are infinite, and each one is unique because it’s intimately connected to place, placemaking initiatives have a few core concepts in common: they’re always interesting, welcoming, safe, visually attractive, and accessible; they encourage connection and facilitate positive, and often creative, activities; and they inspire a strong connection to place. Placemaking solutions are often aimed at solving a problem for people, whether that’s a lack of outdoor seating for socially distancing, an unsafe crosswalk, or beautifying an area that’s been neglected. Placemaking creates spaces for people in places that are perceived to be static and unchangeable or that are dangerous or otherwise inhospitable. In other words, placemaking is always people-focused.

One of the renewed areas of focus for Historic Kennett Square (HKS) is casting a vision for, and helping to shape, the built environment of Kennett to become more livable and people-oriented. While the temporary placemaking projects HKS has implemented are fun and popular, they’re part of this much bigger vision to help people imagine the possibilities for change. And the initiatives are temporary to test whether a particular project addresses the problem and is used by people. Placemaking is always an imaginative process.

When HKS launched Third Thursdays on State Street in 2014, for example, it was a challenge to imagine fine dining—or kids playing mini golf or making art—in the middle of a street that’s always curb-to-curb cars and trucks. But when this street was reclaimed for people, the music, activities, and social interactions created a magical ambience, and restaurants booked up quickly. People drove around the block and found plenty of parking in the municipal garage—and those who lived close enough to walk appreciated living in this increasingly walkable community even more.

In some ways, COVID-19 precautions have broken down traditional barriers to experimenting with people-focused projects. With the success of the Third Thursday model in mind, community leaders knew an extended street closure every weekend was a viable



Placemaking: Transforming Spaces Outside the Box

Some of the best-loved events and places in Kennett are the result of creative placemaking efforts. A derelict condensed milk factory has been reimagined as an elegant beer garden and community gathering space. Those who have been around for a few years will remember that The Creamery started as a pop-up placemaking venture to test whether the community would embrace that kind of project. A former trolley repair shop now houses a brewery, a distillery, and a chai brewing operation—and lovely high-ceilinged, brick-walled spaces to drink them all. A strip of parking lot becomes a place where people connect with, and support, local farmers and producers every Friday afternoon. All of these are creating a buzz on once-forgotten Birch Street.

And there’s more. An abandoned garage on one side of town has been repurposed as a youth center—and another on the other side of town now houses goods crafted and curated by a few dozen local artisans. On South Broad Street, an empty parking lot is transformed for a day into one of the region’s premier craft brew festivals, and another day into an award-winning vintage and artisan market. A former car dealership at the other end of South Broad Street is home to a rug gallery, an artist’s studio, a brewery and restaurant, and a music education space. These projects and others help our community to envision possibilities for people-oriented places.





The HKS parklet on West State Street provided a safely distanced option for outdoor dining last summer and fall.

solution for restaurants that could no longer offer indoor seating. Thanks to the Mayor’s Emergency Declaration and the terrific crew from the Borough’s Department of Public Works who put up barriers and signs to close the 100 block of East State Street each weekend through the summer and fall, people came from far and wide to enjoy dining safely in a space that’s beautified and transformed when it’s occupied by people instead of cars. As one resident recently told us, “It turns out people love outdoor dining!” It also turns out that losing a few parking spots to gain an attractive, safe, and fun place to gather with friends and family for coffee or a meal on the West State Street parklet, is on balance a significant gain for people.

At its best, placemaking not only solves problems but also elevates a place, and its people. In many places over the past year, these people-centered solutions have offered both hope and delight. In a recent New Yorker article on the parklet phenomenon in New York City, Adam Gopnik notes that architecture ought to “solve social necessities with improvised forms, making common design from common need.” And, he says, the structures that have popped up for outdoor dining “are, in the midst of so much other sadness, a shining instance of the sheer bounce of creativity on our city streets.”

When HKS first proposed the parklet last summer (as a solution to help restaurants on a block that most businesses did not want closed to traffic), and again when we started putting together a plan for Christmas in Kennett last fall, we looked to successful initiatives in other places to find visuals to show sponsors and municipal partners the kind of transformations we were envisioning for Kennett. Now, as we launch our Kennett Blooms initiative this spring, we have our own gallery of photos to show what placemaking can look like, feel like, and inspire for Kennett Square residents and visitors.

Kennett Blooms will focus on three main elements: the installation of several placemaking projects, including the parklet; coordinating outdoor dining and street closures; and adding plantings and gardenscapes to make the town an even more beautiful and welcoming place to shop, dine, work, and play this spring and summer. When you’ve been in a place that’s beautiful and pedestrian friendly, you feel good about the experience and want to return—and HKS is working hard to make sure that people feel that way about Kennett Square.

Find more information about Kennett Blooms at KennettBlooms.com



Professionally designed planters throughout town were part of the HKS Christmas in Kennett initiative.

“The mission of HKS is to make Kennett thrive. We intentionally create programs and events that help Kennett become a more beautiful and welcoming community where all can belong and prosper.”



Longwood Fire Company Safety Tips

Since the beginning of the year, the members have been extremely busy with emergency incidents. As we approach the warm weather seasons (hopefully), we would like to take this time to remind our residents of a few safety concerns.

