



### Board of Supervisors

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

### Kennett Township

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

### Kennett Police

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

\*Always call **911** for emergencies  
or to have an officer respond\*  
[ktpd@kennett.pa.us](mailto:ktpd@kennett.pa.us)

### Staff

#### Eden R. Ratliff

Township Manager  
[eden.ratliff@kennett.pa.us](mailto:eden.ratliff@kennett.pa.us)

#### Amy Heinrich

Director of Finance & HR  
[amy.heinrich@kennett.pa.us](mailto:amy.heinrich@kennett.pa.us)

#### Diane Hicks

Director of Planning & Zoning  
[diane.hicks@kennett.pa.us](mailto:diane.hicks@kennett.pa.us)

#### Roger Lysle

Director of Public Works  
[roger.lysle@kennett.pa.us](mailto:roger.lysle@kennett.pa.us)

#### Matt Gordon

Chief of Police  
[matthew.gordon@kennett.pa.us](mailto:matthew.gordon@kennett.pa.us)

#### Gretchen Flack

Executive Assistant to the Manager  
[gretchen.flack@kennett.pa.com](mailto:gretchen.flack@kennett.pa.com)

#### Elizabeth Hutchins

Administrative Assistant to KTPD  
[elizabeth.hutchins@kennett.pa.us](mailto:elizabeth.hutchins@kennett.pa.us)

#### Dina McIlvaine

Finance & HR Specialist  
[dina.mcilvaine@kennett.pa.us](mailto:dina.mcilvaine@kennett.pa.us)

#### Denise Serino

Finance & Procurement Specialist  
Recycling Coordinator  
[denise.serino@kennett.pa.us](mailto:denise.serino@kennett.pa.us)

#### Jasmin Lopez

Accounting Assistant  
[jasmin.lopez@kennett.pa.us](mailto:jasmin.lopez@kennett.pa.us)

#### Amy Ferris

Administrative Assistant for  
Planning & Zoning  
[permits@kennett.pa.us](mailto:permits@kennett.pa.us)

## Chester County's Juneteenth Festival

*Alexander Parham, Managing Director, Voices Underground*



Voices Underground, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, the Chester County History Center, and the County of Chester worked together to create a county-wide Juneteenth Festival to recognize and celebrate the county's rich heritage of embracing social justice and equality. With a primary focus on the Abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad in the 19th century, the celebration honored the courage and humanity of all who continue to build a community of courage and justice.

Just as the Underground Railroad functioned bringing hundreds of people together on the quest for freedom and justice, Chester County worked to bring people together on the quest to promote African American heritage, linking the past to the present. The three headline events were held at historical sites and communities in and around the orbit of Southern Chester County and featured nationally renowned creatives, including two poets and a chef.

The first headline event featured Dr. Joshua Bennett on June 18th at Longwood Gardens. Bennett is an author, artist, and Professor of English at Dartmouth College who has performed his spoken word poetry at the White House. The night concluded with Longwood Gardens "Illuminated Fountain Performance" entitled "Freedom," which made its debut that night.

The second headliner event was on June 19th at Cheyney University and featured Caroline Randal Williams and local Kennett High School student Isabella Hanson. Williams is an acclaimed writer and public intellectual who lectured on the artist's role in the journey toward freedom. Hanson, who launched the "I Matter" poetry contest for K-12 students through the National Youth Foundation, showcased her amazing poetry along with other I Matter Poets.

Last, nationally acclaimed chef Elijah Milligan, founder of the Greenwood Supper Club, hosted a dinner at Lincoln University on June 20th. Greenwood describes itself as "a non-traditional pop-up supper club that illustrates the appreciation of cultural nuances among Black and Brown communities through culinary experiences. Greenwood aims to invoke inclusivity of all through the reverence for diverse culture and community."

This Juneteenth Festival was guided by an overarching leadership committee led by Alexander Parham and Gregory Thompson of Voices Underground and Beverly Sheppard of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. Additional committees were also formed to coordinate the events that took place in and around Kennett Square and a committee that coordinated the



From top: Dr. Joshua Bennett, Caroline Randal Williams, Isabella Hanson, Elijah Milligan, and Milligan's dinner guests at Lincoln University.

*Continued on page 24*



## Board of Supervisors Chair's Corner

*Dr. Richard L. Leff, Chair*

Welcome to our Fall 2021 Newsletter. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, we hope you enjoy the contents within as we give a review of the past few months, a glimpse of what is to come, and highlight some of the amazing work in our community.

As we all know, COVID-19 remains a challenge for everyone, including those of us in government who wish to keep people safe and continue serving our community. As elected officials we have the burden of governing, regardless of the circumstances, to ensure Kennett Township remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play. Viruses and other organisms are known to mutate as the circumstances change. As COVID-19 variants are more infectious and spread more easily, please do remain vigilant about your personal risks, and the risks to those around you.

We will also continue to adapt our operations to those changing circumstances, too. The Board continues to be available to you either directly via email/call or during our twice monthly meetings. For now, those meetings are "hybrid" ones and I encourage people to participate electronically, when possible, to maximize everyone's safety. 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.

With regards to the upcoming reported plea by our former township manager on October 4 at 1:30PM in the West Chester Courthouse, we have no news at the time of the printing of this newsletter but when there is more information available we will be sending updates and plan to have a dedicated public meeting.

On a personal note, I participated in the first East Coast Greenway ride from New York City to Philadelphia this summer. Not only did I help raise funds and awareness of the Maine to Florida East Coast Greenway, but I obtained firsthand experience with a variety of trails for bicycling and walking along a 125-mile route, which should help as we progress planning and work on our own, local, 14-mile, Kennett Greenway.

We hope that you will find this Newsletter to be informative and engaging as we strive to keep the community informed of the activities of your government.

Dr. Richard Leff  
Chair

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## Celebrate Good Times

This past summer, the Township enjoyed two major milestones. First, Matthew Gordon was promoted from Acting Chief of Police to Chief of Police. Township staff, his family, and MANY first responders responded to an invitation to celebrate Matt at the Creamery on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at his official Swearing In Ceremony. Second, our Public Works Director, Roger Lysle, celebrated 40 years of employment with Kennett Township. The staff from both KT and neighboring municipalities along with his family enjoyed surprising him for a luncheon at the Township Building on June 18<sup>th</sup>. We are so fortunate to have these amazing, hardworking men call Kennett Township their work home!





## Regionalized Fire/EMS Service has Surpassed the Expectations!

*Rick Franks, Assistant Chief, Kennett Fire Company &  
Matt Eick, Assistant Chief, Longwood Fire Company*



Since the inception of the Kennett Area Regional Fire and EMS Commission the goal has been to review Fire and EMS service delivery. After years of information gathering and debating, a new regional approach was agreed upon by Kennett Fire Company No. 1, Longwood Fire Company, Kennett Township, Kennett Area Regional Fire and EMS Commission, and the other five local municipalities. After all the information was gathered, there were a few main conclusions:

- There would be a benefit to a single EMS provider to supply EMS to the region.
- There was a shortage in volunteers during the daytime that was affecting timely response to Fire emergencies.
- During daytime and evening hours, fire calls are answered more efficiently when staffing is on station.

Once these goals were identified, the Leadership of Kennett Fire Co. No. 1 and Longwood Fire Co. had numerous meetings to help come up with a solution. In the span of two months, the concept of regional service delivery was finalized. The plan was introduced in Kennett Township with a regional fire response to all Kennett Township by both Kennett and Longwood Fire Companies. The regional fire response would be provided by primarily volunteers and supplemented with career staff personnel at both stations during the daytime work hours when less volunteers are available. This model came from an arrangement in another part of the Region where Longwood Fire Company responds to calls with Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company during daytime hours. Longwood and Kennett began this endeavor in May of 2021.

In an effort to solve the evening time emergencies, Kennett Fire Company No. 1 formalized a Volunteer Duty Crew Program. They adopted this program from Longwood Fire Co. who had already had a successful Duty Crew program in place. This requires volunteers to schedule time from 6pm to 10pm when they are committing to remaining at the Firehouse and are available to answer calls. During this time, the Volunteers perform some basic preparedness checks of the fire equipment, they share a meal, and perform training on a topic chosen by the Officer. At Kennett this has led to some new Volunteers from out of the area who come to participate in this program.

The Emergency Medical Service (EMS) portion of the plan included a change for Kennett Fire Company No. 1 from Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance service to Quick Response Service (QRS). Longwood Fire Company was adopted as the single EMS service to provider for Kennett Township and the other five municipalities represented within the Kennett Area Fire and EMS Regional Commission. Longwood Fire Company provides its service with two Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs) 24/7. To ensure effective coverage and no change in response times for EMS emergencies, one of those MICUs is located at Longwood Fire Co. and the other one at Kennett Fire Co No. 1. If there is an emergency when both the ambulances are already on other incidents, then the fire trucks will respond and provide Life Saving care while waiting for the next closest ambulance.

The leadership of both Fire Companies is ecstatic with the success of this program. The paid and volunteer crews are handling calls for service and arriving to the emergencies in record times thanks to the staff being at the station. Both fire companies are working together, training with the other stations vehicles and equipment so there is a proficiency on emergency scenes. The crews are frequently stopping into the other stations to check in and hang out during off time. This camaraderie is long overdue in this region. We are extremely excited to see the progress of this plan as it unfolds. Thanks to this type of teamwork, we can ensure all the residents of our region that help will arrive when it is needed each and every time.



Above Left: Members of Longwood and Kennett training on Roof Ventilation. Above Center: Longwood and Kennett training on a building set to be torn down at Crosslands. Above Right: Training on Drafting operations in Kennett Township .

## From Behind the Desk — Two Years Later

*Eden R. Ratliff, Township Manager*

This September marks two year since I began my role as the Township Manager of Kennett Township. Residents and colleagues frequently ask me about my experiences over the last two years and if this position is as I imagined it to be when I accepted the position in August of 2019. I have reflected upon this question and am prepared to discuss what this role is like from behind my desk.

Growing up in Chester County, I already knew that the Kennett Square area was a treasure in this region, so it was not a surprise to meet so many wonderful people in Kennett Township. The kindness, sense of civic responsibility, passion for civic engagement, and intellect is exactly what I expected. I am never surprised by the joyful interactions I have with our community even when they are calling the Township about something less than pleasant. The residents and business owners of this community are a significant part of what makes this community special, and I value our many interactions.

When I applied for the Township Manager position, and later interviewed with the Board of Supervisors, I assumed the worst about the then investigation into financial impropriety with the former Township Manager. The only information I had was what had been publicly released. I assumed that if the District Attorney was involved and a longtime public sector employee was terminated before the investigation was complete, it must have been bad. My heart broke for the community when I later learned my assumption was correct. I did not know the amount until the Board and public did but the information I had to sort through told me it was not good. What I learned that fall caused me to revisit my approach to managing the Township with the Board because there was a lot more work to do than I had realized.

While we may not like to admit it, fraud does happen and more often than we think. This includes public sector fraud.

