

[EAST BRANDYWINE TOWNSHIP]

Good Signs in Local Economy; Township Holds Firm Line on Taxes

“Things are headed in the right direction, finally.”

That's the good news Township Manager Scott Piersol gave the Board of Supervisors when he outlined the final budget figures for 2012. The most tangible evidence that local finances are in better-than-expected shape: there will be no property tax increase for residents this year and no increase in the refuse and recycling fee.

The only individuals who'll have to fork over some extra dollars are those who hold jobs in the Township, around 500 or so. They will have to pay a new fee of \$52 to help pay for the various services the Township provides—notably police protection and snow plowing of local roads when winter storms strike. All workers making more than \$12,000 a year, whether or not they live in East Brandywine, will be subject to the fee, one that was rejected by the Supervisors in 2010 but approved last fall after a second look.

The outlook here matches that at the county level. The Chester County Commissioners said they plan no increase in property taxes this year and are boasting that their budgeting practices

once again have earned them top financial ratings from the nation's rating firms—Standard & Poor's, Fitch and Moody's. Another encouraging sign at the county level was a drop in the unemployment rate to 5.9% in October from 6.2% a month earlier and 6.8% in August. The October rate for Pennsylvania was 8.1% and the national rate for November was 8.6%.

The municipal and county financial confidence contrasts sharply with the continuing sense of doom that hangs over the national economy.

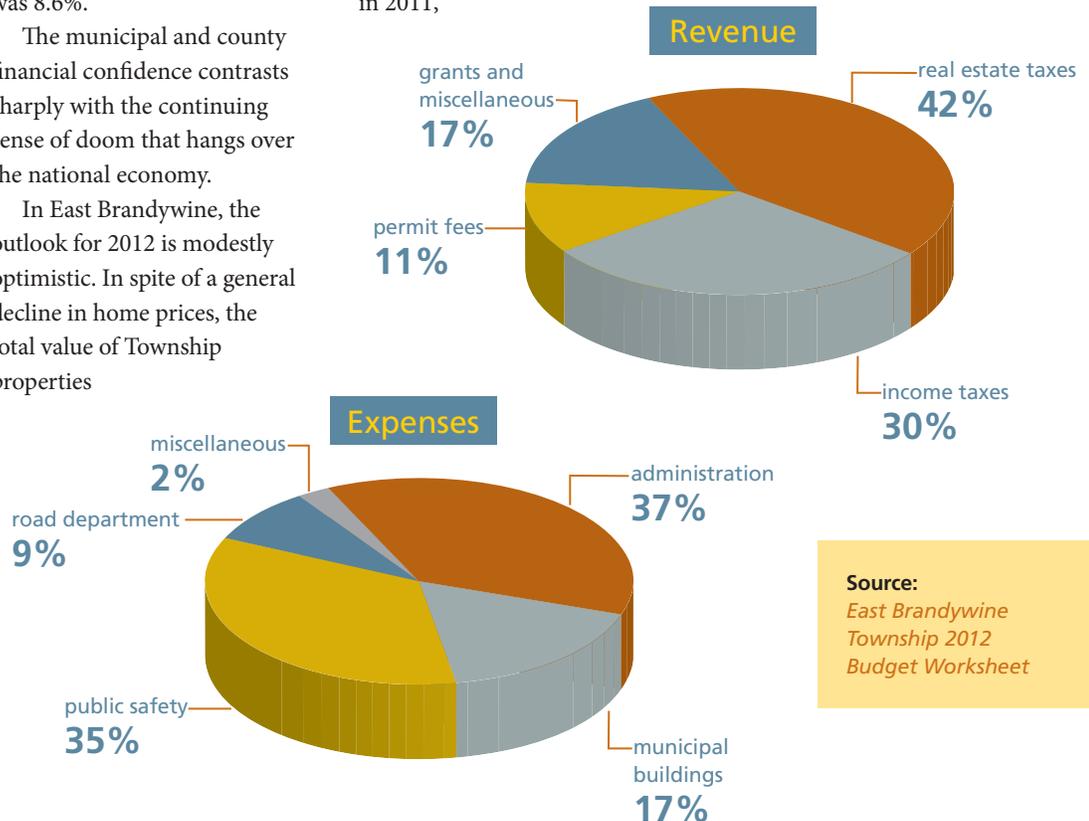
In East Brandywine, the outlook for 2012 is modestly optimistic. In spite of a general decline in home prices, the total value of Township properties

increased from \$493.8 million in fall 2010 to \$516.5 million in fall 2011, according to state calculations—indicating that revenue from local property taxes, which accounts for almost a third of all annual revenues, will rise even without a change in the millage rate.