- **Never drive through a flooded roadway**, even if you can still see a small portion of the road. The dangers of a washout will go un-noticed until it's too late. six inches of water can cause your vehicle to lose control and possibly stall. A foot of water can make most cars float.
- **Outdoor barbecuing** is a popular summer time activity. Please make sure that your grill is at a safe distance from your house and any combustibles, like dry pine needles. It only takes a small flare up to create a large problem.
- As the clocks change so should your **smoke detector batteries**. Replacing your batteries not only ensures the proper activation for an emergency, it reduces the false alarm calls we receive daily. Check with your alarm company as most detectors have a life expectancy of 10 years.
- **Outdoor burning:** It is illegal to conduct an outdoor burn in Kennett Township. We actively cooperate with Township officials when a violation occurs. If you need information on recycling, please see the Township website (or pg 31 of this Newsletter) for additional information.
- Please pay attention to the weather forecast. Last year we were under numerous **"red flag" days**. This classification notifies us that the environment is at a state that items such as dry brush or grass is extremely flammable. An improperly discarded cigarette could have disastrous effects. If you observe a small outside fire during these days please do not delay notifying 911, it could mean the difference between a small bush on fire or a total loss of your residence.

2020 was a challenging year for everyone as the COVID-19 pandemic threw our organization many curve balls throughout the year. Coupled with over 2,900 emergencies handled by our Fire and EMS crews, I am proud to say that we have stayed true to our mission: protecting our residents at all costs.

In closing, we would like to thank the residents and elected officials of Kennett Township for their continued support. Without your support, our Company would not be able to maintain our superior level of service.

Sincerely,
A.J. McCarthy, Longwood Fire Chief

SEWER Frequently Asked Questions



Q. What is the Consumption-Based sewer rate?
The Consumption-based sewer rate is seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for the first 0-5,000 gallons, and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for every 1,000 gallons above 5,000 gallons.

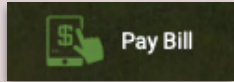
Q. What are the accepted payment methods?
Check, Credit Card, Online Bill Pay



Q. Where do I mail a check for sewer payments?
PO Box 7655
Lancaster, PA 17604-7655
We no longer accept payments at the Kennett Township office.

Q. Where can I make an online payment?

www.kennett.pa.us & click on
There is no fee to pay online!



Q. What does a quarter cover?



A quarter covers 3 months:
Quarter 1= Jan, Feb, Mar
Quarter 2= Apr, May, Jun
Quarter 3= Jul, Aug, Sept
Quarter 4= Oct, Nov, Dec

Q. What is the Account ID requested when paying online?

00 (double zero)

Q. When does the bill get mailed out?

Billing for sewer goes out approximately 6 weeks after the end of each quarter. This may change depending on when the meter reads are received from the local water companies.



Q. How can I confirm my water consumption amount on my bill?



Your water consumption is sent to us directly from your water company. The consumption billed for sewer should match the consumption that was billed to you for water. If they do not match please contact your water company, and they will let us know of any changes we need to make to your account.

Your Finance Department thanks you!
If you have any further questions, email
finance@kennett.pa.us.

Stream Restoration at Anson B. Nixon Park

by Brian Winslow, Watershed Conservation Director, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance

If you've visited Anson B. Nixon Park this spring, you may be wondering what's going on with the work on the stream that runs through the park. This stream restoration project is a partnership with Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRC) and Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) to reduce sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous pollution and improve water quality and habitat in the East Branch of the Red Clay Creek. In 2008, BRC developed a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Upper East Branch of the Red Clay Creek that assessed the stream and known impairments and prioritized sections of stream for restoration as high and medium priorities. The goal is to make a greater impact in the watershed by aggregating restoration projects in a sub-watershed for greater impact. With the completion of this project on 4,400 feet of stream, BRC will have completed five projects on nearly two miles of stream.



The project at the park addresses deeply incised stream banks that are actively eroding and contributing sediment to the stream that impairs aquatic life by embedding the gravel and cobble stream bed with soil, reducing the biodiversity for aquatic insects that support fish and waterfowl in the stream. In some areas the eroding banks threaten park trails and other park infrastructure. To address the problem, Aaron Clauser, PhD, with Clauser Environmental developed a restoration plan using the principles of fluvial

Continued on page 29

Before, during, and after Phase 1 of the East Branch of the Red Clay Creek Restoration project.



An Update from the Kennett Area Park Authority

by Sheila Tekavec, Office Manager, KAPA

It's a new year, and there are a lot of new things happening in Anson B. Nixon Park in 2021! The Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) Board of Directors has been hard at work, planning improvements in several areas to ensure that your visit to the park is enjoyable. We know now, more than ever, that a safe outdoor space where residents and visitors can enjoy time with family and friends is necessary and beneficial.

New in 2021:

As a wrap up to Phase 1 of the stream restoration work that is being done in the park, we are scheduled to plant 445 native specimen trees in the riparian buffer at the end of the dormant season on May 1st. This is being paid for in part by a generous donation from local artist Suzanne Gaadt's company, Give a Fig. She donates a portion of the company's proceeds each year to an organization that has a focus on the arts or environment. KAPA and the park were the fortunate recipients of that gift in December of last year. Other funding is being provided by a Growing Greener grant from the PA DCED. We have partnered with the Longwood Rotary Club for this project and have enough volunteers at this time.

