



EST. 1770



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • FALL 2021 • VOL. 23 N° 1

Historic Tropical Storm Ida, Engulfs the Region

The night of September 1, 2021 saw Brandywine Creek rise to historic levels. Nine inches of rain in one hour in Downingtown, six inches in Coatesville, both on already sodden ground, combined in hours to bring 21.1 feet of water in Brandywine Creek to Chadds Ford. Flood stage at this location is officially nine feet. Hurricane Floyd in September 1999, the previous record storm, saw a 17.9 foot rise. Route one was closed. Leader Sunoco and Hanks were inundated. The Brandywine River Museum's ground floor was completely flooded with serious damage to HVAC systems in the ceilings. Its flood gate (installed after Floyd) held but a ground floor window burst enabling the water to pour in.

In Pennsbury, SIW Vegetable stand on South Creek Road was swept away—counters, other debris, coolers, tomatoes scattered at the end of Cossart Road. H.G. Haskell, the stand's proprietor, saw five feet of water in his adjacent residence.

Elsewhere the recently redone bridge over the creek at Route 926, the approach to the bridge on both sides was underwater. Brandywine Hardware had two feet of the flood in the store. Pocopson Vet was flooded.

Havoc was widespread. 4,500 customers were without power in Chester County. Hurricane Ida was a 100 year storm. As was Floyd!

Recent years have brought significant flooding: 1972—16.56', 1999—17.9', 2011—15.23', 2014—16.05', but Ida has the record! •



The day after the storm the Route 1 Bridge in Chadds Ford shows water as far as the eye can see. For location reference - Brandywine River Museum and Leader Sunoco are on the right. Hanks is on the left.



Groundbreaking for New Kennett Library

Thank you to all that came out to help us celebrate the groundbreaking for the new Kennett Library & Resource Center on Aug. 12.

We had many local, county and state officials along with U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlihan to share in the excitement and anticipation.

“This new Kennett library will serve over 45,000 residents and what's more is this new state-of-the-art facility will have information resources, access to technology and training for all members of our community,” Rep. Houlihan said. Adding, that her mother was a librarian, she said the importance of community libraries cannot be overstated.

The Kennett Library serves New Garden Township, as well as East Marlborough, Kennett, Newlin, Pocopson, Pennsbury and West Marlborough, along with the Borough of Kennett Square.

It serves as a literacy center for everyone from infants to seniors. In addition to the core services of any library, there are story times, in both English and Spanish to entertain and promote early literacy; there are ESL, U.S. Citizenship and GED classes. In the last two years the library helped 24 community residents become U.S. citizens.

Highlights of the new building include a 110-seat auditorium; Bayard Taylor Conference Room; children’s maker space; adult maker space; two classrooms; one multipurpose room; four tutor rooms; quiet and reflection room; computer carrels; several quiet reading areas; and an outdoor terrace.

Thanks to a core set of volunteers, many of them who came before us, we are now in the early stage of building a new Library that will serve the community for another 50 years and longer. Thanks to our donors and supporters, both past and present, the Capital Campaign has raised 60% of the \$20 million goal needed to build the state-of-the-art library and resource center.



Construction of the new building will begin this fall, with a grand opening planned for February 2023.

We are planning on launching a Community Giving Campaign in September. We will be asking for support from everyone in our service area to help make this dream a reality. You should receive a letter in the mail explaining the various giving levels and benefits. You can also check the website www.campaign4kennettlibrary.org for updates.

As Kennett Library Board of Trustee President Jeff Yetter said at the groundbreaking, “We are building this new library for the community. We all know that Kennett is a special place, and it is our hope that this new Library will enhance everyone’s quality of life, expand our dreams, increase our knowledge and help us all become better members of our ever-changing society.”

As always, we are grateful for the support of Pennsbury Township. We couldn’t offer our outstanding programs or build this new library without the support of our municipal partners. •



Planning Commission Update

The following is an update of the Pennsbury Township Planning Commission's (PC) main activities since the last edition of the Pennsbury Township News.

A proposed subdivision plan for estate planning purposes on the Lunger property located at 102 S. Fairville Road was reviewed. The PC recommended that the Board approve the plan subject to conditions noted in the minutes of our April 27 meeting.

A proposed subdivision plan for three lots located at 750 Kennett Pike was reviewed during meetings on May 20 and August 24. The PC voted to recommend that the Board approve the proposed plan subject to conditions noted in the minutes of our August 24 meeting.

