

THE Milemarker

[EAST BRANDYWINE TOWNSHIP]

fall 2012

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Family Day Brings Out Crowds



Young riders racing along the Park trails added colorful decorations to their bikes during Family Day in the Park on Saturday June 25th. Story and more pictures on page 2.

2012 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Township Weathers Fiscal Storms But Tough Challenges Lie Ahead

By Jay Fischer
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

It is undisputable that the last few years have been extremely difficult for many individuals, businesses and certainly many governmental units. East Brandywine Township has weathered this period of economic difficulty without adversely affecting the services provided to our residents. Our Township Manager, Scott Piersol, and our entire staff are to be commended. In each of the past few years they have been challenged to do more with

less and have done so in an exemplary manner.

We have not only been able to maintain all our services but we have also improved our bond rating to A2. This rating will reduce the cost of any future borrowing and may enable us to realize substantial savings by refinancing our outstanding bonds.

However, the Board of Supervisors must be vigilant in the future. There are a number of dark clouds on the horizon that are creating significant challenges.

For instance, the Township is under a state mandate to adopt a Stormwater Management Plan

to significantly reduce pollution of our streams. Although this is a worthy goal, achieving the mandated reduction in pollution will require significant expenditures of our very limited funds and present difficult legal issues. Many of the stormwater facilities constructed in the past are on privately owned land. The Township has no legal right to enter private property to upgrade these facilities.

As our Township grows, we have an increasing need for police services. The Police Department does an excellent job patrolling

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open at last

For any motorists trying to get from East Brandywine to Eagle, it was a long, frustrating spring and summer as PennDOT undertook major repairs and improvements on the historic bridge which links Little Washington and Marshall Roads—and indeed provides access along Little Washington Road to Lyndell.

The final barriers came down in late August, well in time for school busses and to the relief of regular commuters and other users. The bridge's historic footprint is well preserved and the road was widened somewhat to provide an easier and safer ride.



Family Day Brings Out Crowds for a Busy, Fun-Filled Event

who, when & where

Township Board of Supervisors

CHAIRMAN
Jay G. Fischer, Esq.

VICE CHAIRMAN
Hudson L. Voltz, Esq.

MEMBER
Arnold Krings

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
Third 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

Fire/Ambulance/Police

Fire and Ambulance 911
Police (emergency) 911
Police (non-emerg)...(610) 383-7000
Police Admin.....(610) 269-4300

Township Staff Directory

HOURS: M-F, 9 A.M.-NOON AND 1-5 P.M.
Dial (610) 269-8230. Press the extension.
200 Norann King, Building Dept.
201 Mary Beth Smedley, Secretary/Treasurer
203 Scott Piersol, Township Manager/ EMC and Fire Marshal
204 Matthew VanLew, Roadmaster
100 Police Administration
Tax Collector, Patti Piersol
HOME OFFICE (610) 269-4054
HOME FAX (610) 269-2171

Tax Information

County Taxes(610) 344-6361
Tax Claim Office(610) 344-6360
Assessment Office....(610) 344-6105
EIT & LST(610) 269-4402
School Taxes.....1 (866) 300-1714

Web Addresses

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

The Park & Recreation Board staged a very successful Family Day in the Park on Saturday June 25th with an estimated attendance of more than 1,000 and a wide variety of exhibitors.

Visitors began streaming into Community Park well before the official 2 p.m. opening. The kick-off Bike Parade offered a cheery start to the proceedings as a host of bikers—mostly young and often colorfully decorated—took a loop ride along the park trails with LuLu Shriners Clowns zipping in and out on their mini motor bikes.

In all, Park & Rec organized 26 different activities and events, attracted 32 crafters/

vendors offering everything from gifts items to medical advice to haircuts. Also on display were some 40 antique cars.

Among the more unusual events were invigorating bagpipe and drumming presentations by Keith Sutherland and his sons, members of the Washington Memorial Pipe Band of Wayne, PA, magic shows, hay and pony rides and a brief “charge” by members of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry Company “B”—Harlan’s Light Brigade.



Lulu Shiner Clowns zipped through the crowds on their mini motor bikes.

Call to Township Seniors: Let's Stand Up Together

Conversations between two East Brandywine seniors about the challenges of aging in their own homes, and the deep desire to continue to do so, has prompted them to put out a call to all Township seniors with similar desires to get together and talk about the issue and how best to deal with it.

The meeting will be held on Thursday November 29th in McCausland Hall at the Township building, starting at 7 p.m.

The women behind the idea, Judy Moser and Carolee Risk, both are committed to creation of a supportive resource for local seniors.

Ms. Moser, an avid gardener, found she couldn't do as much as she used to or as quickly. That led her to the idea of compiling a list of contractors and other resources who would charge seniors reasonable rates in exchange for a listing as a recommended resource. This then led her and her friend Ms. Risk to the idea of bringing seniors together to discuss such a project and, possibly, form work groups to explore other areas for cooperation.