“Building permit fee income increased significantly in 2011,

primarily from the Applecross Country Club development,” Mr. Piersol told the Supervisors at their regular November meeting. “Revenue from permit fees is expected to continue to rise, with Southdown Homes’ Hideaway Farms project seeing some increased interest and

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Source:
East Brandywine
Township 2012
Budget Worksheet



Record Gift Collection For Troops Overseas

who, when & where

Township Board of Supervisors

CHAIRMAN
Jay G. Fischer, Esq.
VICE CHAIRMAN
Hudson L. Voltz, Esq.
MEMBER
Arnold Kring

Township Public Meetings

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
First Thursday at 7:30 a.m.
Third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
PLANNING COMMISSION
First Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
Second Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.

Public Committee Meetings

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Second Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Second Monday at 7:30 p.m.
ORDINANCE TASK FORCE
Fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
First Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Township Meetings held at the Township Building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike

Important Numbers

Fire and Ambulance 911
Police (emergency) 911
Police (non-emergency)..... 383-7000
Police Administration 269-4300
Township Administration .. 269-8230

Township Offices open M to F 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Telephone Staff Directory

Tax Collector, Patti Piersol
HOME OFFICE (610) 269-4054
HOME FAX (610) 269-2171

For all other staff members, call 269-8230 and press the extension.

- 200 Norann King, Building Dept.
- 201 Mary Beth Smedley, Secretary/Treasurer
- 203 Scott Piersol, Twp. Manager/EMC and Fire Marshal
- 204 Matthew VanLew, Roadmaster
- 100 Police Administration

Web Addresses

TOWNSHIP www.ebrandywine.org
POLICE www.ebtpd.org

Residents of East and West Brandywine opened wide their hearts and wallets to support the 2011 Operation Military Christmas. In all, they donated around 12,000 individual items to fill a record number of gift-laden stockings for troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Last fall's gathering of gifts, the fifth time for this event,

offered more drop-off points. The goal, said Sandy Moser, chief organizer of the event, was to fill 500 stockings, each with up to 16 items, but the response from the public pushed the total to a record 789. Saturday, Oct. 21, was the packing up day and a constant flow of volunteers went to work stuffing the stockings at the East Brandywine municipal building. Among the donated items: knit hats, magazines,

candy, powdered hot and cold drink mixes, hand sanitizers, paperback books, pens and US flags. As the stockings were being assembled, a group of children created a constant flow of handcrafted Christmas cards to be added to the packages.

Other young volunteers carried the filled stockings outside, assembling a gift line that stretched almost the length of the municipal building.



Record numbers of gift stockings for the troops were lined up outside the municipal building. They were shipped to Iraq and Afghanistan.



On hand to thank the volunteers for their efforts was U.S. Marine Corp. Staff Sgt. Kevin Heinle.



While some volunteers wrapped gifts, some young supporters prepared hand drawn Christmas cards to go in each stocking.

Good Signs

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another Southdown project, Hillendale, possibly starting later in 2012.”

At the December 21st Supervisors’ public meeting, Mr. Piersol reported revenues from all sources this year are expected to total \$5,170,955, with a year-end cash balance of \$195,300. Total projected expenses are \$5,078,854.

Public safety is by far the largest single expense item, likely to cost around \$1.76 million this year. The bulk of the spending is for the police department which will account for 34.5% of the Township’s annual budget, a lower percentage than in 2011.

Engineering fees for land development project reviews continue to be a significant expense. There’ll also be increased spending this year on road widening and repairs to Hadfield Road, Raleigh Drive and Wythe Drive, with the state bearing some of the cost. The Township has allocated \$276,725 as its share of the work, and state funds will add close to \$80,000.