Often when public sector fraud is happening the entity is still run well with an obvious need to address financial control issues. When I say, “run well” I am talking about the back office of the government. This is the part of the government that most people do not see or think about but is critical to the professional delivery of government services. I had assumed that the back office of Kennett Township would be in good shape, and while we would need to make process and system improvements in Finance, we could focus upon enhancing the municipal services we provide. Instead, as we dug deeper, I and the other new Kennett Township staff found that there were more problems just beneath the surface.

We discovered that many of the operational elements of the Kennett Township government failed to meet professional standards. We learned that in addition to completely overhauling the Finance Department, the Township would need to build a legitimate Human Resource Department, implement a full set of personnel policies, design a professional record keeping system, debate and potentially design a professional code enforcement system and rental inspection program, and set up a project management system to track, fund, and oversee the many projects the Board and many Township volunteer committees are facilitating, educate the team on various statutes and regulations we have to follow in our operations and see that regulations are followed. This list, which is not the full extent of the back office or Kennett Township services, is longer than we thought it would be and will take more time than we have had to address fully and appropriately. Much has been accomplished to meet the needs for those basics of daily operations, but there is work on this list that has barely begun due to the resources they require and other internal priorities.

It pleases me, and I hope the public also, to think about how much progress has been made when it comes to addressing

the needs of the back office, and thus I wanted to tell you about some of them. The Finance Department has been overhauled and a new one stands where the old one was. The increase in transparency through this process has resulted in increased citizen participation. Exhaustive efforts have been made to change accounting systems, change accounting processes, shift to a new basis of accounting (cash to modified accrual), enhance our annual audit, consolidate and improve procurement, etc. However, our work is far from over. The Township looks forward to continuing this progress by enhancing our capital budget, developing a multi-year funding plan for that budget, developing a Township wide asset management program, developing a Township wide equipment replacement schedule, costing out the impact of developments in the Township on the need to grow or change government services and more. There are days when the Finance team feels like it has made no progress in two years because of how long the to-do list remains. Of course, that is not true, but it does show how much work is being done with years of work ahead. The difficult reality is that change must be incremental as we balance implementing process improvement with maintaining a commitment to excellent service delivery.

Someone said that what we are doing is building a plane while learning to fly. I would say that what we are doing is rebuilding a plane, which we know how to do, while expertly flying it. The team in Kennett Township, across every department, knows how to do their job and do it well, and also knows how their job is supposed to function both at the Department level and the Township level. The team members understand how the government is supposed to function and can run it well when they have the resources and time, they need to do it. Unfortunately, if we are rebuilding a plane while flying, that becomes much trickier to pull off due to a lack of time and sometimes a lack of resources. Our

team is running the government while overhauling the internals in every department all at the same time. Daily operations include things you think about and things you do not like payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, sewer billing, processing building permits, facilitating building inspections, life safety inspections, property maintenance inspections, stormwater management infrastructure inspections, daily right-of-way inspections, road maintenance, sewer pump station checks, addressing human resources requests, maintaining our preserves and properties, routine policing, investigations, participating in court proceedings, supporting Township committee work, responding to resident inquiries, fulfilling right-to-know request, crafting a newsletter, Board of Supervisor meetings pre and post work, Planning Commission meetings pre and post work, applying for grants, executing grant agreements, completing infrastructure projects such as the Cedar Croft intersection redesign, and the list continues. This work is often not discussed but if not completed well then, the Township government begins to have fail points which can have critical consequences. I wrote this paragraph not to discuss how busy we are, but to discuss what we are busy doing.

Not yet listed in this article is the work to assist the Board with governing. This is the work that residents tend to think about, the creative end of the organization, the items that bring residents to the table with ideas and issue questions. Our work in supporting the Board includes extensive research and memo preparation with options, facilitating policy debates, and addressing needs of the Township that both directly and indirectly impact the Township government. The Township has priorities that take a lot of time and resources including preserving open space, building trails and the Kennett Greenway, enhancing existing parks and preserves, addressing affordably-priced housing, having an emergency services structure that is professionally administered and funded (Police, Emergency Medical,

Emergency Management, and Fire), supporting local nonprofits and their community work, managing land developments, economic development, and promoting and supporting sustainable energy. These priorities help make Kennett the community that it is, and will be in the future, but are complex and require visioning, strategic public engagement, time, and resources.

To return to the original question, how is the job going and is it what I imagined it would be two years ago, my answer is: it is going well, and it is not what I imagined. There are days, sometimes weeks, that are endlessly frustrating for all of us internally as we fight to manage the delicate balancing act of rebuilding the internals, managing daily operations, and assisting the Board with governing. When I first arrived, I imagined that the internals would be put together a little more and we would be focused on internal controls, updating in key areas, being more efficient in operations, and supporting the Board. I did not imagine a complete overhaul which will take more time than the two years I have been here. However, the position is much more rewarding than I thought it would be. The opportunity for our team to serve the public, address the failure points I have noted, and know we are building a system that will outlive us and professionally serve the community, is incredibly rewarding and fulfilling. The product we are working towards is something the community deserves. They deserve a professional government that expertly delivers the government services necessary to meet community needs. We are much better than we were two years ago with a lot of work left to do.

To conclude, this would not be possible without the team we have built. We have a subset of team members that came to the Township after the fraud was discovered who have public service in their hearts and an unwavering desire to serve. They understood how difficult working at Kennett Township would be and joined the team because they believe local government should professionally serve its community. We have another

subset of seasoned personnel who were here prior to the fraud discovery and are lifelong public servants. They remain more committed than ever to improve our operations. They love this community and have been working for a long time to improve the services they are responsible for with the resources that they had. My comments about the work we are doing now to address previous failure points is not a reflection of their previous work. They did the best they could with the resources they had.

Lastly, I would like to note the steadfast support of the Board of Supervisors. Governing at the local level is very difficult especially with the scrutiny they have experienced. Through it all they have remained committed to professionalizing this government. Their patience and dedication set an early tone that is still present today.

On behalf of myself and the entire Kennett Township team, thank you for the honor to administer your local government to serve you. I hope this article has given you a glimpse into the work we are doing and why it sometimes feels less smooth than it should, along with where we were two years ago and what we are working towards achieving for the residents, businesses, and visitors of Kennett Township.

Sincerely,  
Eden R. Ratliff M.A.



# Financial Update

Amy Heinrich, Director of Finance & HR

The Finance & HR Team is still hard at work building out best practice processes and procedures while also keeping up with the day-to-day activities.

## ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

We've made a lot of progress implementing our new General Ledger, Sage Intacct. Sage has provided for extensive internal controls, process efficiency, flexible reporting and complete transparency for the Board of Supervisors and the public. Sage has enabled us to build out a wide variety of automated financial reports and performance dashboards. They are easy to customize and, once built, can be viewed with the latest data at any time. Additionally, Department Heads approve purchases and any other expenses electronically during the Accounts Payable process. All records are maintained electronically with the ability to drill into supporting details for any financial transaction. Financial reports are on our website and reviewed monthly at Board meetings with the Board and Department Heads able to directly drill into detail from the Dashboards. Our next major effort in Sage is to streamline the escrow process related to development projects.

## SEWER

We appreciate the patience of residents as bills have been delayed. Per the request of many residents, Q1 & Q2 2021 are being sent out as one bill. This will enable us to be on time for Q3. If this causes a hardship for anyone, please contact our Accounting Assistant, Jasmin Lopez, by calling 610-388-1300 x116 or emailing [finance@kennett.pa.us](mailto:finance@kennett.pa.us).

## HUMAN RESOURCES

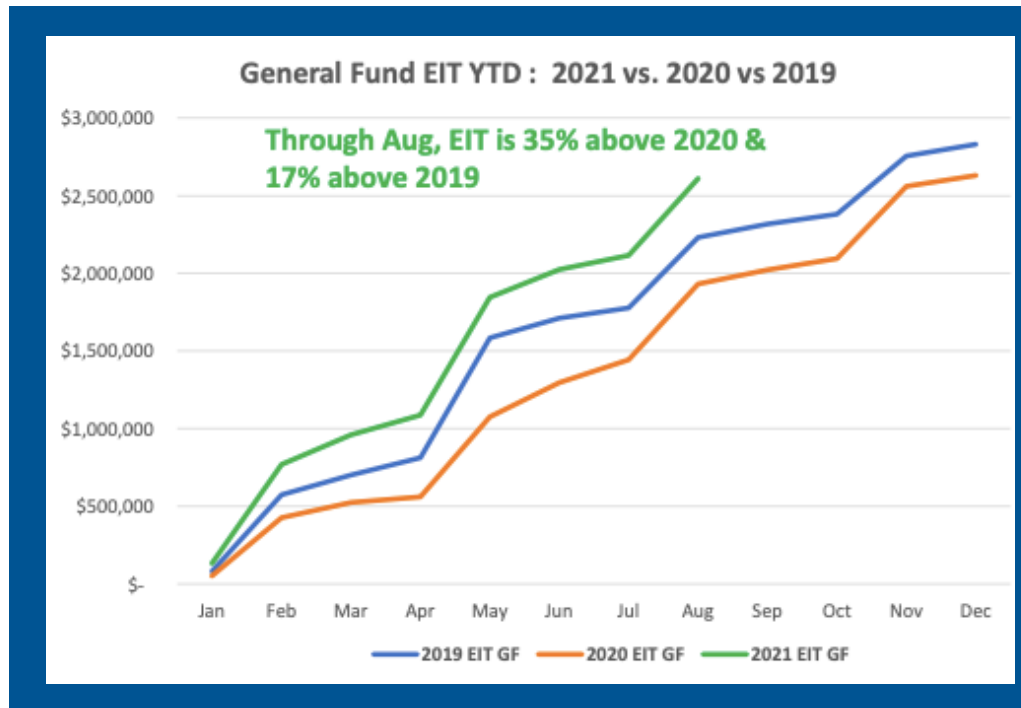
We recently launched a performance review process and have begun to work on a full set of HR policies. We are also working with our pension administrator to make required updates to our pension plan documents. We implemented a 457B retirement plan which has received great feedback from employees. We've had some turnover and successfully hired a Public Works team member along with a summer helper. The Township is currently looking to hire a Planner and an Accounting Assistant. Details are on our website at [www.kennett.pa.us/258/Job-Openings](http://www.kennett.pa.us/258/Job-Openings).

## CURRENT FINANCIALS

This year is progressing well versus budget. The General Fund Revenue and Expenses is shown on the next page with more comprehensive financials found on our website at [www.kennett.pa.us/159/Finance-HR](http://www.kennett.pa.us/159/Finance-HR).

## REVENUE

Revenue is well ahead of budget primarily thanks to the grant funds. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds are restricted for specific uses and will likely be split into a restricted fund. Other grant funding included reimbursement of 2020 grant expenses for the Chandler Mill Bridge reconstruction, which is being reinvested into the trail work along Chandler Mill Road. Beyond grant funds, our core tax revenues are also very strong including both Earned Income Tax, Real Estate Tax and Real Estate Transfer Tax. This indicates a healthy economy in Kennett Township, which we are thankful for despite COVID-19's perseverance. Collections for our new Local Service Tax (LST), which applies to those working in Kennett Township, is below expectations as the collection efforts ramp up with employers and their payroll companies.