KAPA was awarded a \$203,514 Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant from the PA DEP toward Phase 2 of the stream restoration. Work is scheduled to begin by the middle of May and should be completed by the end of the year.

Work has begun to remove the old vehicular entrance which crossed over a major tributary of the Red Clay Creek. The old roadway

Continued on page 30



ANSON B. NIXON PARK
KENNETT SQUARE



New Leaf Sensory Garden

by Abbie Kessler, Executive Director of The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County

With the arrival of spring comes a need to get outside and enjoy the warmer, greener weather and many Township residents do so on The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) preserves. Today, I wanted to highlight the changes that have occurred at our smallest preserve, New Leaf Sensory Garden. New Leaf is a small eleven-acre property donated to TLC by the Vincenti family in 2003 that contains an open meadow, stream, and small wooded area. It is also home to TLC's apiary (beehives).

Starting in 2019, TLC worked to shift New Leaf's identity from an Eco Center to a Sensory Garden as the short trail, small acreage, and varied habitats make it ideal for our young visitors and those who cannot handle the longer trails or more uneven terrain of our other properties. A sensory garden is an intentionally-designed garden or outdoor area that nurtures and enriches all of the sensory systems through stimulation courtesy of plants and materials that engage one's senses. Please note, do NOT eat anything at New Leaf, but please DO look, touch, smell, and listen.

Sensory gardens are popular with and beneficial to both children and adults, especially those who have sensory processing issues, including autism and other disabilities, as well as dementia and Alzheimer's. For others, it can simply be a safe space to go without feeling overwhelmed, that may also help hone coping skills and the ability to get through the day. To engage the senses, TLC staff have installed multiple stations throughout the property including hopping logs, texture tiles (photo 1), walk through bamboo wind chimes (photo 2), a cairn station (photo 3), and a bilingual story book walk around the meadow loop (photo 4).

Further changes and additions will be done over the course of 2021, but the property is ready and open and already being enjoyed by many. One parent said she and her daughter love New Leaf and she especially appreciates not having to carry her toddler back to the car since the property is not overly large. TLC has worked hard to make the New Leaf Sensory Garden appealing for all ages and we hope you come by and explore the various stations. Don't forget that the trail connects across the intersection to the Township building's trail through their native meadow if you want a little extra mileage when visiting. Additional parking can also be found at the Township building. We hope to see you on the land!

New Leaf Sensory Garden is located at 776 Rosedale Rd, Kennett Square and is open from dawn to dusk. For more information, please visit www.tlcforscc.org/explore.



Springtime Reminders for Dog Owners

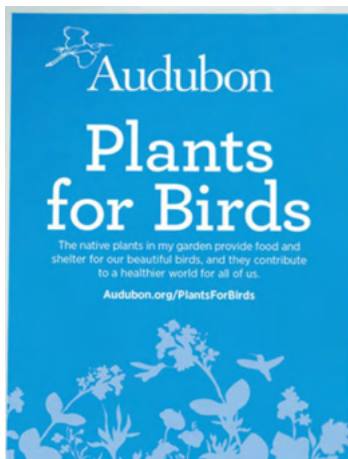
From the Kennett Township Police Department

With warmer weather on the horizon we would like to remind dog owners of Township Ordinances regarding dogs at Township parks, athletic fields and public events.

In the parks, athletic fields and at public events within the Township, dogs shall be secured by a leash of sufficient strength for the owner or handler to maintain control of the dog at all times. Dogs are to be secured by a leash no longer than 12 feet in length. The leash is to be pulled in and shortened to a maximum three feet when approaching or being approached by other persons and/or animals.

The owner or handler of any dog brought to the parks, athletic fields or attending a public event with a dog shall diligently supervise the dog and shall be responsible for immediately removing fecal matter left by the dog and disposing of it in a safe and sanitary manner.





Planting for Birds

by Kathryn Pearlstine Freilich, Community-based Land Stewardship Coordinator with TLC

As part of our 'Bird Town' designation Kennett Township has teamed up with Audubon Pennsylvania, our local Valley Forge Audubon chapter, The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC), Kennett Borough, and the Kennett Trails Alliance on a 'Planting for Birds' initiative.

The kick-off project was a bird friendly garden along the Kennett Greenway Trail near the Kennett Area YMCA funded by a generous grant from the Valley Forge Audubon chapter and installed with the help of interested community volunteers (see photo to the left). Jacob Sclar from Unionville Boy Scout Troop 22 helped with the planting and installed a watering system for the garden as his Eagle project. The system uses water from the adjacent creek to aid in establishment of the garden in the first year. The system can then be redeployed to new planting areas in future years.

This garden is designed as a landscaped destination which provides a pleasant resting spot while demonstrating the beauty and value of native plants. The streamside garden highlights plants which help to keep our

Continued on page 30



Imagine a Place...

by Mary Hutchins, Kennett Library Campaign Associate

Imagine entering through the doors of the new Kennett Library & Resource Center that has the friendly staff and the book and video collection that we have all come to depend on but also has space for such things as first run movies, Ted Talks, lectures, town hall meetings, program areas, collaborative learning spaces and a variety of community gathering places.