Food Bank Celebrates Formal Opening

Need for Help Still Strong

Things may be going pretty well for some in Chester County but the Chester County Food Bank took advantage of the formal October dedication of its new East Brandywine headquarters to remind us that many County residents are in desperate need.

Phoebe Kitson, the Food Bank’s program manager, told the guests who showed up in force at an open house that the Food Bank provides emergency food to about 70,000 a year. She said that about one person in eight goes without a meal at least once a day.

Larry Welsch, the Food Bank’s executive director, underlined the organization’s vital role when he noted that “we believe the majority of Chester County residents are still unaware of the massive needs of our residents, many our



The headquarters in East Brandywine is the central base from where food shipments are made all over the County.

neighbors, who are going hungry on a regular basis.”

The dedication, timed to coincide with National Food Day on Oct. 24, included cooking demonstrations, tours of the facility and discussion of the Food Bank’s various programs.

The building, on Horseshoe Pike next to the municipal complex, was dedicated to Dr. Henry A. Jordan, a Chester County civic leader who died in April 2010. Its formal sign is now in place.

Milemarker

The Milemarker

Winter 2012
Volume 19, Number 1

Editor

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Design

Nina Pringle

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Downingtown, PA 19335-1153
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On the Move

The following real estate transactions took place between July and early December:

104 Aspen Drive	\$495,000
128 Aspen Drive	\$570,000
136 Bolero Drive.....	\$290,000
333 Brookside Drive	\$219,000
461 Brookside Drive	\$225,000
47 Butterworth Court.....	\$480,000
107 Chapel Court	\$246,000
405 Corner Ketch Road	\$125,000
59 Emma Court.....	\$610,000

116 Governors Circle	\$315,000	140 Randolph Drive	\$511,541
402 Hopewell Road	\$202,000	502 Rock Raymond Road	\$ 70,000
492 Hopewell Road	\$444,800	116 Trego Lane	\$559,000
250 Jefferies Road.....	\$260,000	13 Windemere Court	\$192,000
325 Jefferies Road.....	\$650,000	41 Yellow Wood Drive	\$230,000
10 Kestrel Drive	\$750,000	47 Yellow Wood Drive	\$210,000
131 Lenora Lane	\$330,500	54 Yellow Wood Drive	\$200,000
205 Montpelier Drive	\$435,000		
1491 North Bailey Road	\$365,000		
380 North Buck Road.....	\$600,000		
209 North Caldwell Circle	\$330,000		
60 Ponds Edge Drive	\$202,000		
133 Randolph Drive	\$541,086		
139 Randolph Drive	\$508,250		

Source:

Weichert Realtors,
West Chester

Two Park & Rec Veterans Retire and Look Back at Building a Township Gem

Two veterans of the Township parks system, Jimm Worrell and Ed Cooney, have decided to step down as officers of the Parks & Recreation Board at the end of 2011 after serving since 1990, when the Board was created.

“The Brown family, who owned a farm on Dilworth Road, approached the Township and asked if the community would like to buy some of the land,” recalls Mr. Worrell. “The Township agreed to buy 10 acres.” The agreement said that it could later buy more. And this was the beginning of today’s Community Park, which extended to today’s 60-plus acres in two further steps.

At the time, the Township already owned two parks: Spatola Park on Raleigh Drive, and Hopewell Field on Township Road. With the addition of a third park, the Township decided it needed a separate body to oversee all three, and so the Park & Rec Board came into being with an initial eight members. Within a couple of months, Mr. Worrell was elected chairman, and a few months later Mr. Cooney was chosen as secretary, positions they held until their retirement.

The Board has no budget of its own; when it needs money, it turns to the Township for support. “They never turn us

down,” says Mr. Worrell, “but we never get the money right away.” Indeed, he adds, the Board’s relations with the Township always have been very good.

The issue is that there is not always a steady source of funds devoted exclusively to Park & Rec’s needs. Board members from time to time have discussed the idea of asking for a local tax that would yield steady income, but the idea never has gone beyond the talking stage. Thus, while some local municipalities have been able to develop a park from start to finish in two to three years, thanks to such a tax, East Brandywine residents have seen Community Park develop over two decades. The final two goals, at least for now, are to have a new pavilion constructed between the two new baseball fields, and waterless washrooms shared by Phases I and III of the Park. Dallas Krapf last year donated \$25,000 to pay for the pavilion that, hopefully, will be built this year. Mr. Cooney thinks it might be attractive to create two or three picnic nooks in the woods at the north boundary of the Park.