A land development plan for a project at Kendal Crosslands was reviewed during meetings held on May 25 and June 22. The PC recommended approval of the plan as noted in our minutes from June 22.

A conditional use request to allow intrusion into the riparian buffer for the purpose building a new home on a lot located at 941 Cossart Road was reviewed with a recommendation to approve the request.

Township representative, Margaret Moore and Chester County Trails and Open Space Planner, Rachael Griffith were present at our June 22 meeting to discuss activities and progress regarding proposed walking/hiking/biking trails which included a survey of township residents. At this time, there is no clear path forward on the project.

As previously reported, work on amendments to our solar ordinance continues to progress. The project is being led by Mike Clements and we hope to conclude a draft proposal later this year.

There was a Zoning Hearing Board Application to the PC requesting relief for the size and height of a proposed barn at their home on Stockford Road. We recommended that the Board support the variance request.

We reviewed a Conditional Use proposal for a roof-mounted solar installation at 5 Whitestone Lane. The proposal remains under review.

A Zoning Hearing Board Application was made by the property owners for increased impervious coverage at 102 Anthony Way. The application was reviewed by the PC with a neutral recommendation made to the Supervisors.

All township residents are welcome to attend Planning Commission meetings which are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM in the Township Building. •

Census Information

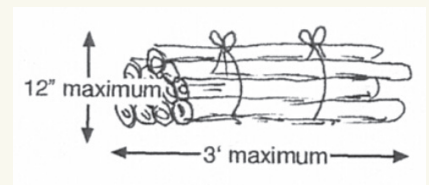
Pennsbury's population increases to 3876, an increase of 272 people. This is a 7.5% increase which reflects the norm for county population as well. •

Fall Branch Pick-Up Week November 15 to 19, 2021

Bagged leaves can be dropped off at the township building in the designated space starting October 18th through November 30th.

Brush and limbs must be properly prepared or they will not be collected.

- Brush and limbs must be from your Pennsbury Township property.
- Brush and limbs must be put out before start date as only one pass will be made through each neighborhood.
- NO roots, stumps and limbs with wire and/or nails.
- All brush and limbs must be in the right of way.
- Fresh cut (green) limbs, 2" in diameter and larger, should be left full length, placed along roadside with large ends closest to road.



- Dry, dead brush and tree limbs must be tied in bundles no greater than 3' long and 12" in diameter.
- A sample bundle is on display at the Township Building along with free bailing twine and instructions.
- Limit of 8 bundles of brush and/or tree limbs and 10 fresh cut (green) branches per property.



Volunteers are Needed

Volunteerism is down. Volunteers are the backbone of a thriving community and we are in need of a few good men and women. **The Pennsbury Land Trust, Historic Commission and Rt. 52 Scenic Byway Commission** are only a few groups who could use some help.

So if you are interested in volunteering some time, please contact the office at 610-388-7323 or email Kathy Howley at khowley@pennsbury.pa.us. Thank you for your consideration.

NO PARKING Ordinance Amendment

An amendment to the Township parking regulations was passed in 2018. Where NO PARKING signs are posted, illegally parked cars will be towed without notice.

ALL vehicles must be parked on a hard surface and not pulled off the road onto grass or any other pervious surface. This is a violation of ordinances and will be strictly enforced.

Recycling

The bins on the township property is NOT for garbage. There is a sign on each bin outlining what is ACCEPTABLE. Putting in the wrong items can disqualify the entire load. Remember to break down all boxes.

Unbroken down boxes can quickly fill up the space. If anyone sees someone illegally dumping in the bins, please notify the township office with a license and description of the vehicle. The state police will investigate and violator can be fined.



Volunteers are a Dying Breed in the Fire Service!

Did you know that your local fire companies are primarily run by volunteers? Within Kennett Township, Longwood Fire Company relies 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, at Longwood Fire Company we are striving to hold 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 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 our website www.longwoodfireco.com/content/volunteer. •

Pennsbury Park

Located in back of the Township Building, Pennsbury's 54 acre park is a great place for walking, picnicking and bird-watching. Trails are kept mowed and there are tables and benches scattered about the area. Park is open from morning til dusk.