Now, you can imagine yourself in the new building with a video that takes you on a virtual tour of the new building. You can find the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQxWh3catBs> or the campaign website www.campaign4kennettlibrary.org. The video was created by RRMM Architects and narrated by Library Trustee and Kennett Township resident Collis Townsend.

Work is slated to begin in April at the site of the new building at State and Willow Streets; followed by groundbreaking in August; and grand opening in December 2022.

Together, we can build a new library that will serve all of our growing community's needs, enhance Kennett Square's streetscape and welcome friends and visitors to this wonderful place we call home.

Board of Trustees President Jeff Yetter thanks Kennett Township Supervisors and other municipal officials for financially supporting this project and the vision for the Kennett Library & Resource Center. "We are creating an important resource for all residents of Southern Chester County. The Kennett Library & Resource Center will be a valued institution for generations to come," Jeff said.

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.

The Time is Now for a Great Community to build a Great Library! Kennett Library Update

The Kennett Library continues to work hard to provide library and information services to our community, with social guidelines in place. Story times and other programs are virtual, online Library card applications are available so the community can access E books and other online materials. The Library is open for browsing, computer use or to take advantage of the quiet space for work or study. In addition, curbside pick-up is still available and is a safe and easy way to get the book or video you want.

As a result of COVID-19, usage of Overdrive (ebooks) has increased dramatically, and Library staff has made increasing the

Continued on page 30



Chester County Health Department Opens COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments to Everyone Age 16 and Over

Continued from page 4

More than 192,000 people age 16 and over in Chester County have already received the COVID-19 vaccine, and the Chester County Health Department reports that a further 47,000 people currently have appointments scheduled with the health department over the coming weeks.

“If you factor in vaccine appointments being scheduled with other providers, plus the assumption that around 70% of the eligible population will actually choose to receive the vaccine, then the number remaining to receive the vaccine is really closer to 50,000 people in Chester County,” noted Franklin.

The Chester County Health Department continues to administer the Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Even with an anticipated reduction in the Johnson & Johnson vaccine coming to the county in the next few weeks, the health department will, on average, be administering 12,000 doses per week.

In opening up eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine to everyone age 16 and over in Chester County, the Health Department asks three things:

If you haven't yet registered your interest in receiving the vaccine with the Chester County Health Department, please register now at chesco.org/covidvaccine, and then schedule an appointment.

If you are already registered with the health department, you can login to your account and book an appointment.

If you registered with the Chester County Health Department, and have received your COVID-19 vaccine elsewhere, please remove your name off the registration list to help the health department keep an accurate record of exactly how many people are still waiting to be vaccinated.

In addition to scheduling an appointment online, the option to book an appointment via the health department's call center is also an option. The call center can currently schedule an appointment over the phone for anyone who does not have access to a computer or who is uncomfortable using the County's scheduling system. That number is 610-344-6225.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, and the Chester County Health Department's COVID-19 program, go to chesco.org/covidvaccine.

Emergent Abundance Farming Collective at Spar Hill to Become part of KACS *Continued from page 16*

one-acre of land for the gardening. The Township will not provide any monetary support without additional approval but will be allowing the Public Works team to provide moderate mowing services around the garden.

Since the EAFC is an emerging organization that is not yet legally incorporated, they formally requested to come under KACS as a new program. Executive Director of KACS, Leah Reynolds, was happy to report that the KACS Board has approved moving forward with this pilot project and is excited about the potential these collaborations can produce together.

Reynolds added that an immediate need they have is for a water system for irrigation, as the wells on Spar Hill have been shut down and the underground infrastructure has not been maintained. Longwood Fire Company has graciously agreed to donate water to support this effort, but they need containers to store the water in. As this is a true community effort, if any readers of this Newsletter have such containers, or could help in meeting this need, please email leah@kacsonline.net.

We, Kennett Township, are so excited to host this amazing initiative and look forward to watching as Spar Hill transforms to help support its own residents who are in need.



Bridging the Digital Divide *Continued from page 16*

thought about it before were clamoring for webcams, and having a meeting via Zoom became normal. This means of communication has become so universal and adopted that the residents at Kendal-Crosslands Communities recently put on a play in celebration of the Women's Rights Convention that took place in nearby West Chester in 1852 over Zoom, which was attended by over 100 people.

The Internet is now a Necessity

Having a reliable internet connection has now become a necessity, not a luxury. While many families have had Wi-Fi in their homes for a while, not every family is connected, and many others haven't needed to spend money on large data plans until now. Parents, children and even seniors are spending more time online for meetings, classes, homework, business, shopping, communicating, finding government services, and yes, even entertainment and socializing. The amount of information and data many households are consuming online has also grown rapidly, increasing the demands on the existing digital infrastructure exponentially. It's also created a more obvious digital divide, putting those in our community without rapid or reliable connections at an obvious disadvantage.

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The Pew Research center reported in 2019 that over 90% of adults used the internet, including 100% of those 18 — 29 and 73% of seniors — and those numbers have climbed during the pandemic, by necessity. In Feb of 2019, when 73% of households had broadband at home, only 59% of seniors did. In addition, about 20% of people depend on smart phones as their main way to connect to the internet, especially in rural areas (<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/internet-broadband>).