## EXPENSES

General Fund expenses are also favorable by a total of \$86K. Lower transfers to the Capital Fund for grant match expenses are partially offset by the related higher trail engineering expenses (and favorable revenue mentioned earlier). Salary & Benefits are \$118K

favorable due to open positions and lower than expected healthcare costs for new hires. Transfers to Capital for the garage roof has been intentionally delayed due to limited and high costs supplies. Maintenance and Operations are \$112K favorable although this is largely due to timing. While there are always more demands than resources available, these items give us some flexibility on choice of projects and spend for the remainder of the year.

	01/01/2021 Through 08/31/2021			Year Ending 12/31/2021		
	YTD Act (Prior Mth)	YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget	YTD Act (Today)	Full Year Budget	Actual vs. FY Budget
▼ <b>Net income</b>						
▼ <b>Revenue</b>						
▶ Taxes	4,729,570	4,349,082	380,488	4,770,501	5,226,000	(455,499)
▶ Fees, Fines, Grants, Interest	1,400,964	418,731	982,233	1,440,559	865,986	574,573
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6,130,534</b>	<b>4,767,813</b>	<b>1,362,721</b>	<b>6,211,060</b>	<b>6,091,986</b>	<b>119,074</b>
▼ <b>Expense</b>						
▶ Salaries & Benefits	1,963,879	2,082,212	(118,333)	1,963,988	3,313,491	(1,349,503)
▶ Maintenance & Operations	463,799	576,005	(112,206)	526,691	777,430	(250,739)
▶ Contracted/ Professional Services	521,277	317,481	203,797	562,014	676,720	(114,707)
▶ Community & Economic Development	218,876	145,616	73,259	221,624	164,800	56,824
▶ Fire & Ambulance	444,620	455,332	(10,712)	448,976	692,457	(243,480)
▶ Fraud Investigation	92,788	0	92,788	99,812	0	99,812
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>3,705,239</b>	<b>3,576,646</b>	<b>128,593</b>	<b>3,823,105</b>	<b>5,624,898</b>	<b>(1,801,793)</b>
▼ <b>Transfers to Capital Fund</b>						
▶ Capital Transfer/Expense	10,476	225,000	(214,524)	10,475	465,000	(454,525)
<b>Total Transfers to Capital Fund</b>	<b>10,476</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>(214,524)</b>	<b>10,475</b>	<b>465,000</b>	<b>(454,525)</b>
<b>Total Net income</b>	<b>2,414,819</b>	<b>966,167</b>	<b>1,448,653</b>	<b>2,377,480</b>	<b>2,089</b>	<b>2,375,391</b>

## GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENSES

### 2022 BUDGET

We are beginning the work for the 2022 budget process. The detailed data available in Sage makes it easy to model future expenses and supports an offline revenue model.

### *Preliminary 2022 Budget Schedule*

- Internal preparations are underway
- October 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors Meeting  
*First public discussion: General Fund Revenue & begin Expenses*
- October 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors Meeting  
*Expense session 2*
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> Board of Supervisors Meeting  
*Revisit expenses as needed; Open Space & Sewer Funds*
- November 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors Meeting  
*Full P&L review; revisit prior areas to begin making tough decisions to close the expected gap*
- December 1<sup>st</sup> Board of Supervisors Meeting  
*Final view/decisions for proposed budget; Request authorization to advertise for required 20-day public review*
- December 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors Meeting  
*(No budget discussion. Still under 20-day review period.)*
- Special Board of Supervisors Meeting Week of December 27<sup>th</sup>  
*Approval of Final Budget*

# Planning & Zoning FAQ's

*Diane Hicks, Director of Planning & Zoning*

## WHEN IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

Many residents are contemplating renovations to their homes. Bath and kitchen renovations are very popular, but do you know when a seemingly ordinary change requires a permit? The permit process is designed to ensure that the erection, repair, removal, demolition or change of occupancy of a building be accomplished in compliance with the building code. A permit **is** required in these situations:

- Cutting away a wall, portion of a wall, partition, or portion thereof.
- The removal, replacement, re-enforcement or cutting of any structural beam or load bearing support.
- The removal, rearrangement or change of any required means of egress.
- Addition to, alteration of or replacement or relocation of any water supply, sewer, drainage, gas, soil, waste vent or similar piping.
- Addition to, alteration of, or replacement of any electrical wiring.
- Addition to, alteration of, or replacement of any HVAC mechanical equipment.

A permit is **not** required for interior or exterior wall painting, tiling, cabinets, counter tops, and changing fixtures. Still not sure? Reach out to the Planning & Zoning Department via email with any questions at [permits@kennett.pa.us](mailto:permits@kennett.pa.us).

## ARE YOU A LANDLORD OR RENTER IN KENNETT TOWNSHIP?

All rental properties in Kennett Township must be registered according to Ordinance #217 enacted by the Board of Supervisors. This requires all rental property owners within the Township to register their property and tenants and pay the fee for registration. The fee (\$100 for each rental unit) covers the registration, paperwork, and inspection of the premises. A rental inspection is done by a building inspector to ensure the rental unit(s) is following the applicable codes and ordinances of the Township. This helps protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of all residents within the Township. For more information, please reach out to [permits@kennett.pa.us](mailto:permits@kennett.pa.us).

## DO YOU OWN OR RENT A BUSINESS IN KENNETT TOWNSHIP?

Kennett Township requires a Business Occupancy permit. Email [permits@kennett.pa.us](mailto:permits@kennett.pa.us) for more information.

## WHY SHOULD YOU GET YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMPED?

- It saves you money. A few hundred dollars every three years to maintain your septic system can prevent spending between \$10,000 to \$30,000 to replace it.
- It protects your property value. Homes with failing septic systems can be more difficult to sell.
- It protects you and your neighbors' well water because a failing septic system can contaminate well water.
- It protects you and your neighbors' health. A failing septic system can bring wastewater above the surface, creating a health hazard for you, your neighbors, and animals.
- It is the law. You can be fined by the Township for not getting your system pumped. If you have an On-lot Sewage Disposal Facility and are not on public sewer, you must comply with Kennett Township's ordinance #208 which requires you to have your system pumped once every three (3) years. The full ordinance can be found on the Township's website: [www.kennett.pa.us](http://www.kennett.pa.us). Please submit receipts to the township office by email to: [permits@kennett.pa.us](mailto:permits@kennett.pa.us).

## DO YOU HAVE A FIRE PIT, CHIMENEA, OR OUTDOOR FIREPLACE?

The Township Burning Ordinance does not address the very popular fire pits, chimeneas, or outdoor fireplaces. Therefore, we want to stress the following points when we talk about fire safety:

- Keep your fire small. The bigger the fire, the greater the potential for disaster.
- Always keep your fire pit at least 10 feet away from any structure or combustible surface.
- Before lighting an outdoor fire, check the weather forecast. Avoid windy conditions that can blow embers.
- Stay up to date on any burn bans that might be in effect at different times during the year.
- Picking up leaves and other combustible materials around the pit is important to ensure the fire does not accidentally spread.
- Always have a container of water nearby and a garden hose on standby before starting the fire.

Most importantly, please remember that while you may enjoy having a backyard fire, your neighbors may not enjoy the smoke blowing into their yard or they may have asthma which makes it harder for them to breathe. Please always be considerate of your neighbors.

## SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

Why do we care about signs? Signs are great for advertising a business, a sale, you name it, but when there are too many and they hang around for too long, it clutters the landscape. While most of our zoning regulations control commercial properties, there are some signs that pertain to residential uses. For instance:

**Yard Sale Signs** – In the spring, these signs are posted everywhere. While we don't call these out specifically, we recommend that yard sale Signs can be posted a maximum of 48 hours prior to the sale and are to be removed 24 hours after the event is over. Please remember to collect all your signs when the sale is over!

**Political Signs** – With a General Election on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, please note that political signs cannot be located within five (50 feet of a street line. They must also be removed within five (5) days of the election.

**Contractor Signs** – Sometimes a contractor who does work for you asks to post his sign in your yard. This is allowed, only (1) sign per lot, and only while the work is actively and clearly underway. A contractor's sign must be removed 10 days after the work is complete.



## PECO Green Region Open Space Program at Spar Hill

In April 2020, the Township was awarded the 2019 PECO Green Region Open Space Program grant as part of their 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bonus Round. The grant amount was for \$9,638 and the goal in applying for this grant was to add a “food forest” riparian buffer to protect a stream section of Spar Hill Farm and provide public access to a forest of edible nuts, fruits, and berries to promote community engagement in protecting natural resources at the Park. PECO and Natural Lands Trust received over 40 applications for this round of funding and chose Kennett Township as one of the few awarded!



We are happy to report that grant has been fully executed with the expert help of The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. Once these trees are established, the food forest garden will produce a wide diversity of fruits with very low maintenance requirements. The fruits can be harvested by the community and will also benefit birds and other wildlife, enhancing our local ecosystem.

We are very grateful for PECO and Natural Lands Trust for trusting us with this award and look forward to seeing the fruits of our efforts (pun intended).

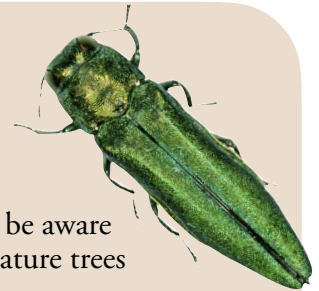
*For a detailed history about Spar Hill, be sure to check out page 12!*



## Common Tree Diseases to Look Out For in Kennett Township

Submitted by the EAC

There are a number of diseases and pests afflicting native trees in Kennett Township. The Emerald Ash Borer is an insect that defoliates native ash trees. It is now officially established in Chester County. There are few practical methods to protect ash trees from this pest. It is best to be aware if you have ash trees on your property, monitor their health, and take appropriate steps when mature trees die.



White Pine Needle Disease is impacting white pines, which are a popular landscaping trees, particularly along property boundaries and road ways. The disease occurs when environmental conditions permit needles to be infected by one of several type of fungi. Needle death leads to dead branches, which can break off in high winds.

Bacterial leaf scorch is common in red maples and pin and red oaks in eastern Pennsylvania. Leaf scorch can turn leaves brown earlier than normal, and in some cases can defoliate trees during the growing season.

Refer to the Penn State Extension Website for more thorough information on tree diseases and treatments.

<https://extension.psu.edu>

# Public Works

*Roger Lysle, Director of Public Works*

Once again the summer is winding down and the planning for next year's projects is underway. This year has been a challenge due to COVID-19. It has affected many people and businesses including us as many of our plans had to be adjusted due to material shortages and price increases. But as a Township, we have adapted and moved forward.

Our Public Works Department has been very busy with many storm clean ups and keeping up with scheduled jobs. Drainpipes were replaced on Burrows Run Road and Bayard Road. All of the Township owned pump stations were pumped and cleaned. Sections of Hillendale Road and Center Mill Road plus sections of Rosedale Road and Chandler Mill Road were paved or sealed.