Bark Park is along the eastern border. There is a separate area for large dogs and small dogs. (See rules below)

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

- ALL DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH unless you are in the dog park. Dogs are let out of cars without a leash and run into the park. Complaints have been received. As a rule, dog owners are very good at observing leash laws and we really do appreciate that.
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Consuming alcoholic beverages
- Operating motor vehicles beyond parking areas
- Riding bikes in woods or wet areas
- Starting fires except in grills in picnic area
- Littering
- Swimming
- Ice skating
- Boating
- Climbing fences
- Cutting trees



ALLOWED ACTIVITIES:

- Walk or jog
- Bike in grassy field areas
- Play Frisbee
- Ski/Cross-Country
- Picnic
- Study nature
- Play sports. Organized sports require permission of the Township Manager
- Train your dog. Dogs must be on a leash.
- Join the Park Stewards Volunteers
- Make suggestions
- Have fun safely with respect for nature and your neighbor.

Pay Attention to the Signs

When you see a ROAD CLOSED sign, it really means the road is closed TO EVERYONE whether driving, walking or biking. There were several incidents in which people walking and biking did not pay attention or chose to ignore the signs.

A walker almost got hit by equipment as they walked around the area next to machinery and the equipment operator did not know they were there, which startled the equipment operator.

So when you see a ROAD CLOSED sign, please turn around and stay safe.

Driveway Permits Needed for Resurfacing Your Driveway

They can be obtained on line at www.pennsbury.pa.us or call the office at 610-388-7323. Permits are NOT needed for sealcoating your driveway- only for resurfacing. The Road Department can be very helpful in advising you what to look for in a good job. Too many driveways are done with minimal materials and fall apart quickly. Obtain your permit BEFORE the job is done.

School Bus Safety

It's that time of the year! For the safety of drivers and our children on school buses, please do not park vehicles, especially landscaper trucks, on roadways.

It often impairs the line of sight which creates a hazard. Make sure trees and shrubs are trimmed and not blocking sight distances, especially at corners and driveways.

The Township has the right to trim if residents do not. DO NOT PLANT IN THE RIGHT OF WAY AND DO NOT PLANT BAMBOO.

Watch for children and NEVER pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights.



Mysteries of Medicare: Medicare’s Annual Open Enrollment Period (AOEP) 2021

Effective July 1, 2021, the APPRISE program was given a new name. APPRISE counselors may have been your previous contacts for assistance with Medicare-related information. The APPRISE program is now called Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI). You will find that the program and the counselors have not changed; we are just operating under this new name.

AOEP is a once-a-year opportunity between October 15th and December 7th for most Medicare beneficiaries to make changes to Medicare Advantage (MAPD) and Part D Prescription Drug Plans (PDP). In early October, you will receive a mailing with information about your current plan called Annual Notice of Change (ANOC). The ANOC may appear daunting, but you really need to check for the plan’s 2022 premium, formulary changes, preferred pharmacy changes, copays and drug tiers for your medications.

Medicare beneficiaries who have access to a computer would benefit from setting up a “MyMedicare” account on the Medicare.gov website. This account with a username and password will give you ongoing information about claims from your providers, and will make evaluating your PDP easier. If you would like assistance with an evaluation of your MAPD or your PDP options, PA MEDI counselors are trained and available to provide FREE, personalized, unbiased counseling. Due to continuing COVID-19 concerns and restrictions, in-person appointments are not widely available. Most of the counseling will be done by phone. You may call a senior center or the Department of Aging AOEP scheduling line after September 15th (610-344-5234) to make an appointment for your phone conference. You will be prompted to leave a message and your contact information. A PA MEDI counselor will return your call within one business day.

If you are new to Medicare during the AOEP, counselors are available to help you with Medicare enrollment and can provide information about your other options. Please call our general Helpline 610-344-5004 for this assistance.

Stormwater Management

8 great things you can do to show your love for our lakes & rivers.