New Perspectives

For those who have, up until now, not seen a need for faster connections or larger data plans, the pandemic has changed that perspective. And for those who were trying to make do with a cellular connection from a phone or a tablet as their sole internet connection, problems with spotty or unstable connections can make something that should be simple, like trying to find a vaccine appointment, next to impossible.

It comes down to this: if the digital infrastructure you are trying to use (cellular or broadband) isn't "big" or fast enough, you will be plagued with connection problems making essential tasks difficult, if not impossible. While the level of service you decide to have in your home is still an individual decision, the infrastructure piece, the wiring and the cell towers that allow you to connect to the network, is something that municipalities and internet service providers (ISP's) will have to work on together to fix. It's no longer just about the inconvenience caused by having your call dropped when you travel through many of the "dead zones" in the area. This has become about access to government services, and even the ability to have home safety equipment like Ring cameras which now depend on good Wi-Fi connections.

Just Like Other Infrastructure

It's easier sometimes to think of our digital infrastructure just like our physical infrastructure, like roads. When we know a road is having traffic problems, we get a traffic study done to see what kind of repair is needed. We might need to change a traffic light's timing, or consider adding turn lanes or traffic calming measures, but until we have the study, we aren't sure what fix will work. Similarly, to really address the digital infrastructure problems we face, it's clear we need to do a study to find out where our digital "potholes" are and get a list of suggested or recommended fixes.

Addressing the Problem

In this case, it's likely the fixes will need a blended response, addressing both fiber/wired connections and cellular connections together. This also means it will be important to work with other municipalities and the internet service providers so the solutions are prioritized and synchronized, since this will benefit many more people than just those within Kennett Township.

Working Regionally to Address the Whole Picture

Since last Spring, I have been participating in calls with the Southern Chester County Opportunity Network (SCCON), a group of local non-profits who have been getting together every other week to discuss challenges and how we can all work

together to solve problems as they have arisen. One of the big projects they have taken on is helping families with remote schooling by setting up learning pods and working with the school districts to make this new way of schooling work for as many as possible.

Through this process, we discovered that there are a lot of gaps in internet coverage throughout our community. There are "dead zones" where cell service is sparse, making hot spots unreliable for hour after hour of classes, and if several kids in the same home need to be on the same network, connections can lag or fail. There are other areas where the original cables were ran in the 1980's, and they have degraded over time leaving homeowners to wrestle with internet connectivity issues with their providers and as a one-by-one proposition. In addition, the school district is currently spending in excess of \$20,000 a month in data costs. While these expenses are covered by government grants for pandemic relief at the moment, funding will run out but the need to be connected will not.

I started collaborating with Joan Holiday and Jim Mercante of SCCON to try to figure out solutions to the problem. Simply stated, we all better understand the importance of strong, reliable broadband connections. But solving the problem is not as simple as paying a provider like Verizon or Comcast more to upgrade your service. There are serious issues with our digital infrastructure, but because no one provider or one municipality "owns" the problem, it is difficult to address.

Jim, Joan and I reached out to local school districts and local municipalities. In our initial call, it became clear that the problem was more widespread than we thought, and families throughout the area were running into problems. We understood we would need to do a study of our digital infrastructure, to get a better sense of which neighborhoods might need new cable or fiber, which ones had poor cell connections, and what could be done to correct these problems (regardless of internet service provider). But without a To Do list, all we had was school district data on which students were having the most difficulty.

As I stated earlier, good, fast, reliable internet connections are becoming as important to our day to day lives as having water and electricity. It's also becoming a key to economic development. With great digital infrastructure, more people will be able to telecommute, which will lessen traffic, reduce accidents, and have a positive effect on our environment. We'll also be able to attract businesses that rely on these robust connections, which, to be honest is just about every business now. Even our farmers are relying more on digital connections to monitor the health of their crops, fill orders, set schedules and more.

Finding A Solution — And How to Pay for It

Dan Maguire from the Kennett Consolidated School District came up with a great idea that we could potentially use the money in the CARES act to fund a study to highlight which areas had the most connection challenges and come up with solutions to fix them long term. While this would not be a quick fix, it would make sure our long term challenges would be addressed as

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they never have until this point.

Jim, Joan and I began in depth research, again calling municipalities and groups across the Country that had done similar studies to see what it would entail. We contacted the internet service providers and got them on board. We contacted our county and state representatives, and even our congress people and senators, to make sure everyone could attend a meeting on March 4th to discuss the possibility of doing a digital infrastructure study throughout the Southern Chester County area, including the Unionville Chadds Ford School District, Kennett Consolidated, Avon Grove and Oxford.

All three County Commissioners attended the meeting, as did Senator Phillips Hill, head of the Communications and Technology Committee in the State Senate. There was agreement that a study needed to be done, and Senator Hill has offered to share information from other areas of the Commonwealth that are also trying to address these challenges.

We are all working with the County and the Chester County Intermediate Unit to help draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the proposed study. We have received sample RFPs from other communities in Maryland and New Jersey to date who have done them for similar projects. The County has agreed to apply for funding to the appropriate State agencies, and it is possible that we may be able to get the study started within a few months.