The recycling programs including metal, yard waste, and household paper and plastic, are doing very well. We grind our yard waste once a year averaging 1000 tons of mulch and dump our metal dumpster at least once a month. I want to remind everyone to please read and obey the posted signs that explain what is and what is not accepted in our dumpsters.

A new employee, Daniel Tracy, joined our team and is pictured above in the bottom right of the collage. He brings experience and knowledge in roads and sewer from a previous municipality. He replaces an employee who moved on to run his own business. Please say hello and welcome him when you see him as we wish him many years of growth and happiness.

Looking ahead, please prepare ahead of time for the winter months. Take a quick walk around your property before the snow covers everything to make sure everything that should be put away is. If you hire someone to plow your driveway and sidewalks, now is the time to call them to make sure you are still on their list. I get many calls each year for a list of snow plowers, but if you wait until it snows to ask, most of them already have a full contract load.

If/when snow comes to Kennett Township, our Road Crew will be out when the storm starts and stay out until it is over, keeping the roads clear. You can help them by not parking in the street or placing your trashcans in the roadway. When clearing your driveway, do not push snow into the roadway. If you are standing in your driveway looking at the street, always throw your snow to the right of your driveway at the road edge. This will help prevent a plow truck from pushing the snow back into your driveway. Remember, your mail carrier must be able to access your mailbox, so please clear snow from that area. With over 6,000 mailboxes in the Township we try very hard to maintain them. Please check your mailbox to make sure it can handle the snow that will be pushed against it from plows.

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

Thank you,  
Roger Lysle  
Public Works Director





## Kennett Township Police Department

*Matthew Gordon, Chief of Police*

As the daylight starts to fade more quickly and the temperatures start to cool, we realize how quickly the summer season came and went. We here at the Kennett Township Police Department hope this summer was much better than last summer and hope that you got to vacation away from home for the first time in a while.

School is back in session and many schools are having issues getting bus drivers and bus service to neighborhoods. That means there is a major increase of private vehicles and foot traffic in and around the schools. Please use caution in your travels around your schools.

We have seen a continued trend in theft from motor vehicles. In almost every case the car has been unlocked, sometimes with the keys left inside. Most thieves will not break into a car as modern cars have alarm systems in them. Again, we ask you to remove your valuables from sight and lock the doors.

We will be updating the police website soon! There will be additional links and websites for your ease and access to related resources.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> two of the four officers we hired last year were sworn in. Officer Colin Vannicolo and Officer Jonathan DeLeon welcomed their family and friends to the Township building for the ceremony led by the honorable Judge Albert Iacocca. Board of Supervisor Whitney Hoffman, Township Manager Eden Ratliff and I shared remarks followed by light refreshments after the ceremony. Officer Brian Bolt will be sworn in at a later date and Officer Robert Dowd is presently on active duty with the U.S. Army National Guard. He has been deployed for a year in Egypt. Please keep him and all our officers and staff in your prayers.



From Left to Right: Officer Vannicolo is sworn in with fiancée Sarah. Officer DeLeon is sworn in with girlfriend Gabriella. Township Manager shares remarks. Chief Gordon, Supervisor Hoffman, Officer DeLeon, Officer Vanicolo, Supervisor Stevens, and Township Manager Ratliff display the certificates.

Due to a number of reasons, and specifically due to the pandemic, many of your friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens need your assistance. Just recently the Kennett Area Community Service which includes the Kennett Food Cupboard made pleas for assistance in feeding those in need. KTPD is asking you give them what you can financially or through food donations, please do so. For the month of September, you can drop off food donations to the Township building during normal office hours (Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 4:30pm). Current food list needed:

- Jelly (strawberry and grape)
- 2lb. bags of rice
- 2lb. bags of dried beans (pinto, black)
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Cooking Oil
- Broth/Stock
- Canned Tuna/Chicken/ Deviled Ham
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Vegetables (corn, mixed vegetables, tomatoes) (low sodium)
- Nescafe (instant coffee)/ Coffee and Tea
- Flour/Maseca
- Mayo/Ketchup/Mustard/Valentina Sauce
- Tortillas
- Sugar
- Salt

Finally, while this newsletter will be distributed after 9/11, I hope you took some time to reflect on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the horrific attacks on our country that have had lasting effects throughout our country and our world. Never forget!

Matthew J Gordon  
Chief of Police



# History and Future of Spar Hill Farm

Lars Farmer, Chairman, Kennett Township Historical Commission



In 2018 Kennett Township purchased Spar Hill Farm, a 137-acre farm located at 438 Burnt Mill Road and named for the Feldspar that was mined there. It was originally called the Way Farm and was managed by Quakers for over 100 years. It was one of the most productive farms in Kennett Township and leaves us a rich history. It is difficult and expensive to maintain all of the aspects of the farm to preserve for future use, however the Historic Commission has made recommendations of what should be saved for history's sake. We look to the community to help us repurpose the buildings for future use.

Penn's daughter. The land passed through the Harlan family to George Harlan's great-grandson Joseph Harlan and in 1797, Joseph Harlan sold Caleb Hoopes 191 acres.

Spar Hill Farm was once part of the estate of English Quaker George Harlan, who purchased 400 acres in 1713 from William

## History of Land Ownership

1681	William Penn	1877	Emeline Way*
1718	Letitia (Penn) Aubrey	1925	Edward Buffington
1713	George Harlan/Joseph Harlan	1935	Harold Shutt (Spar Hill Turkey Farm)
1797	Celeb Hoopes*	1963	Harold Shutt dies, and the land is transferred to Wilmington Trust
1804	John Way* (Way Farm)	1976	NW corner of Burnt Mill Road and Norway Road tenant house sold to Charles Shutt
1848	Pennock Way*	2014	Wilmington Trust sold farm to Spar Hill LLC

\* - Indicates owner is interred at Old Kennett Cemetery

*Continued on page 24*

## Getting the Most Value from our Open Space Investments

Joseph Duffy & Michael Guttman, Kennett Township Land Conservation Advisory Committee (LCAC)

In the last Township newsletter, we showed a way to calculate the monetary value our residents receive from Kennett Township's open space investments. Based on Chester County data, our residents collectively receive about \$29M in yearly benefits from our open space program, while the Township spends just \$800K in dedicated earned income tax (EIT) open space revenue annually, an astounding rate of return.



Nonetheless, the Township still needs to make sure it gets the most value for the open space tax dollars it spends. By far the least expensive way to preserve open space is to encourage private property owners to donate preservation easements to conservation organizations like The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC-SCC) or the Brandywine Conservancy. The resulting eased land can never be developed, but the owner maintains operational control of the property and takes a tax break based on the estimated value of the forfeited development rights. To facilitate these donations, the Township typically pays the minimal legal/administrative costs.

Unfortunately, a tax break is often insufficient incentive for some owners to part with their development rights. In that case, if the owner still wants to retain the property, the Township can sometimes offer to fund a conservation easement for the full estimated value of the development rights, typically several times the value of a tax break. To provide more benefit to the taxpayers, a purchased easement will usually include some level of public access (e.g. a public trail).

But what if the property owner just wants to sell all or part of the property outright? In that case, the Township is frequently competing directly with developers, who can potentially provide the owner with far greater returns than a tax break or easement

*Continued on page 26*

# Kennett Greenway Update

*Christina Norland, Chair, Kennett Township Trails and Sidewalks Committee*

## Chandler Mill Traffic Pilot Study

As part of the final engineering for the Chandler Mill Trail, the Township will be conducting a temporary pilot study of the proposed new traffic pattern on Chandler Mill Road. As discussed at public meetings and available at [www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4612](http://www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4612), the preliminary engineering of the trail called for two short sections of Chandler Mill Road to be one lane, but with bidirectional traffic (much like a one-lane bridge). This traffic pattern will accomplish two priorities highlighted by local residents in public meetings: (i) help reduce the speed of traffic on Chandler Mill Road and (ii) minimize more disturbance to the west branch of the Red Clay Creek. See below for a rendering of the final design.



Starting towards the end of September, the Township will set up a temporary pilot study which will allow drivers to experience the flow of traffic through these one-lane, bidirectional configurations. Please note that this pilot study is not designed to mimic the experience of cyclists or pedestrians on Chandler Mill Road. It also won't be as beautiful and landscaped as the above, because it is only temporary and will be done using delineators and cones! The Township, as well as the engineers, will be monitoring the pilot through field visits, on site cameras and speedometers. Thank you in advance to the Township Public Works Department for all their work on preparing this pilot study. In addition, starting by the end of September, the permanent speed limit on Chandler Mill Road will be reduced to 25 mph.

Follow the Kennett Greenway website for up-to-date information and sign up for the newsletter for ongoing updates:

[www.kennettgreenway.com/updates/chandler-mill-trail](http://www.kennettgreenway.com/updates/chandler-mill-trail)

## SAVE THE DATE!! CHANDLER MILL TRAIL OPEN HOUSE!

**WHEN:** 10/17 1-4pm | **WHERE:** The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County @ the Chandler Mill Bridge

### Chandler Mill Trail Open House

Come meet with the Township's trail consultants and township staff at our Chandler Mill Trail Open House on October 17, 2021. The open house will provide opportunities to review the current plans for the Chandler Mill Trail and discuss the overall approach for plantings, surfacing and overlooks along the trail. Bring the kids for some fun nature activities! Get some swag, refreshments and goodies while you're there!



## **Anson B. Nixon Park**

*by Sheila Tekavec, Office Manager, KAPA*

Summer is winding down, but things are ramping up in Anson B. Nixon Park. The Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) Board of Directors have been busy improving several areas of the park to ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone. We know now, more than ever, that a safe outdoor space where residents and visitors can enjoy recreation with family and friends is necessary and beneficial.

### **NEWS FROM THIS SUMMER IN THE PARK:**

- The tennis courts were resurfaced (photo 1 on the next page), and additional lines were painted on one court for Pickleball! Fencing around the courts was replaced or repaired, and a paved berm was installed to prevent run off and debris from damaging the court surface during extreme storms. The basketball court was also resurfaced and painted with new lines, and new nets were installed (photo 2 on the next page).
- KAPA was awarded a \$5,250 grant from the Neil Joines Fund at the Chester County Community Foundation. Those funds were used, along with sponsorships from Susan Latimer and the H.A. Thomson Insurance Company, to bring the FREE Summer Concert Series back to the park. Unfortunately, The Late Ambitions' performance was cancelled due to inclement weather, but audiences enjoyed performances by The Delta Cosmonauts, Leon Spencer and SydeTwo, Single Bullet Theory, and Too Tall Slim & the Guilty Pleasures. There are still two concerts to attend this season:
  - On Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm, KAPA and Casa Guanajuato present 2 artists: Seylin Abarca and Grupo Desafio.
  - On Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, KAPA and Hadley present Tony Vacca's World Rhythms Ensemble. Bring your chair or blanket, grab a spot on the lawn, and join us for some live music in the park!
- The new pedestrian entrance was completed earlier this summer, and it is providing easier, walkable access to the park from the Borough. It's also mitigating excessive stormwater run-off into a tributary of the Red Clay Creek. That work was completed with generous funding from The Chester County Community Foundation, the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation, and the Brandywine Conservancy's Brandywine Creek Greenway Mini-Grant Program.
- Several trails that consistently sustained damage during heavy storms were paved to provide safer walking and running surfaces. The Accessible parking spaces were also repaved and repainted (photo 3 on the next page).
- KAPA is wrapping up Phase 2 of the stream restoration in the park, which is being funded by a Growing Greener grant from the DEP and contributions from Kennett Township and the Borough of Kennett Square. The old dam by the footbridge, was replaced with a safer, more ecologically friendly step-pool system as part of this phase of the project. More than 185 trees will be planted this November in the riparian buffer to complete that work.