Park & Rec has tried various fund-raising activities. It runs an annual golf outing. It sells small models of local landmarks. It organized a 5K run for a couple of years. It held auctions and sold T-shirts. And it has its annual Family Day in the Park—but there is no entrance fee and



Mr. Cooney, left, and Mr. Worrell stand next a copy of the Official Township Map. The two Park & Rec veterans have very different backgrounds. Mr. Cooney is a long-time corporate man, working at the Chester County U.S. offices of Johnson Matthey, the British-based metallurgical firm. Mr. Worrell tried corporate life but didn’t much care for it. He’s been a pharmacy owner, real estate investor and limo driver, among other pursuits and now works for the Township’s Public Works department. But the two men do have an unusual common quirk: they both like to wear shorts, even on a day when the high temperature edged up only to 46°.

potential income from vendor stalls has been washed away in too many dramatic rainouts. “It seems much of our time is spent writing grant requests,” says Mr. Cooney.

While it has taken a long time to develop, the Community Park is known as a local jewel among neighboring communities. Many of them in the past used school properties for recreation activities, but then the schools, faced with high liability insurance costs, closed their gates to outsiders. Now there is such demand for the soccer and baseball fields that the Township recently

enacted an ordinance determining priorities for their use and a fee schedule.

East Brandywine Youth Athletics has the first call on the facilities. In return, its members handle seeding and other maintenance for the playing fields. “We have a good relationship with EBYA” says Mr. Worrell.

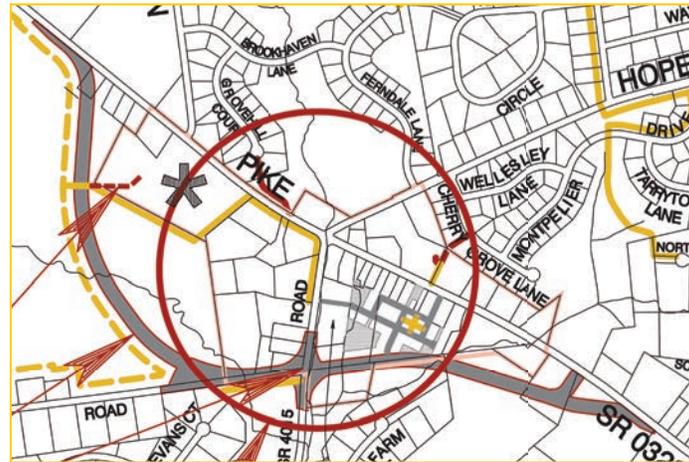
The Township’s newest park, the Bondsville Mill Park, is still being run and developed by its own committee. Mr. Worrell is Park & Rec’s liaison to the committee. It’s not clear yet, but it seems that in time the Board will

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New Official Map Puts Focus on Trails and Guthriesville

The new Township Official Map, which charts all existing roads and properties, and new subdivisions already under construction or for which plans have been approved, has been reviewed and approved by Chester County authorities, and adopted by the Township at its October 19, 2011 public meeting. The previous revision to the map occurred in 1990.

The subdivisions include Applecross Country Club, Hide-Away Farm on Little Washington Road, and the proposed Hillendale project on Creek Road. The map also shows the proposed



Building the new loop road around Guthriesville's core will help commercial activity within the village. The Official Map shows a series of pedestrian and auto links in the area.

loop road around Guthriesville and the suggested new network of roads within the Village

of Guthriesville. In addition, it shows the entire proposed pedestrian trail system that the

Township hopes will eventually link almost all areas of the community.

The loop road configuration and one section of the trail system that stretches across the Township from Spatola Park to the banks of the east branch of the Brandywine and the Struble Trail are shown here.

The full map may be viewed on the Township Web site. A blown up version is available in the municipal building's main meeting room and can be seen by anyone attending the regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors or the Planning Commission.



Eventually, the trail system could link all sections of the Township. One key element is the series of trails (shown here) linking Spatola Park with Creek Road on the other side of the Township. There will be easy access to the Struble Trail. Some sections of the trail network are on public roads.