Short Term Solutions

While fixing our digital infrastructure will take some time, I'm pleased to say that based on our reports, Verizon has already fixed at least one reported "dead zone" near the PA/DE line on Rt. 52. In addition, we are exploring options for public Wi-Fi access at Barkingfield Park and have asked the Kennett Area Parks Authority Board to consider adding Wi-Fi to Anson B. Nixon Park as well as soon as possible. We are hoping these public Wi-Fi connections will help those who need a little more access to get it, while enjoying the beauty our parks have to offer. It means you might be able to take a Zoom meeting in the Park after lunch, or while walking the dog, or make reservations for dinner at a restaurant once everything opens up.

We are hoping that Wi-Fi connectivity at the park will be a benefit to many in our community, even if only accessible during park hours. We also hope, if access is added, to monitor the usage and report back on whether it is being used or not, and adjusting accordingly.

To Sum it Up

Needless to say, I am honored and excited to help bridge this digital divide. Stay tuned for the latest information about how the proposed study and short term solutions advance local connectivity in Kennett Township and beyond as we work together towards long term solutions. If you have any thoughts or ideas about this or any topic, please feel free to email me at whitney.hoffman@kennett.pa.us.

New Bridge Allows Ease of Transit for Hamorton Woods Residents *Continued from page 17*



On the left is the bridge in Hamorton Woods before the completion of an Eagle Scout project by Troop 24 Scout Joey Fournier.

Neighbors were always interested in what was going on, and many offered support in the form of tools, donations, etc. People seemed to be very happy that a functioning bridge now stood where one had decayed for so long.

Without the key contributions of a few people, this project would not be even close to what it is today. I would like to thank the Hamorton Woods Homeowners Association for their understanding and their aid, my project coach William Coon and his crew from WRC Construction in their aid in the early parts of bridge construction, the Scouts and adult leadership of Kennett Square Troop 24 for their helpfulness and for setting me up for success, and finally my own two parents, who offered me lots of support throughout the frustrating but rewarding process.

PennDOT Announces National Designation for the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway *Continued from page 17*

on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Chadds Ford Township office. (Currently the group meets via Zoom due to COVID-19. Zoom details will be distributed to the township offices prior to the meeting).

The primary goal of the Commission in 2020 was to prepare a successful NSB application. In 2021 the focus is on modernizing our website (now under construction), developing a virtual office, and adjusting to the new challenges and opportunities presented by the National designation.

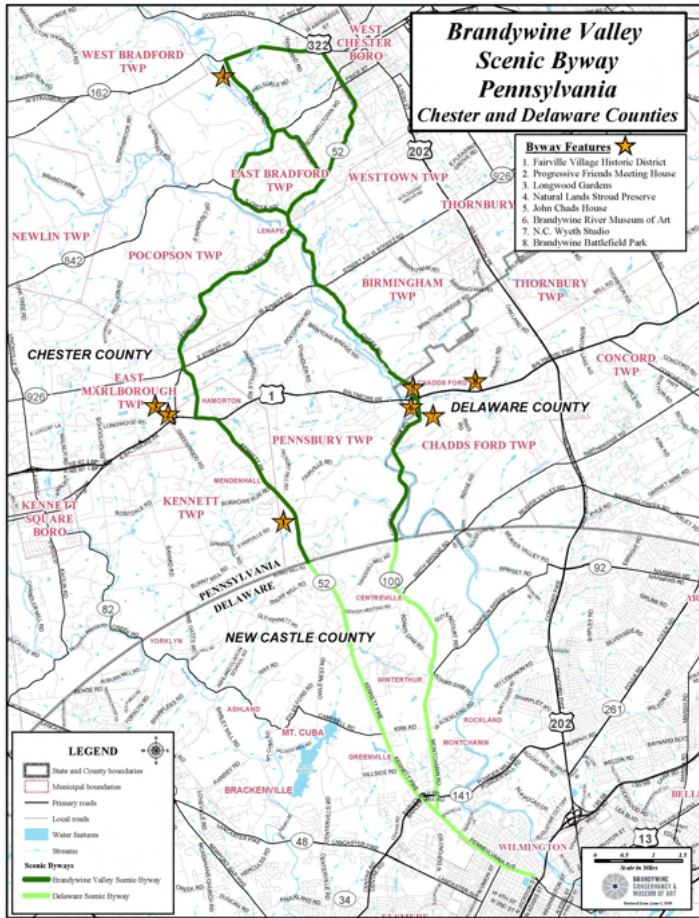
The NSB application entailed the support of the five participating municipalities including Chadds Ford Township, East Bradford Township, Kennett Township, Pennsbury Township, and Pocopson Township. In addition, letters of support were provided to FHWA by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Chester County Planning Commission, Delaware County Planning Department, Chester and Delaware County Conference and Visitors Bureaus, Delaware Greenways (BVNSB

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in Delaware) and numerous other stakeholders.

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic, natural, archeological, cultural and recreational qualities and promotes tourism and economic development in nearby communities. Pennsylvania created its own Byways Program in 2001 - as a local grassroots program - and is managed by PennDOT. Pennsylvania boasts 21 Byways, four of which now are FHWA National Scenic Byways.



worked on daily and returning flow at the end of each day. In some areas, future erosion is reduced by installing instream structures such as root wads, log, and rock veins to protect the banks from further erosion or directing the stream flow to the center of the channel. Some of these structures also help to create riffles, runs, and pools where aquatic insects and fish can thrive.