### **OTHER UPDATES:**

- Forestry management is ongoing in the beech and ash groves. KAPA is teaming up with other organizations in Kennett Square and coordinating volunteers familiar with the park to begin removing invasive species from those areas.
- The public restrooms reopened in June, and standard reservations for groups up to 50 people are now being accepted for the stage and pavilions. To check on availability please call or email with your request.

### **COMING SOON:**

- KAPA received a \$21,000 grant from the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation and a \$40,000 contribution from the Borough of Kennett Square to help cover the costs associated with revitalization of the Tino Leto athletic fields. Work has begun (photos 4 & 5 on the next page), and the fields will be ready for game play next spring!

### **REMINDERS:**

- The Park is open from sunrise to sunset, every day.
- There is still a portable toilet located next to the Tino Leto athletic fields.
- Visitors to the park are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and maintain proper social distancing.
- Alcohol is not permitted in the park.
- 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.
- **The speed limit in the park is 15 MPH.** Please be mindful of children, pedestrians, joggers, and people walking their pets.
- Community engagement is important. To contact the Kennett Area Park Authority about an idea or with a concern, please email us: [AnsonBNixonPark@gmail.com](mailto:AnsonBNixonPark@gmail.com)
- Be sure to visit our website and share it with your friends: [AnsonBNixonPark.org](http://AnsonBNixonPark.org).

## Volunteers are a Dying Breed in the Fire Service!

*Matt Eick, Assistant Chief, Longwood Fire Company &  
Rick Franks, Assistant Chief, Kennett Fire Company*



Did you know that your local fire companies are primarily run by volunteers? Kennett Township is currently served by both Longwood Fire Company and Kennett Fire Company No. 1, both who rely on volunteers to answer calls. 24 hours a day, seven days a week Fire and Rescue calls are dispatched in our community. Due to a nationwide shortage and a dwindling number of volunteers, at times this becomes very difficult. Over the last several years we have moved to a combination paid/volunteer model to answer these calls. However, there is still a strong need to remain true to the dedication and service of a 100-year history which was built by volunteers.

We have immediate openings for men and women who have a calling to serve their community by responding to these calls. Although these openings do not come with a paycheck, that does not mean that there are no benefits to these positions. Many lasting friendships, best men in weddings, babysitters, Godparents, and the like have started by a new member meeting someone on their first night at the Fire Station. Joining a Firehouse as a volunteer creates a special bond with the other members and staff which cannot be easily described. This truly is like joining into a new family.

In addition to the lasting friendships there are endless networking and life experiences members take away from down time waiting for calls. Many high school students have joined for something to do to keep out of trouble, not realizing that decision at age 17 will decide their future in a career Fire Department. Others have met managers of businesses in the community which opened a door to an exciting new career path. Although the primary mission of the Fire Company is to answer the call in someone's time of need, it goes much beyond that.

If you are someone who wants to be involved, is active and enjoys helping others we invite you to stop by and ask about volunteering. Without experience, all training, formal and in-house, is provided free of charge. This could be in firefighting, Emergency Medical Services, or Rescue Operations. All the required gear and equipment is provided to you. All we are asking for is a commitment of some of your free time for training and answering calls. Your next chapter in life could be right around the corner. To learn more about volunteering check out the fire company's websites.

Longwood Fire Company:

<https://www.longwoodfireco.com/content/volunteer/>

Kennett Fire Company No. 1:

<https://www.firestation24.com/content/volunteer/>

ABOVE LEFT: Volunteers after completing their initial Firefighter Training course (Left to Right - Cameron Smith Firefighter/EMT, Ben Prysock Firefighter, Dylan Blackburn Firefighter) ABOVE RIGHT: Kennett Volunteers that have completed their Emergency Medical Technician Training Course (Left to Right - Connor Weisbord, Eric Hecksher, Michael Casson)



1



2



3



4



5



ANSON B. NIXON PARK  
KENNETT SQUARE

# LCH Health and Community Services

*Laura Mackiewicz, Brand Manager, LCH Health and Community Services*

LCH Health and Community Services has undergone many changes since its founding in 1973. Starting as a social services agency for immigrants new to the area, LCH has transitioned and grown into a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) for all, meeting the needs of over 8,000 community members each year in southern Chester County.

LCH's three locations—two Community Health Centers in Kennett Square and Oxford and one specialty services site with dental, pediatrics, and women's health in West Grove—offer high quality, affordable health care that puts the patient first. LCH's team of over ninety staff focus on working together to provide care for their patients, whether that means connecting patients to the social assistance team to access basic needs, to the behavioral health team for mental health care, or to other specialists and services in the area.

LCH is a truly a medical home, a one-stop shop for health care needs. Most private insurances are accepted, in addition to Medicaid and Medicare. Insurance or no insurance, LCH is here. Every patient is evaluated to determine eligibility for discounted services. Sliding scale fees are based on income and family size. No one is ever turned away due to inability to pay.

Today, LCH has grown and evolved to ensure that they can provide integrated, affordable, accessible care to the community. Evening hours are available at all three locations to help accommodate busy schedules. LCH's care team also travels off-site to local farms and businesses to provide on-site health screenings.

Learn more by visiting [www.LCHcommunityhealth.org](http://www.LCHcommunityhealth.org) or call (610) 444-7550.



**LCH Kennett Square  
Community Health Center**  
731 West Cypress Street  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

**LCH Oxford  
Community Health Center**  
14 South 3rd Street  
Oxford, PA 19363  
(free parking for patients in the  
Oxford parking garage behind LCH's building)

**LCH West Grove  
Women's Health, Dental,  
and Pediatric Center**  
105 Vineyard Way, Suites 103 and 200  
West Grove, PA 19390

LCH is gearing up for its annual Amigos of LCH Virtual Fundraiser, which will be held online on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. It is a night to celebrate the impact that LCH has made in the past year, especially their work to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. LCH will also honor Ann and Steven Hutton, recipients of the Alice K. Moorhead Community Impact Award, and Sarel Fonseca, LCH Volunteer of the Year. Thanks to public and private funding, LCH can provide affordable, high quality health and community services to thousands of residents every year.

Registration is now open! **Learn more & Register at:**  
[lchcommunityhealth.org/event/amigos/](http://lchcommunityhealth.org/event/amigos/)



# News from Historic Kennett Square



The bi-monthly 2021-22 KSQ Speaker Series will bring a diverse slate of some of the nation's leading thinkers and experts to explore topics around building a community that's sustainable, walkable, equitable, fosters connection instead of isolation, and offers diverse housing options.

How we build matters because a sustainable community is an equitable community, in which people are socially connected and where everyone can afford to live. The decisions and investments we make now will ensure the community will continue to thrive for future generations. Please join us for the inaugural KSQ Speaker Series event, "How We Build Matters," with HKS Executive Director Bo Wright, on **Tuesday, September 28th at 6:30pm** at the Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square, 211 South Broad Street, Kennett Square.



The in-person Kennett Brewfest is back for 2021 and will be held in its usual location at 600 South Broad Street on **Saturday, October 2nd, from 1:30pm to 5pm**. In addition to some of the region's best craft beer, the festival will feature live music by Carl Filipiak and the Jimmy Jazz Band, food trucks, and more. Tickets, which are limited to allow plenty of space, are going quickly.

All proceeds benefit Historic Kennett Square, the nonprofit that makes Kennett thrive. Historic Kennett Square intentionally creates programs and events that help Kennett become a more beautiful and welcoming community where all can belong and prosper.

Find tickets at [KennettBrewfest.com](http://KennettBrewfest.com)



Plans for the 2021 Kennett Square Holiday Village Market at The Creamery are under way! The Kennett Square Holiday Village Market, which takes place on the first two weekends in December, is modeled on the classic German Christkindlmarkt.

In addition to a large number of curated artisan and vintage vendors, the Holiday Village Market features live music, ice sculpture, food trucks, Santa Claus, and more in the magical setting of The Creamery. Now in its fifth year, the market has become a popular destination among locals and visitors alike for family-friendly holiday shopping.

Mark your calendars for **December 4th, 5th, 11th, and 12th**.

Stay up to date with all of these events and more by subscribing to the weekly HKS Around the Square e-newsletter at [HistoricKennettSquare.com](http://HistoricKennettSquare.com) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@historickennett).

# Southern Chester County: COVID as a Call to Action

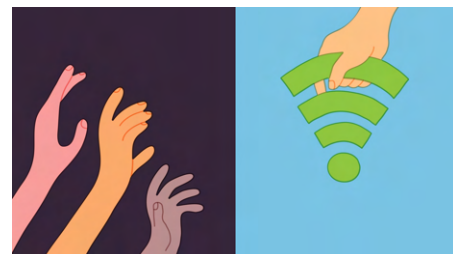
*Kate Daneker, Director of Social Initiatives, Square Roots Collective & Coordinator, SCC Opportunity Network*



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

Over the past 18 months, COVID has disrupted the “normal” lives of nearly everyone in our community. In some ways, it has shown us that we are capable of doing things differently, that problems we thought were too entrenched or too complex can and therefore must be changed.

And now that we have seen that new way, there is no going back. Perhaps one of the best examples in our local community is that of the digital divide that so heavily impacted the educational process for many students this past academic year. In our context, the phrase “digital divide” defines the canyon-like gap between those with ready and consistent access to computers & the internet, and those who do not. It involves not only physical access, like broadband hookups, affordable plans, and devices, but also skills and knowledge necessary to navigate those resources. In the Kennett Area, as in most of the country, it disproportionately affects the under-resourced in our community: those whose limited educational, financial, or cultural capital mean their access to these tools is significantly limited.



The digital divide predates the pandemic: having limited access to the internet or computers is a serious disadvantage to students in the best of circumstances these days, and many students in our area suffer from it. What the pandemic did is exacerbate a pre-existing problem as kids were sent home to learn as best they could with limited technological savvy and infrastructure in their homes. The efforts of school district staff who worked tirelessly to mitigate this crisis were nothing short of heroic, but the reality is that our community was not prepared and that a long-term solution was needed.