- 1 Mulch Your Leaves** into your lawn with your mower, rake them around your trees or use them as garden mulch. The leaves will provide nutrients to the soil as they break down.
- 2 Keep Storm Drains Clean:** Keep all debris & litter out of the street. Clean storm drains prevent flooding and keep unwanted nutrients & trash out of our lakes & rivers.
- 3 Care for Your Car:** Get leaks fixed & recycle batteries. Take used oil to a collection site. Wash your car on the lawn, not the driveway. Remember: anything that goes down a storm drain ends up in our lakes.
- 4 Get Salt Smart:** Shovel first. Use salt sparingly. Read label for application rates and environmental impacts.
- 5 Test Your Soil:** Most established lawns don’t need phosphorus fertilizers.
- 6 Pick-Up After Pets:** Bury or double-bag pet waste. Don’t put it in gardens or compost bins.
- 7 Prevent Erosion:** Soil easily washes into the storm sewer. Seed and mulch the bare spots in your yard as soon as possible. Cover piles of soil with a tarp until ready to use.
- 8 Direct Your Downspouts:** Build a rain garden in your yard or install a rain barrel to capture stormwater before it leaves your property. Rain gardens infiltrate water and rain barrels hold it for later use in your gardens.

School Board Update

On August 30th, we kicked off the 2021-2022 school year. As everyone could tell from the bus traffic and the traffic on the main roads near our schools, we are back in person.

Last year was a unique year with the start of the school year being 100% remote and then transitioning to a hybrid model and then transitioning again to an in-person model with a remote option. This year the goal is to start the year at 100% in person and to remain in person throughout the year. The only exceptions are for secondary students who have COVID or are forced to quarantine due to COVID exposure. Those students will be able to remotely attend their classes. We are also offering a 100% virtual academy.

As of this writing, the county and the school district are in a “High” category of transmission meaning that there are over 100 cases of COVID per 100,000 residents. This fact, in addition to the Governor’s mandate that went into effect on 9/7/21, will require that masks be worn inside all school buildings. One of the benefits of masking though is it will protect our ability to offer a 100% in person educational experience. Students who are in close contact to a person exposed to COVID may not need to quarantine if wearing a mask.

We would like to thank our teachers, administrators, nurses, support staff and parents who helped keep our community safe over the last year and a half, and for their enthusiastic welcome to the new year. Last, we would like to mention that our fall sports teams are in full session and the attendance restrictions have been lifted. Please feel free to come out and support our student athletes and musicians. •

Go Longhorns!

-The School Board



Trooper Kochka's Korner

Avondale State Police Barracks – Troop J

Quarterly Information & Observations for Pennsbury Township & the Surrounding Municipalities and Boroughs



We are excited to start Trooper Kochka's Korner for inclusion into the Township Newsletter. This will be a platform for the Pennsylvania State Police, Avondale Barracks, to provide information to Pennsbury Township residents. For those residents who don't know, the Pennsylvania State Police, Avondale Barracks, provides full-service police protection and resources 24/7 to Pennsbury Township. You can reach us by calling 610-268-2022 for non-emergencies however, in an emergency please dial 9-1-1.

Let me first introduce myself. My name is Kevin Kochka and I have been with the Pennsylvania State Police for just over six years. I completed my first 4 years in Patrol and took the position of Community Service Officer in April of 2019.

Transparency between the Pennsylvania State Police and the Community has been my goal from day one in this position. I believe it is very important as well as our obligation to keep the community aware of events going on around them. For current events or incidents, please follow me on Twitter: @PSPTroopJPIO.

That being said, please visit the Community Access to Information Dashboard (CAID) to see the most up to date information/statistics regarding calls in Franklin Township. Here is the Link: [PSP Community Access to Information Dashboard \(pa.gov\)](https://pa.gov)

Safety Tips: How to Safely Install / Check your Child Seats

Checking the seat: (also depends on size and weight of child)

- All Child Safety Seats should have all the stickers on the side to help. Any child under two MUST be rear facing, however the longer they stay rear facing the better.
- Car seats shall be used for and child from birth up to 4 years of age.
- Between the ages of 4-8 a booster can be the primary seat of choice.
- Ages 8-18 a seatbelt will be sufficient.
- Suggested age for front seat, 13 years of age
- Newborns shall be in an infant seat at a 45-degree angle, all others should be between 30-45 degrees.
- Once the seat is installed, testing from the belt path, the seat should not move back or forth more than 1 inch or side to side more than 1 inch.