Park & Rec

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take over supervision of all four Township parks. Mr. Cooney and Mr. Worrell feel quite strongly that Bondsville should be a place for passive entertain-

ment, walking, bird watching and picnicking.

Along with some of the other old hands who've been with Park & Rec since its beginning—including David Summers and Sandy Lammey—the new retirees had a lot of down and dirty

work to do in the early days. They leveled the first two soccer fields and built the original walking trails on their hands and knees.

The reasons to leave? Says Mr. Cooney: "I've been on the Board for 21 years. It's time to

bring in new blood." Says Mr. Worrell: "It's time to quit. We need replacements, people with new and different ideas."

Any resident who wants to take up the challenge should get in touch with the Township.

NEW SUPERVISOR ARNIE KRING SUGGESTS WHERE HE MAY DIRECT HIS ATTENTION

ARNIE KRING, elected to the Board of Supervisors last November, is a former principal in the Coatesville School District, served 10 years as a Commissioner in Caln Township, was a long-time Realtor with Century 21 and has lived in East Brandywine since 2007. He took office in January, replacing David Kirkner who was on the Board for 10 years.

The new Supervisor is well aware of the Township's explosive growth, particularly over the past decade. "A township needs to keep the best possible balance between residential, commercial development and open space, and it has happened here," Mr. Krings says. "We must not forget the past. But we must look and plan for the future. The expression I've heard on occasion—'Now that we're here, let's keep everyone else out'—does not plan for the future and is unrealistic."

Mr. Krings says he'd favor a housing development for 55-plus residents, a community that brings in local tax revenue and added dollars for the school district while adding no new students to the system. "Commercial development will come as residential development expands; local businesses need customers who live and shop locally," adds Mr. Krings. "Personally, I would like to see a family restaurant in our Township."

Development of any kind naturally brings up zoning.

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Historical Commission Has Sharp New Website

The Township's Historical Commission has created a new Website to supply information more directly to the Township's residents regarding historical issues. Visit the site to view the Commission's background and purpose, highlights of its work and historic resources in East Brandywine Township. You also can view meeting minutes, the ordinance on historic resources and many resources for researching historic properties.

To reach the Website, go to the Township's site at ebrandywine.org, then click on the Historical Commission link in the upper part of the page, then click on the link at the corner of that page. The Commission welcomes donations of historical informa-



tion concerning the region and the Township. To donate scans of historic images and documents, contact member Katherine Prammer, the Website designer and manager, at ebtwp@brandywine.org c/o Historical Commission.

open positions

THERE ARE TWO open seats on the East Brandywine Historical Commission, which is a volunteer, advisory board for the Board of Supervisors. A Commission spokesman notes, "We are looking for people with a strong interest in doing research on historic properties in the Township. Members also are tasked with a broad range of duties, including survey and research, review of demolition permits affecting historic resources, publishing books and brochures, and maintaining official historic resource maps and archives."

The Commission holds public meetings at the Township Building on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Information about the Commission can be found on its Website. For more information, contact Commission members John Black (610 648-4082) or Jim Buczala (jpbuczala@comcast.net).



East Brandywine is home to some truly historic homes. These pictures, taken by Jim Buczala of the Historical Commission, feature some local historic structures.

Arnie Kring

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Here, Mr. Kring has definite views. “What we perceive as township interference in our own backyard sometimes disturbs residents, including me,” he says. “Now that we are no longer an agricultural community, and are living closer and closer together, the Township needs some zoning rules and regulations which allow us to live together more harmoniously. Zoning regulates residential, commercial, industrial and institutional districts. Each area has its own purpose and unique features and requirements. Sometimes these zoning ‘rules’ seem too restrictive, and I will be the first to voice my opinion when I think so.”

East Brandywine sells nothing other than service, paid for by resident taxes, notes Mr. Kring. “Therefore,” he says, “we must monitor our finances carefully. Our Township needs to be as transparent and frugal as possible in its spending. However, what it boils down to is that we certainly need each other. As a newly-elected Township supervisor, I hope to make decisions in the best interest of all the residents, knowing full well that ‘One can please all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time but it is basically impossible to please all of the people all of the time.’”