Motivated to action by the crisis, a small group of community leaders and volunteers came together under the umbrella of SCCON to launch the Digital Equity Initiative. Leveraging new partnerships formed during the pandemic, they brought together local school districts, county & township officials, nonprofit leaders and other concerned residents to form what is known as a collective impact approach. This summer, they secured funding for a comprehensive broadband assessment to be conducted across all of Southern Chester County, to identify areas with weak signal that need to be reached. That assessment will be

carried out under the oversight of the Chester County Intermediate Unit later this year. The group has also brought together local nonprofits to launch a Digital Literacy Coalition, in which staff will be equipped to offer digital skills training across Southern Chester County to community members in need. This includes seniors who need to schedule telehealth visits, parents who want to better communicate with their child’s school, and those wishing to obtain better employment opportunities. The goal is simple: that everyone in our community will have access to both the tools and the know-how to benefit from the social, educational, and economic advantages afforded by technology, advantages many of us take for granted.

This past year and a half have been tough, and all of us have felt the impact. But it’s in situations like these, when the problems seem too big and intractable, that we can be most encouraged by the kind of unity and hopefulness found in neighbors helping neighbors and working to make their community a better place for everyone. If you are interested in learning more about the Digital Equity Initiative or getting directly involved, you can reach out to Kate Daneker at [kdaneker@ksqroots.com](mailto:kdaneker@ksqroots.com).



# KACS, The Garage, & The Community Answer the Call

*Sarah Golden & Jamie Kleman, Communication & Development Team, KACS*



Copious amounts of rain and wind from Hurricane Ida led to flooding and the displacement of 86 residents from Avondale Apartments in Southern Chester County. Some of the tenants experienced up to three feet of water in their first-floor units. When Leah Reynolds, Executive Director of Kennett Area Community Service (KACS), and Kristin Proto, Executive Director of The Garage and Community Youth Center, learned that families were in immediate need of food and shelter they knew it was time to take action. Speaking with Leah Reynolds she

addressed KACS commitment to the displaced families, “Countless families across the area have experienced the very worst of the devastating and catastrophic weather events resulting in impromptu evacuations, homes ruined, shock, and uncertainty about the future. KACS is committed to remaining by the side of the impacted families, not only today but also in the weeks and months ahead as they recover from these unfortunate circumstances.”

KACS and The Garage are not Disaster and Relief Organizations, however, there was no time to hesitate to protect and provide for the affected families. Reynolds deployed her Emergency Assistance (EMA) Team led by Program Director Amy Scheuren to work with the victims and assist them with their immediate needs. KACS Emergency Assistance Program provides financial assistance for basic living expenses, housing assistance to those who are experiencing homelessness, and connecting those in need with a partner agency. Scheuren described the scene upon arrival Thursday, “Families were tirelessly working to salvage anything they could from their units, most families losing all their furniture and many personal belongings due to the flooding. Some tenants in the building were rushing to do laundry in hopes of saving clothing, sheets, and towels. Our team went door to door knocking on every first-floor unit to assess what was needed most and how we could help find the families a place to stay. Some were able to stay with friends and family, but many were still left without options.”

As numbers and needs were being assessed and communicated, Proto decided to turn The Garage in West Grove, PA into a makeshift shelter. As drivers were organized to transport those families in need of shelter, community members answered the call and donated mattresses and bedding. Community run Lasagna Love provided hot meals for the men, women, and children brought to The Garage on Thursday evening, and local restaurants and donors continued to provide food throughout the weekend. Kristin Proto Executive Director of the Garage reflected on the whirlwind week and expressed her gratitude for KACS partnership, “The Garage team is immensely grateful to the entire Southern Chester County Community for the outpouring of support that the flood victims have experienced in the past week. We are grateful for the leadership of Leah Reynolds and her team at KACS who have been working with us seamlessly to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors are treated with dignity and care every day and especially during this emergency crisis. The Garage is also looking forward to continuing this conversation with our entire community around long-term solutions to housing. We believe that safe housing is a right for all people, and we look forward to changes that will ensure that adequate and dignified housing is provided to all of our neighbors”

Although the weather became brighter, the news for the victims returning to their apartments did not. After an examination of the first-floor apartments by the borough’s contracted inspector, it was confirmed that residents would not be back in their homes until the drywall is replaced, which might be a six-to-eight-week timeframe. In order for The Garage to resume its daily programs, it could not continue as a shelter for the families. KACS EMA team worked with The Fairfield Inn & Suites in Kennett Square to secure hotel rooms and transport the families still in need of food and shelter.

Relief efforts continue to be buoyed by organizations, businesses in the community. Restaurants throughout Southern Chester County have donated hot meals every night and will continue to do so through the month to ensure these families are cared for. Reynolds spoke of the community offering her thanks saying, “The collective generosity of this community helps create remarkable change and hope. Feed a child, and you save not only that child, but their family, their community, their country, our world. You



Pictured above is the KACS Emergency Assistance (EMA) Team.

*Continued on page 26*

# Improving our Digital Infrastructure

by Whitney Hoffman, Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

If this past year and a half has taught us anything, it is important to have clear and reliable cell signals and internet connections. Our landscape has dramatically changed as we work and go to school from home and stream content online while binge watching our favorite escape programming. Our ability to instantly Zoom in, dial up and stream on demand has never been more important for our work, school, social communication and even municipal governing. I think that we can all pretty much agree that the way in which we communicate has forever changed.

The larger lesson is that the health and reliability of our digital infrastructure is a critically important part of our lives. Fortunately, the federal government agrees. Funding is being made available to improve our connectivity by filling in the gaps on cellular connections and extend or improve broadband or internet connections to those areas where it is coming up short.

## Broadband and Reliable Cell Connections

If your neighborhood was built in the 80s or 90s, your internet or cable connection may still be a vestige of those days - wire. Your service might be glitchy, slow, or limited when you try to simultaneously Zoom, stream, and game. Newer fiber optic cable is the standard for the way we live our lives.

The question is - *“How can we get improved connections - or in some cases any connection - in Kennett Township?”*

The other part of our connectivity dilemma is reliable cell service. Many parts of our Township have spotty or “dead” areas. Did you ever need to go outside to make a cell phone call? Part of the reason is that our area has very little 5G coverage. Even though many of the new phones boast about having 5G capabilities, it does little good if the cell towers don't provide 5G.

So when we talk about digital infrastructure, we are actually talking about our ability to play, work and communicate - in other words - live our lives in today's world.

## What's the Fix?

In the case of internet and broadband service, the good news is the Federal government, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Chester County have set aside funding for municipalities like Kennett Township to partner with our local Internet Service Providers (ISP's) to extend cable to previously underserved areas. The cost to extend service to “last mile” areas was previously borne by the individual homeowners and businesses.

In the case of spotty cell phone service, Kennett Township through the Chester County Intermediate Unit has already helped secure grant money to identify and map out our local “dead zones” or poor coverage areas. The RFP was issued September 1<sup>st</sup> and we are hopeful that the contract will be awarded in October of this year.

The results of this mapping effort will show us exactly where we need to address digital infrastructure shortcomings. And it will allow local municipalities to work with the ISP's to fill in the “gaps” in our cell phone service.

In addition to the needs of homeowners, our first responders depend on accurate and extensive coverage to answer fire and rescue calls, call for backup and serve the public in times of storms and disasters.

## WiFi at Barkingfield Park and Anson B. Nixon Park

Kennett Township has taken the lead on connecting you in our public spaces while we work towards long term fixes. We have just successfully installed public WiFi in Barkingfield Park and are working with the Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) to do the same at Anson B. Nixon Park.

This improvement will help make our parks more secure and user friendly while also providing free public WiFi in a COVID-safe environment.

## Connectivity is the Great Equalizer

Our digital infrastructure is every bit as important as our roads and highways. It that means that everyone has the same opportunities to



Check out the kiosk at Barkingfield Park for details on how to log in to the free Wi-Fi.

learn, work, apply for jobs, go to telemedicine appointments or relax and play online.

Kennett Township was among the first municipalities in the region to identify and apply for these grant opportunities to improve the lives of our citizens and businesses. We will not be satisfied until every resident can enjoy the benefits that this higher level of communication and connectivity can bring!

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about our efforts in this area, please feel free to reach out to me at [whitney.hoffman@kennett.pa.us](mailto:whitney.hoffman@kennett.pa.us).

## Calling All Trail Enthusiasts!

### Check out these new local interactive trail maps!

*by Christina Norland, Executive Director, Kennett Trails Alliance*

The Kennett Area Regional Trails Committee recently partnered with the Chester County Planning Commission and Square Roots Collective to put together new, interactive trail maps of our regional area. Find your next adventure by viewing these maps online on the Kennett Greenway website: [www.kennettgreenway.com/regional-collaboration](http://www.kennettgreenway.com/regional-collaboration).

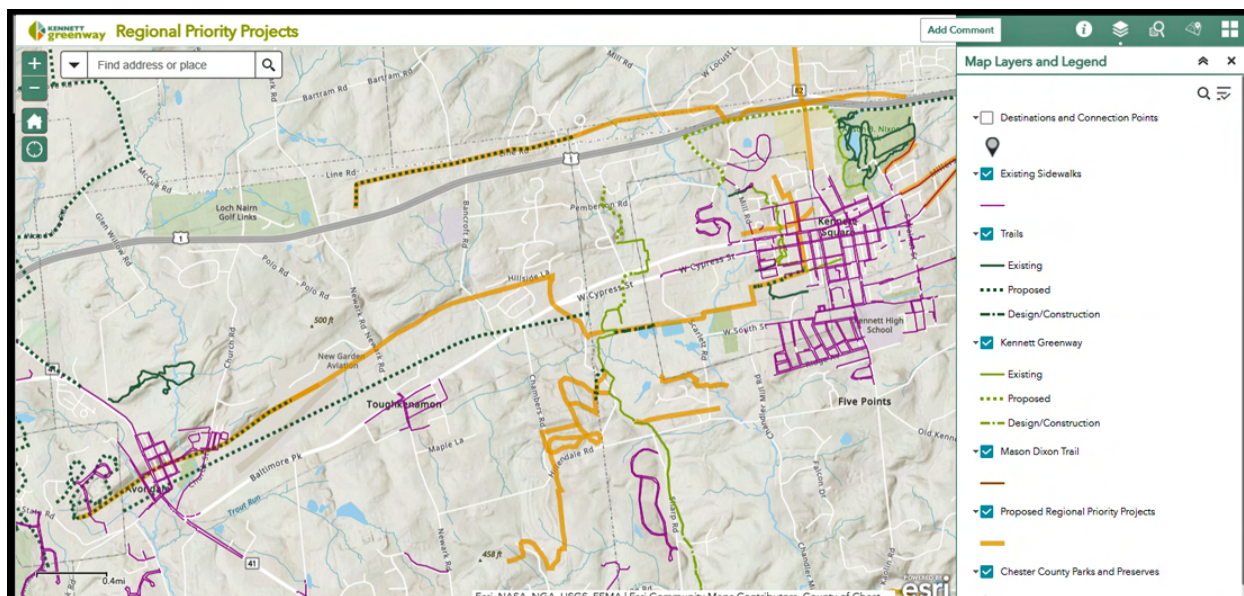
The maps focus on trails and sidewalks in Kennett Township, New Garden, Kennett Borough, and East Marlborough, though additional trails are featured beyond these areas.