After the stream bank work is completed, the disturbed areas are reseeded with a wildflower and grass mix. Later this spring, trees and shrubs will be planted along the stream in open areas to further stabilize the banks and provide shade and organic matter for the stream to further improve aquatic habitat. As you walk along the stream on one of the park's trails watch for Belted Kingfishers, Egrets and Herons that feed on fish and frogs in the stream. Also listen for the "phoebe" call of the Eastern Phoebe hovering over the stream and feeding on aquatic insects as they hatch from the stream.

Funding for this project has been provided by PA Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grants for the design and Phase 2 implementation, and a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for Phase 1 with support from the William Penn Foundation. Support was also provided by the Borough of Kennett Square and Kennett Township with in-kind support from BRC and KAPA.

To learn more about BRC's Red Streams Blue Watershed Conservation programs that work to restore impaired (red streams) to unimpaired status (blue streams) visit <http://www.brandywineredclay.org/watershed-conservation/red-streams-blue/>. And to learn more about what you can do on your property to improve water quality in your watershed visit www.cwmp.org.



Stream Restoration at Anson B. Nixon Park *Continued from page 23*

geomorphology to restore a more stable stream channel and improve aquatic habitats. The plan was approved by PADEP for a permit to work in the stream and Flyway Excavating won the bid for Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 will be bid this spring to complete work on the tributary that runs along the park's entrance road.

The stream restoration plan utilizes heavy equipment to pull back the sections of actively eroding stream banks to remove the sediment and regrade the vertical banks to a 4:1 slope. During this process, the stream channel is opened from a U-shape with vertical banks to a wider V-shape. The excess soil is being stored at the upper soccer fields to be used there to help level the fields later by KAPA. During construction, further sedimentation is reduced by pumping water from the sections of stream to be

Phase 1 of the Red Clay Creek Restoration project



An Update from the Kennett Area Park Authority

Continued from page 23

will be replaced by a new pedestrian walkway. Funding for this project has generously been provided by the Chester County Community Foundation, the Brandywine Creek Greenway's Mini-Grant Program from the Brandywine Conservancy, and the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation. Work is expected to be complete by late spring or early summer.

OTHER UPDATES:

Forestry management is ongoing in the beech and ash groves. The trails are being evaluated to determine which sections have consistently suffered from severe erosion during heavy storms, and to seek a lasting solution to this problem. Upgrades are planned for the basketball and tennis courts - dates TBD. Along with the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and others, KAPA was a proud sponsor of this year's Red Clay Valley Clean Up. Unfortunately, the Trout Rodeo scheduled for Saturday, May 1st, has been cancelled.

REMINDERS:

- The Park is open from sunrise to sunset, every day.
- 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 six feet) at all times. Please be mindful of those around you.
- Alcohol is not permitted in the park.
- Please keep your pets leashed while coming into and leaving the dog park. Dog waste bags have been provided for your convenience; please clean up after your pet.
- Community engagement is important. To contact the Kennett Area Park Authority about an idea or with a concern, please email us: AnsonBNixonPark@gmail.com
- If you would like to support our efforts in the park, please send a check made payable to KAPA:
PO Box 1121
Kennett Square, PA 19348
- You may also use the secure PayPal link on our website to pay with your debit or credit card. Every dollar counts, and we sincerely appreciate donations of any amount.

Thank you.

AnsonBNixonPark.org

Planting for Birds *Continued from page 25*

water clean and provide critical food sources that birds need.

Many of the birds we're used to seeing in our backyards are increasingly threatened by climate change, meaning as

temperatures fluctuate and environmental conditions rapidly change, birds are experiencing dramatic shifts in the availability of suitable habitat. By providing native plants, we can help ensure that the birds that give us so much pleasure have access to the resources they need now and in the future.

In addition, native plants help to mitigate the impact of these same environmental events on people by providing essential ecosystem services. Native plants form the critical base of the food web upon which all life on the planet is dependent. Streamside plantings are particularly critical for bird and animal habitat as well as for helping to reduce stormwater run-off, streambank erosion caused by heavy rains and flooding, and filtering rain run-off to improve water quality.

The plants used in the demonstration garden are readily available for purchase at local nurseries for use by residents in their own gardens and landscapes. Plants in the garden were purchased from Gateway Garden Center in Hockessin, Bloombox home plant delivery service, and R-P Nurseries in Kennett Square. The plant list and garden design is available on the Township's website at www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4684.

As part of this collaboration we are planning to install additional native plant demonstration gardens in different areas of Kennett Township and Borough. Look for the blue 'Plants for Birds' signs! Please visit and enjoy this garden area while you are walking the trail this spring. And we will keep you posted on future events!

Imagine a Place... *Continued from page 25*

availability of online materials a priority. In addition, Library staff have added take-home kits for children and families. Be sure to stop by and get your free project.

Library Director Megan Walters reports that circulation for February and March this year shows an increase over last year validating that the Library has been a lifeline for our community during the pandemic. She and her staff are working on a plan to offer some programs outside this summer. Be sure to sign up for the weekly newsletter on the library's website to stay up to date on all activities and programs.