Ms. Moser was a social worker with the Veterans' Administration for 25 years. In retirement, she has a private psychotherapy practice in Downingtown. She has researched various groups that offer help and advice to seniors and will have literature on hand for the November 29th meeting.

Ms. Risk is a semi-retired drug and alcohol therapist specializing in anger management and depression.

Ms. Moser can be reached at Judith.Moser@verizon.net.

No TVs or Computers in Trash After January 1

The Chester County Recycling Coordinator informed municipalities that after January 1, 2013, no one may dispose of a desktop or notebook computer or their components or any TV sets in the trash. The Coordinator refers these items as "covered devices or their components."

Trash haulers have been told not to pick up these items after January 1.

Anyone who wants to dispose of such items should do so at a household hazardous waste collection event. Next year's dates and locations for such events will be announced later.

In Memory of Aidan

A CAMPAIGN TO HELP OTHERS

Two years ago, on Sept. 4, 2010, Aidan Silva died of sudden cardiac arrest at the age of 7. His parents, Steve and Christy, mourned his death deeply—and decided to take any steps they could to prevent other children from falling victim to this often unexplainable killer.

Their newest effort, unveiled at the Family Day in the Park, is to install automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in as many community settings as possible. In a cooperative move with East Brandywine Youth Athletics, the Township Park and Recreation Board and other Township officials, two AEDs will be mounted in climate-controlled boxes at Community Park and one each at Spatola Park and Hopewell Field. Said Mr. Silva: "CPR alone gives a less than 5% chance of survival until the paramedics arrive. But the use of AED increases those chances to 74%. A dramatic difference, right?"

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) affects children disproportionately. The Silvas' research revealed that it kills 16 children a day, nationwide. It's caused by an electrical malfunction in the heart and may have many causes—some generic, some virus-induced and some apparently totally random and unexplainable—as was the case with Aidan Silva.

To bring greater awareness of SCA, the Silvas already have an impressive record. They started the 5K for Aidan J. Run and Family Walk event on the Struble Trail and have raised more than \$80,000 with the venture. Last year, their efforts led to the screening of more than 500 kids at Downingtown West High School.

Mr. Silva concluded his story at the Family Day outing with this comment: "It's folly to think that Aidan will be the only child from East Brandywine to be affected. Let's work together to be sure that if it does happen [here], we're ready to do what it takes to keep our kids with us for a long, long time."



A Deer of a Different Color

Cindie Aubert saw something very unusual when she was out on Aspen Drive with her camera shortly after noon on August 22nd. "I don't know what you call this deer—calico or albino," she told the Mile-marker. "But it sure is beautiful." Anyone else see anything like this? Let us know.

Bondsville Mill Park on a Roll

EXPANDING AND SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Even before it opens for its first visitors, the 25-acre Bondsville Mill Park is likely to nearly double in size. The Township is in final negotiations for the purchase of the next-door Rothman property—now renamed the Hearthstone property—and hopes to conclude the deal before the end of the year. The National Lands Trust is coordinating the sale of 21.8 acres of the tract to the Township. Charles and Roger Stone will purchase the remaining 10 acres, including the original home, barn and other structures that the Stones plan to restore, and subject to a conservation easement on this land, administered by Natural Lands Trust, and a trail easement along Bondsville Road.

It's now about nine years since the idea of acquiring the derelict old Bondsville Mill was born.

About seven of the acres to be acquired by the Township contain a portion of the pond that comes close to Bondsville Road where it bends southwards towards Thorndale. Access to the pond is part of the future Township plans.

The Township's cost for the acquisition is about \$630,000. The Chester County Commissioners have agreed to provide a \$189,000 grant and the state

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is considering a request for a grant of \$291,550. The Township will use open space funds to finance the balance of this purchase.

The Bondsville Mill Park Committee is continuing to plan grant applications for submission to various organizations. Eleanor Buczala, a committee member, is in charge of the applications.

The Park Committee is continuing its plea for contributions from citizens and businesses to pay for various projects currently underway. Ben Bruton of Bruton Financial Partners LLC, chairman of the committee's fundraising and financial group, will be happy to receive donations and answer questions. He can be reached at (610) 518-3900 or by e-mail at bcbruton@brutonfinancial.com.

To encourage more financial support, the Township expects to soon complete the final steps to create the East Brandywine Foundation Inc., a non-profit charitable organization. It awaits final approval by the Internal Revenue Service, hopefully by this fall. Once it is operational, individuals and businesses will be able to make tax-deductible contributions to help fund any Township park project, including, of course, the Bondsville Mill Park project.



Donald Leong, a Township resident and retired advertising and marketing professional, researched and developed the Bondsville Mill Park logo.

The Committee plans to develop a priced "wish list" of needed equipment, plants, signs, benches and trail markers, etc., and donors may contribute funds for specific items and be acknowledged in the future Visitor Center. The list will be posted on the Township website, www.ebrandywine.org.