In addition to his other personal and professional accomplishments, Mr. Kring has been a member of the Hopewell United Methodist Church for 52 years and is a past president and current board member of the Brandywine Y.

Oh Say Can You See or Better Yet, Can You Read?

An unusual number of Township residents—and, officials suspect, out-of-township residents—appear to have a cardboard problem. There are two issues.

The first concerns people who drop off cardboard for recycling in the container at the Township building. Inside the door of the container for cardboard is a large, clear sign urging those using the facility to break down any boxes

before adding them to the pile. Yet week after week, the container is clogged with boxes in their original space-consuming shape. So, a message to those who don’t like reading instructions or who don’t care to: please flatten all boxes!

The other issue concerns residents who, come garbage pickup day, put out a load of cardboard along with their garbage and recycling bins. The collection crews toss this cardboard into their trucks; they do not try to add them to the recycling port. This,

in turn, leads to two problems.

First, more material is sent to the dump and the Township’s fee is adjusted to reflect the weight. Second, had the cardboard been taken to the container at the Township, it would have gone to the recycler, meaning the Township gets paid for the added material.

One final point: the cardboard that can be recycled is the heavy, corrugated material used in packing. Thin material, such as a cereal box, does not qualify and should go into the regular curbside recycling bin.



The pictures tell the story: the message asks users to flatten boxes. Obviously many people don’t get the message.

Brownies Say Thank You With a Brick for the Park

GIRL SCOUTS FROM Brownie Troop 04431 donated a brick—to be placed in the Memorial Park path in the Community Park—to the Board of Supervisors. Shown here are four of the Brownies (from left to right) Anna Newlin, Teigan Brown, Rosie Byrne and Fiona Holm presenting the brick to then Board Chairman David Kirkner.

The Troop, with 20 second- and third-grade girls, meets in the Township Building and their leader Amanda Cushman Holm said “they are thankful for this wonderful meeting location and wanted to give something back to the community. The girls love going to the Community Park and liked the idea of buying the brick.”



The brick is now in place.

Mark Your Calendar

✓ **Downingtown Library**

Garden Tour

The Downingtown Library is now planning its 2012 Garden Tour, to be held in the late spring. If you have a garden you'd like to share, or if you know someone who does, call Karen Miller at the library (610) 269-2741. No garden is too small.

✓ **The Park & Rec Board**

Bus Trip to the Reading Royals Ice Hockey Game

Sunday, Feb. 26

Game time: 4:05. Join us for a fun day as we depart from the Township

Building at 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$18.75. The price includes ticket, bus transportation, Slapshot Pin giveaway (first 1,000 kids, 12 & under), IMAX ticket giveaway, \$1 hot dogs, soda, popcorn and nachos, and a post-game autograph session. Email salammey@aol.com for information or tickets.

Eastern Bluebird Nature Presentation

Event will be held in March in the main auditorium of the Township Building. Learn about these beautiful birds that love our Community Park and win a bluebird house for your home. Date to be announced—watch for details on the Township web site.

Trip to a Reading Phillies Baseball Game

Coming this summer. Date to be announced—watch for details on the Township web site.

Family Day 2012

Saturday, Aug. 25 (rain rate Aug. 26)

Crafters and vendors always welcomed. See the Township website for information.

✓ **Shredding & Recycling**

Shredding Event

Saturday, April 14

A shredding event to get rid of old financial, personal and other unwanted records will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Kohl's shopping center parking lot near the Ace Hardware store on Business Route 30 in Thorndale. Scouts from Hopewell Troop 8 will be on hand to help move material to the shredding vehicles;

other volunteer helpers are welcome.

As at last year's event, DNB First will sponsor one shredding vehicle; the six participating municipalities are seeking another corporate sponsor for a second one that is being brought in because the 2011 shredding was so hugely successful.

Electronics Recycling

Friday, April 27

In a new move, the Township will host an electronics recycling event at the municipal building on Friday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The goods covered include computers and any appliance or equipment with an attached electric cord. For additional information, check with Nancy Fromnick, the Chester County Recycling Coordinator at (610) 273-3771, ext. 226, or on the Township web site.

WWW.EBRANDYWINE.ORG