All Adult Literacy Program (ALP) classes are being held online and even with the loss of traditional classrooms, 103 students attended classes in the fall. Classes include ESL, GED and Citizenship. In the last 24 months, 24 students became U.S. citizens with the help of ALP; others continue to take the class in preparation for the citizenship interview and test. Since it began in 1979, ALP has had more than 8,500 students take advantage of its classes.

You can log on to www.kennettlibrary.org for a complete list of programs for children and adults. Join an online book group, tune in to children's story times on the Kennett Library's Facebook page and so much more. Feel free to call the Library at 610-444-2702 for information on any of the great programs currently being offered.



Kennett Township Recycling Center

Location - 549 Bayard Road

Hours of Operation - Monday - Saturday: Dawn to Dusk | Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - Dusk
(Dumpsters at the Recycling Center are emptied every Fri. & Mon.)

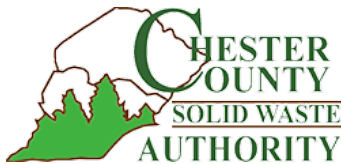
Single Stream (no sorting) Recycling Materials Accepted - paperboard boxes, corrugated cardboard & paper bags, metal cans & clean aluminum foil, pie plates, trays, loose lids & caps, plastic food & beverage containers #'s 1,2,4,5 & 7 only, newspaper, brochures & inserts, junk mail, catalogs & magazines, glass bottles & jars, file folders & office papers, phone books, paperback books

- * No need to remove paperclips, stamps, address labels, staples, metal fasteners, cellophane, address windows, rubber bands, spiral bindings, or plastic tabs
- * Please flatten all cardboard boxes
- * Please empty & rinse all containers

Single Stream Recycling Materials NOT Accepted - scrap metal, VHS/VCR tapes, plastic bags, needles or syringes, window panes, mirrors, ceramics, Pyrex dishware, stickers or address label sheet waste, plastics other than those listed above, electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, computers), paint, pesticides, oil & cleanser, motor oil or antifreeze containers, organic material & food waste, waxed paper or waxed cardboard, styrofoam or paper to-go containers, plastic caps, hard cover books

Scrap Metal Recycling Station Accepted Materials - steel, aluminum, copper, brass, stainless, and/or appliances

Scrap Metal Materials NOT Accepted - propane tanks, closed vessels/containers including gas tanks, boilers, heat exchangers, fire extinguishers, aerosol cans, dirt/debris, asphalt/concrete, batteries, hazardous waste, asbestos containing materials, radioactive materials, explosives, chemicals, furniture including mattresses, wood, household garbage, porcelain toilets, televisions, computers/monitors, copiers



2021 Household Hazardous Waste Events for Chester County

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021

Coatesville CCIU Center
1635 E. Lincoln Hwy.
Coatesville

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021

Oxford School District Admin Building
125 Bell Tower Ln. (Rte. 10)
Oxford

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021

Government Services Center
601 Westtown Rd.
West Chester

These events are by appointment only and preregistration is required. For more information and to register, visit www.chestercountyswa.org or call 610-273-3771x*228. This information is also available on the Kennett Township website (www.kennett.pa.us) under the News Flash section.

Acceptable Materials

PAINT: turpentine, paint thinners, strippers & removers, oil-based paints, stains, varnish, shellac, spray paint, solvent-based paint products, wallpaper cement

OUTDOOR: swimming pool chemicals, weed killers, septic tank degreasers, asphalt sealers, roof cement, MINI propane tanks (no BBQ tanks), pesticide, chemical fertilizer

AUTOMOTIVE: grease & rust solvents, fuel additives, carburetor cleaners, transmission/break fluid, antifreeze, car (lead-acid), truck, motorcycle & marine batteries, gas, oil, gas oil mixture, road flares (no marine flares)

HOUSEHOLD: kerosene, rug cleaners, drain openers, wood & metal cleaners, mothballs/flakes, adhesives/solvents, rechargeable batteries, lithium, Ni-Cad, button, lead acid, spot removers, dry cleaning fluid, fire extinguishers, acids, caustics, flammables, oxidizers, reactives, lead, mercury thermostats & thermometers, fluorescent tubes, ballast, and CFLs, aerosols

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

Primary Election: May 18, 2021

Polls will be open on May 18, 2021, from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. for the 2021 municipal primary election. The last day to update your information or register to vote is May 3. For all questions related to voting, please visit:

www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services

www.votespa.com



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.

**EMERGENCY
CALL 911**

No Call is too small!

If you see anything suspicious in the Township, the **Kennett Township Police Department** would like to encourage you to

call 9-1-1

Our administrative line should only be used for administrative purposes, such as report requests or general inquiries.

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers:

Kennett Township Police: 610-388-2874
KT Public Works After Hours: 484-723-9338
Longwood Fire Company: 610-388-6880
Kennett Fire Company: 610-444-4810



Pennsylvania 811
A Privately funded non-profit Pennsylvania Corporation

We support April as National Safe Digging Month!
(See Resolution 2021-10 at kennett.pa.us)

Regardless of when you dig, always call 8-1-1 first to know what's below. Visit www.pa1call.org for more info about digging safely.



**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