The “Find a Trail” map shows existing trails and sidewalks and their trailheads. The map also provides basic information about each trail to help prepare for your journey. It also features the location of local parks and preserves, the existing and proposed Kennett Greenway, and the Mason Dixon Trail. Using the “report trail condition,” you can flag trail conditions that require maintenance. You can also search for a specific trail by its name, location or municipality.

The “Regional Priority Projects” shows regional priority projects identified by the Regional Trails Committee and acknowledged by the governing body of each participating municipality. You’ll be able to click on the priority projects to find out more about a project’s status. The Chester County Planning Commission will be updating this map will be quarterly to reflect progress. You can also zoom to a specific municipality to see that municipality’s priority projects and other existing and proposed trails.

Kennett Township, Kennett Borough, East Marlborough Township and New Garden Township — together with Bike Kennett, Friends of New Garden Trails, Kennett Trails Alliance and Chester County Planning Commission —formed the Kennett Area Regional Trails Committee in order to create a well-connected and consistent trail network. The goal of the committee is to coordinate the planning, development, implementation and maintenance of trails and sidewalks across local municipalities. This mapping project is one of the outcomes of this multi-municipal cooperation.

Chester County Planning Commission staff prepared the mapping with direction from the Regional Trail Committee. Funding was provided by Square Roots Collective with in-kind support from the Chester County Planning Commission.



## Catching the Rain One Drop at a Time

*Shane Morgan, White Clay Wild and Scenic River Program*

Stormwater runoff is one of the main causes of pollution in the United States, yet it is not at the forefront of the minds of many. Stormwater, simply the precipitation that falls, is absorbed into the ground or falls into bodies of water. Stormwater pollution occurs when precipitation, such as rainfall, picks up harmful substances (road salts, oil, chemicals, and other debris). That polluted stormwater can run off the land and carry that pollution into waterways. This nonpoint source pollution, which doesn't come from one specific location or origin, is difficult to regulate, yet can be a major cause of river impairment.

The White Clay, Red Clay, and Brandywine Creek are major drinking water sources, but polluted runoff from rain events makes cleaning the water for consumption incredibly costly and difficult. In a healthy stream, vegetation in riparian areas, such as forests and meadows near the riverbank, slow down rain as it gradually soaks through soils. This percolation allows pollutants to filter out while also replenishing groundwater. In developed areas, the speed and intensity of rain runoff intensify over concrete and other impervious surfaces, runoff has no time to filter out pollutants. Because stormwater is the largest source of pollution in our watersheds which are largely comprised of privately-owned land, the Catch the Rain Program was born.

Catch the Rain was created in 2016, supported by the Dockstader Foundation and spearheaded by the White Clay Wild and Scenic Program and the Brandywine Conservancy. The program hopes to improve water quality by promoting Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) practices. These practices are designed to capture and detain rainfall, reduce the overall stormwater speed and volume running off into the River, and stimulate the natural filtering processes of soil. The program reaches out to suburban homeowners (and homeowner associations) and educates, encourages, and provides monetary incentives for the voluntary implementation of green stormwater practices such as rain gardens and tree planting. The program also works with municipalities to install GSI practices on municipal land, practices that can also be used as demonstration sites. These GSI practices have other benefits as well, including enhanced community beauty, increased property values, improved drinking water quality, and additional habitat for birds and pollinators.

The program is currently focused in the White Clay Creek watershed, but a long-term goal is to expand it to the entire Brandywine-Christina basin. A few highlights from 2020 include an 850 square foot rain garden at Paper Mill Park in New Castle County, Delaware, and another 850 sq. ft. rain garden (as seen below) located in front of the Avon Grove Public Library in West Grove Borough, a riparian (streamside) buffer planting on two acres along the Middle Branch on private land in Franklin Township, and a conservation landscape and buffer planting along 100 feet of a small stream on private lands also located in Franklin Township. Both rain gardens were installed in spring 2020 and have withstood three major storm events without any issues and with reduced stormwater runoff to White Clay Creek. Upkeep and maintenance of these gardens is a top priority to ensure long-term success.



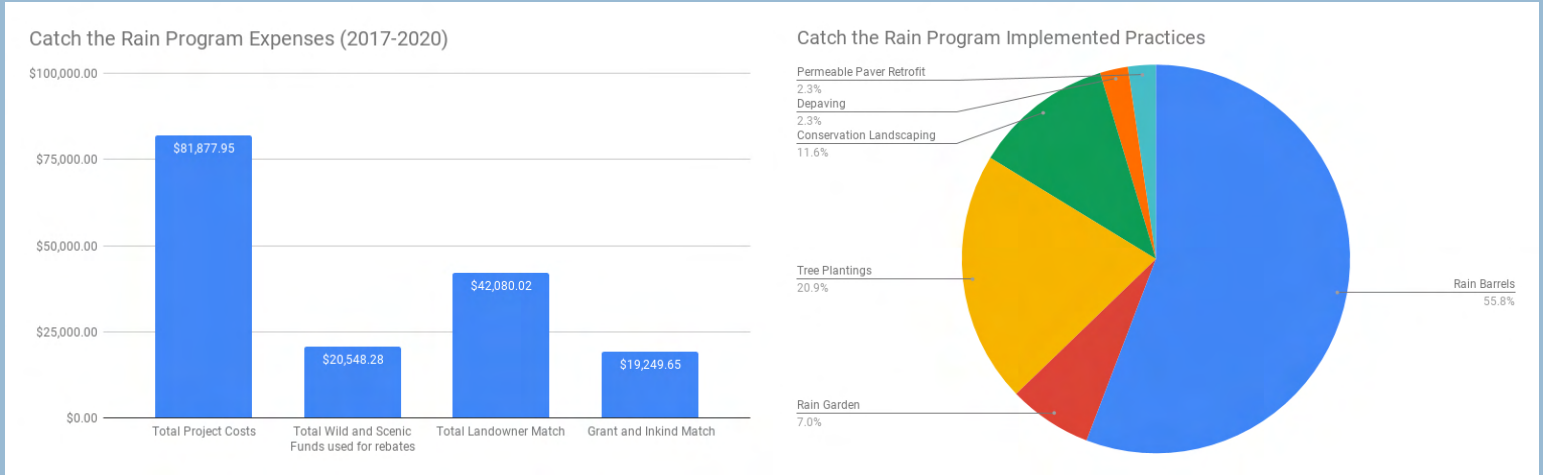
On the left is a recently installed rain garden full of stormwater during a two-inch rain storm in July 2020. On the right is the rain garden in bloom three months after installation.

In October 2020, using the West Grove rain garden as a hands-on demonstration site, individuals representing multiple MS4 communities including public works staff, municipal managers, and engineers, attended a live training workshop focusing on green stormwater infrastructure. The half-day workshop was hosted by the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership and free of charge thanks to an environmental education grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. The workshop was live and also streamed virtually for those who couldn't attend.

Since the program's inception in October 2016, there have been 93 residential applicants and 2 municipal partners install 41 practices. The costs for these projects have totaled close to \$82,000, funded through a combination of federal Wild and Scenic funds,

outside funding sources such as grants, and landowners (see graph below). The program has implemented municipal rain gardens, riparian buffers, and several smaller-scale residential practices like rain barrel installations, tree plantings, and conservation landscaping. The White Clay Creek Watershed is a great example of how a developed watershed can use the voluntary actions of those who live in the area to improve water quality. Partnerships between different organizations, municipalities, and volunteers are what creates a positive difference in the health of our local watersheds.

If you or your community reside in the White Clay watershed and are interested in learning more about this cost-share program to help the environment, please contact Shane Morgan at [mpc@whiteclay.org](mailto:mpc@whiteclay.org). Learn more about the Catch the Rain Rebate Program or register for a site visit at [whiteclay.org/catchtherain](http://whiteclay.org/catchtherain).

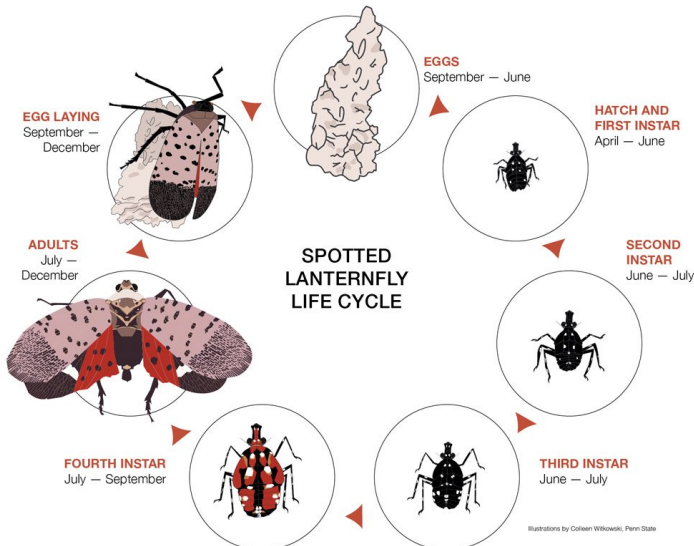


## Spotted Lanternfly

Spotted lanternflies are an invasive species threatening several industries in Chester County, including agriculture and horticulture. Penn State Extension has an abundance of information about what you can do to stop the spread of Spotted Lanternfly on their website. Go to <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly> for more information.

Spotted Lanternflies lay their eggs on the bark of trees and other smooth surfaces in the fall. Around the beginning of May, the first instar nymphs emerge from the egg masses and begin drawing nutrients from nearby plants. Each egg mass contains 20 to 50 individual eggs, so scraping one egg mass is much easier than chasing down 20 to 50 little nymphs.

*Insect sizes have been enlarged to show detail.*



Before May first, we should be sure to check our trees, firewood, lawn furniture, and other outdoor items for egg masses. We recommend that if you see them, scrape them off and put the scraped mass into a plastic bag with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. If rubbing alcohol and hand sanitizer are unavailable, use a scraper card or putty knife to squish the egg masses. This method is not officially approved by any agency, but by obliterating the egg mass and the eggs within, you will be able to tell that they have no chance of survival.

The image to the left, from Penn State, shows the life cycle of the spotted lanternfly life cycle.

Content provided by Chester County Conservation District.

## Chester County's Juneteenth Festival

*Continued from page 1*

numerous events held in local communities.

The values that animated and governed the creation of this festival included Community Creation, Comprehensive Equity, Financial Transparency, Creative Excellence, and Community Benefits. Our Juneteenth Festival goals were:

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



While we are proud to reflect on the impact and celebration of an amazing Juneteenth Festival, we are already starting discussions around a Juneteenth program for 2022. We recognize that Chester County has celebrated Juneteenth for years. Both Voices Underground and Square Roots Collective are excited about the ongoing community engagement and growing Juneteenth Festival across Chester County.