Checking the child in the seat:

- Five-point harness should be utilized for any child up to 4 years of age.
- For rear facing seats, the top of the harness should be at or below the shoulders.
- For forward facing seats, the top the harness should be at or above the shoulders.
- The chest plate (chest clip) should be centered on the sternum between the nipples.
- The harness, when tight, should have no slack at the shoulders and you should not be able to pinch the belt together.
- If in booster, belt should sit right across the shoulder and across the lap just like it would for an adult. (should not be touching their neck)

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!
Trooper Kochka

It's Time for Those Winter Road Reminders

- 1 Do not park on the streets during snow and ice events. If our drivers do not think they can salt, cinder or plow a street or cul-de-sac safely, they Will SKIP it or plow it after the road crew has finished the rest of the township. If vehicles are still on the street, the Township will have them towed at the owner's expense.
- 2 Do not put leaves in the street or gutter. It is dangerous for cars and impedes water run-off.
- 3 Trim trees and shrubs along roads. Make sure they do not impede visibility or make passage difficult.
- 4 Do not plant trees in the township right of way as well as placing rocks or boulders alongside the road. This presents a hazard to township vehicles plowing and can hinder road repairs. The Right of Way should always be kept clear of any object.
- 5 Secure your mailbox. The Township is NOT responsible for damage to mailboxes. The mailbox and base should be strong enough to withstand flying snow and slush from traffic and snowplows. To prevent damage the front should be at least 12 inches from the edge of the road and the supporting post at least 3 feet from the edge of the road.
- 6 Keep the right-of-way clear. Any installation of plants, mailboxes, etc. is done at the owner's risk.
- 7 Do not push snow into the street. It is in violation of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to push snow into the street. It is also a danger to passing motorists.
- 8 Main subdivisions will be plowed first. Less populated areas next.



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

EST. 1770

702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone: 610-388-7323

Fax: 610-388-6036

Web: www.pennsbury.pa.us

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday:

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY 2021

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(elected 6 yr term)

Meets 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm

Wendell Fenton, *Vice Chair*
(term ends 12/23)
610-388-6168

Aaron McIntyre, *Chair*
(term ends 2021)
610-388-9795

Dan Boyle *(term ends 2026)*
484-757-9776

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Kathleen Howley
Township Manager
610-388-7323

Pat Carpenter
Assistant Secretary

Barbara Biedekapp
Financial Assistant

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Russell Drumheller
610-388-1790

SOLICITOR

Tom Oeste, Esq.
610-436-4400 ext. 1550

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Matthew Houtmann
610-565-6363

ROAD CREW

David Allen, *Roadmaster*
610-388-9180

Pete Laws
Jeffrey Miller
Patrick Yerkes

CONSTABLE

(elected 6-year term)

Harry McKinney
610-388-0240

TOWNSHIP AUDITORS

(elected 6 year term)

Patrick Barron
Adelaide Jones
Maceo Davis

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Greg McCauley
Ed Foley, Attorney
James Porter
Bill Talman
Alternate - Greg Williams
Alternate - Jerry Snyder

VACANCY BOARD

Robert Luft

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm

Dennis Smith - *Chairman*
Corinne Murphy - *Vice Chair*
Jeff Streitel - *Secretary*
Mike Clements
Lynn Luft

SECCRA & RECYCLING

Will Sappington

HISTORIC COMMISSION

Joan Gummy
Lynn Luft
Eileen Mallouk
Brenda Mendenhall
Susan Williams
Judi Wilson
Russell Drumheller

RT 52 SCENIC BYWAY COMMITTEE

Mary G. Fahner-Short

KENNETT LIBRARY BOARD

Barbara Necarsulmer
Todd Bruce

COMPUTER ASSISTANT

Gary Summers

ANIMAL CONTROL

Brandywine Valley SPCA
610-692-6113

STATE POLICE

Avondale Barracks
(non emergency)
610-268-2022

TO REPORT ROAD KILL

On U.S 1 (PennDot):
484-340-3200

All other roads
(PA Game Commission):
610-926-3136, prompt #0

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT C

(elected 4 year term)

John Murphy
Erin Talbert
Jen Brown
District Office: 610-347-0970

ELECTED FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. Senators:

Robert P Casey
555 Walnut St., 1st Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-231-7450
casey.senate.gov

Patrick J. Toomey
8 Penn Center, Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-241-1090
toomey.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives District 6
Chrissy Houlahan
709 E Gay St., West Chester, PA 19389
610-883-5050
www.houlahan.house.gov

PA Senator District 9
John Kane
717-756-1548
610-436-3320

PA House of Representatives
District 160
Craig Williams
1 Beaver Valley Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610-358-5925
parep160@aol.com