*Voices Underground, a joint initiative of Square Roots Collective and Lincoln University, works towards its vision—healing the American racial imagination through exposing people to the truth of American racial history—through its mission, which is to increase exposure to the story of the Underground Railroad and its connection to southern Chester County through creative partnerships, scholarly research, public experiences, and historical memorialization.*

For more information about Voices Underground and the headliners, visit:

[www.vuproject.org](http://www.vuproject.org)

[www.drjoshuabennett.com](http://www.drjoshuabennett.com)

[carolinerandallwilliams.com](http://carolinerandallwilliams.com)

[www.nationalyouthfoundation.org](http://www.nationalyouthfoundation.org)

[www.phillymag.com/foobooz/2020/09/24/greenwood-elijah-milligan-supper-club](http://www.phillymag.com/foobooz/2020/09/24/greenwood-elijah-milligan-supper-club)

## History and Future of Spar Hill Farm

*Continued from page 12*

**Spar Hill Farm Agricultural Periods and Notable Events** — Spar Hill farm has been one of the most productive farms in Kennett Township through three major agricultural periods.

1800 - 1925: WAY FARM - LIVESTOCK FEEDING AND HOME DAIRYING IN A DIVERSIFIED SYSTEM

The farm was started as a courtyard style farm with most of the buildings in a walled courtyard. The land was farmed to feed livestock, and the livestock was raised for dairy products (butter/milk). The main farmhouse (1848), carriage house, original barn, stone barnyard, and icehouse, which all still remain, were all built circa 1850. Records show that the farm was the most productive farm in Kennett Township. For example, in 1880, Joseph Way reported above average poultry (229 percent of average), swine (440 percent of average), and milk cows (328 percent of average).

Colonel W.C. Hodgkins of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey was commissioned to locate and mark the Pennsylvania/Delaware border. His team cleared the way for arc stones to be placed a half of a mile apart along the border. One was placed on the farm in 1892 and is accessible through Spar Hill Farms trail network (pictured to the right).



During this time Feldspar (pictured left) was mined from two quarries and taken to be milled in Toughkenamon. Feldspar is a group of nonmetallic minerals used in ceramics. Uses ranged from false teeth and porcelain, to pottery, tiles, scouring soaps, and glass manufacturing. During a brief mining period from 1898 to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Southeastern Pennsylvania was one of the three largest producers of feldspar in the United States. Recently a vein of feldspar was discovered in Kennett Square on land being cleared across the street from the south side of Waywood Beverage Company.

## 1925 - 1940: SHUTT FARM - FLUID MILK DAIRYING, POULTRY, TRUCK FARMING, NURSERIES, AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

This period is also called the Quaker Dairy Period. The farm becomes a linear type farm, and grows away from the courtyard farm layout. The farm was mainly a dairy farm during this period. The circa-1925 cow barn (pictured to the right) and stable were built in this period. Way Farm continues to be a top performing farm and, for example, in 1927 Edward Buffington reported heifers at 750 percent of Kennett Township averages.



## 1940 - 1960: SPAR HILL TURKEY FARM - SUBURBANIZATION AND SPECIALIZATION



Way Farm became Spar Hill Turkey Farm, a complex was constructed circa 1940, including a large turkey house, the Quonset hut, dwellings, garages and other out-buildings. Records show that WWII Prisoners of War worked at Way Farm. In 1946 the textbook, Turkey Management (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), written by S. Marsden and J. Martin, on the science of turkey farming was brought up to date with practices and pictures from Spar Hill Farm. The farm continues to be very productive and is recorded as having produced 45,000 turkeys in 1958.

## 1960 - Present: SPAR HILL FARM

By 1965 most of the turkey facilities were demolished. No modern construction had been done other than a circa-2005 shed and a circa-2012 calf shed. The farm has had active agricultural fields, but there are no livestock present. Most buildings on the site are used for storage or are vacant. The site was used more recently to house miniature horses.

In 2021 a scene in the popular HBO Series “Mare of Easttown” was filmed there (see photo to the right). The abandoned barn scene with Dawn Bailey (played by Enid Graham) was filmed at Spar Hill Farm’s cow barn and stable workshop with special permission from the Township, thus bringing fans of the show and curiosity seekers to visit the farm.



**Help to Plan the Future of Spar Hill Farm** — Many structures at Spar Hill Farm remain. Once these are gone, there will be nothing to show future generations evidence of one of the most productive farms in Kennett Township. The farm has important local historical significance and is a Township asset and visual resource. The scenic farm has become iconic view in our landscape. The Kennett Township Historic Commission wants to preserve evidence of the three agricultural periods and the shift from a courtyard to a linear farming layout. To see the full recommendation by the KTHC and to view the full presentation, visit:

[www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4859/Agenda-Item-6\\_Spar-Hill-Presentation](http://www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4859/Agenda-Item-6_Spar-Hill-Presentation).



## Environmental Resources for Home Owner Associations - from the EAC

Home owner associations (HOAs) often have some responsibility for managing natural open spaces. If your HOA is looking for expertise on how best to manage a meadow or wooded area, or control weeds, or protect water resources, it may be helpful to know that several of our residents are now Master Watershed Stewards. The Master Watershed Stewardship Program is administered through Penn State Extension. Individuals who complete this program are not trained to deliver environmental advice directly, but can direct HOAs to the correct organizations and agencies who can provide that expertise. Please contact the Township Administration if you are interested in consulting with a Master Watershed Steward, and we will put you in touch.

## Getting the Most Value from our Open Space Investments

*Continued from page 12*

purchase. As an alternative, the Township can either fund a conservation organization to buy the property, or simply buy the property itself. While this typically costs twice as much as purchasing an easement, it may be the only viable alternative for saving the property. On the plus side, such an outright purchase will also normally result in full public access, effectively creating a public park or preserve.

In the case of an outright (fee-simple) purchase, it is generally less expensive for the Township to fund the purchase through a conservation organization, which frequently has more expertise to negotiate the deal, more access to outside funds, and will assume all future costs to manage and maintain the property in perpetuity. However, in doing so, the Township is of course giving up whatever long-term control it might have if it purchased the property itself.

Our Township's open space program has examples of both kinds of outright purchases. What is now the much-beloved Stateline Woods Preserve (91 acres) was slated to be developed into 20+ homes when it was purchased by The Land Conservancy (TLC) and developed into a public nature preserve. The Township provided about 40% of TLC's needed funding, but the public has been enjoying Stateline's full open space value while the Conservancy shoulders the on-going development and maintenance costs.

Given the Conservancy's strong conservation mission, public amenities at Stateline are likely to remain pretty basic. In contrast, what is now Barkingfield Park (45 acres) was purchased outright by the Township, which has since installed a dog park and other amenities and can further expand them as desired. Of course, all of Barkingfield's costs - acquisition, development and maintenance - are being paid for by the Township.

A more recent example is the historic Spar Hill Farm (103 acres) which was directly purchased by the Township in 2018 for \$3.1M. With the help of LCAC, the Township secured \$1.2M in private funding from Mt. Cuba for the purchase. Unlike Barkingfield, however, Spar Hill contains a number of farm structures, many historic, that will need to be removed or restored before the property can be fully opened to the public, a potentially expensive and time-consuming proposition. Compared to Barkingfield, there is also twice as much acreage to maintain.

To mitigate the Township's future costs for Spar Hill and to maximize the property's long-term public value, the Township's Land Conservation Advisory Committee (LCAC) recently suggested that the Township find an appropriate partner, such as an experienced conservation or education non-profit, to help the Township design and execute a comprehensive development and preservation plan for Spar Hill.

Based on this plan, the Township would then seek one or more suitable organizations - non-profits, community based organizations, sustainable start-ups, etc. - to occupy/share the land and facilities under favorable lease terms, with the condition of assuming the costs of renovating and maintaining them to relevant standards. Private, state and county grants may be available to cover some of those costs.

As always, we at LCAC will continue to work with the Township's conservation partners to identify open space properties worthy of easement or purchase, to maximize the public value the Township can obtain for its open space funds, and to identify opportunities for the Township to maximize the public value of open space properties it has already acquired or funded.

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## KACS, The Garage, & The Community Answer the Call

*Continued from page 19*

never know what little action you make might have a ripple effect”

It has also been confirmed that KACS was able to permanently re-house two of the displaced families just this week. With the hope of more good news on the horizon, KACS and The Garage continue their work in the community and remain grateful to those who join them to answer the call in the most trying of times.

### **How you can help:**

Donations and Gift Cards (Walmart, GIANT Foods, & WAWA - \$25 and \$50 increments) are the best way to show your support. Please visit [www.kacsonline.net](http://www.kacsonline.net) and specify FLOOD to direct funds to those in need or mail donations to KACS at 136 W. Cedar St, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

*Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) is a life-sustaining, nonprofit organization that provides essential services to our neighbors in need through our Food Cupboard, Emergency Assistance, and Bridges Out of Poverty programs. The Garage and Community Youth Center is an after-school and Youth Development program serving Middle and High School students in Kennett Square and West Grove through our After School, Virtual Tutoring, and Career Compass Programs.*



# Kennett Township Recycling Center

**Location** - 549 Bayard Road

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

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

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

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



## All-In-One Single Stream Recycling



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

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



Cartons  
Cajas de carton



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



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

## Follow Guidelines Carefully



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



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



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



Glass bottles and jars  
Las botellas y frascos de vidrio



Phone books  
Guías telefónicas



Paperback books  
Libros de bolsillo

## Not Acceptable

### No Need To Remove

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

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

**ABSOLUTELY NO TRASH!**  
**Violators will be prosecuted**



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

# Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority

## 2021 Public Meeting Schedule

All meetings are being conducted both in person in the Public Meeting Room at the Township Building as well as virtually via Zoom. We encourage you to attend virtually if possible until COVID-19 cases go down again. If in person, we require masks. Agendas, instructions for joining the Zoom, and the link or phone number to attend these meetings virtually are available on our website calendar at least 24 hours before the meeting.

[www.kennett.pa.us/calendar](http://www.kennett.pa.us/calendar)

### **Board of Supervisors**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

### **Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 7:30 p.m.

### **Historical Commission**

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month 7:00 p.m.

### **Land Conservation Advisory Committee**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

### **Planning Commission**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m.

### **Trials & Sidewalks Committee**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 1:00 p.m.

### **Zoning Hearing Board**

As Needed

**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

### **The Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc.**

Do you think you are a victim of a crime?  
These County-Wide hotlines are here to help:  
Sexual Assault (610) 692-7273  
Other Crimes (610) 692-7420

**Domestic Violence Center  
Shelter for Women and Families**  
(888) 711-6270

## General Election: November 2, 2021

Polls will be open on November 2, 2021, from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. for the 2021 Municipal Primary Election. Please note, if you plan to vote using an absentee or mail-in ballot, your completed application must be received in the county office by 5:00 PM on 10/26/2021. The deadline to return your voted absentee or mail-in ballot is 8:00 PM on 11/02/2021. For all questions related to voting, please visit:

[www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services](http://www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services)  
[www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)



**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](http://www.chesco.org)**

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

**610-344-6225**

**Kennett  
TOWNSHIP**

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

[www.kennett.pa.us/156/Newsletters](http://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.