There's also a continuing need for people to clear and dispose of debris and invasive plants, catalog native plants and establish trails. Those who want to volunteer should contact the new volunteer coordinator, Deke Inslee, at (610) 269-6389 or by e-mail at inslee407@msn.com.

Sandy Moser, landscaping chair, is planning a 25 by 150 ft. native plant garden at the Park. Once it's designed, Ms. Moser will need volunteers to help with the installation. She can be reached at (610) 269-8124. There's also going to be outreach to local students. East Brandywine resident and Downingtown West High School teacher Shelley Francies has invited local high school students to help with the garden as part of their required community gradua-

tion project. She has offered to oversee any student work.

It's now about nine years since the idea of acquiring the derelict old Bondsville Mill was born. It came from Carl Walker, then a member of the Open Space Committee, and he never gave up on the plan to turn the acreage into a passive recreation park, in spite of the many steps that had to be taken to turn a goal into a reality. His advocacy and research guided the early period of the acquisition process.

Since then Mr. Walker and three colleagues—Deke Inslee, Arne Jensen and Don Leong—have together contributed more than 3,000 volunteer hours stabilizing buildings and removing debris from the park. Don Leong made another special contribution: he designed the park's new logo.

The Bondsville Mill Park Committee now has a new leader. Gerry Kirkpatrick, Chairman since 2007, resigned from this position, citing an increasingly heavy workload in his day job. David Kirkner, a former member of the Township Board of Supervisors, succeeds him.

Police Officers Go Full Time

District Judge Jeffrey J. Valocchi swore in three East Brandywine Police Department officers. All have been serving part time and became full-time officers in July. They are (from top): **Officer John Hayes** with his mother and sister, both of whom are named Felicia. **Officer Jeremy Lanza** with his fiancée Alyssa. **Officer Jeff Yankanich** with his wife Dallas.



Cheers for Baseball Team

The Board of Supervisors honored the EBYA 9U Bulls baseball team at its regular public meeting held on September 19th. Guided by Coach Todd Rupp, the youngsters won the Cal Ripken Northeast PA Championship on June 17th. The team then went on to the Middle Atlantic Tournament in New Jersey where they faced champions from New York, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey. The Bulls reached the semi-finals.

Township Manager Scott Piersol arranged certificates honoring each player and coach, and Coach Rupp presented them at the Board meeting. A full array of parents and supporters was on hand to applaud and take pictures.

Township Police Officers Honored

FOR HANDLING CRIMES AND CRISES

Police Chief Mark Kocsi praised seven East Brandywine police officers for outstanding performance and all received department commendations.

Hit and run

Police were called the night of Feb. 5, 2011 to an accident in the 800 block of Horseshoe Pike. They found an “horrific” crash scene involving a car and a motorcycle with debris scattered over a 100-yard section of the highway and a critically injured bike rider. The driver of the car had fled the scene.

Officers involved:

Lieutenant Gene Babetski, Corporal Mark Twaddell, and Officers Steve Tyree, Daniel Orris and John Hayes. They were joined by personnel from the Chester County Serious Crash Accident Team, Chester County Detectives and the Chester County District Attorney’s office.

Police called for medical assistance and an ambulance took the injured man, Michael Orsini, to the hospital. He died shortly afterwards.

A five-day around-the-clock investigation and manhunt led to the arrest of the hit-and-run driver whose car hit and killed Mr. Orsini and to a full confession for the crime. The driver of the car, Michael Bristow, was charged with homicide by vehicle, aggravated assault, driving while under the influence and a number of related charges. He later received a lengthy jail sentence.

Chainsaw thefts

A series of chainsaw thefts in April, 2012 distressed residents in the Tunbridge housing development. They reported seeing suspects entering sheds and garages and stealing different makes of chainsaws.

Officer involved:

Officer Beau Shephard.

Officer Shephard developed information that the saws were being taken to American Cash Traders in Thorndale. He interviewed the owner and obtained video surveillance of the suspect, discovered that the suspect had been bringing saws and other equipment to the store since January. More investigation turned up the suspect’s name and address, the names of more victims and a confession linking the suspect to about 16 different thefts. He was arrested and charged with theft, receiving stolen property and related charges.

Home improvement scams

Police learned that a contractor using the trade name “CamoCrete” was enticing residents to sign up for home improvements but, after taking deposits, the contractor did not arrive to do the work.

Officer involved:

Lieutenant Gene Babetski.

Lieutenant Babetski began an investigation and found out that the company was deceiving many homeowners not only in East Brandywine but in many other communities in Chester and Montgomery Counties. He led a team of investigators from both state and local agencies, and coordinated charges against the company owner, Richard Camaroto, who was charged with numerous offenses.

Mr. Camaroto entered a plea agreement, pleading guilty to 13 counts of home improvement fraud. He was sentenced to 18 to 36 months in prison and ordered to make restitution.

Campus thefts

Police received reports of a series of thefts from vehicles at the local Delaware County Community College campus. The break-ins occurred

in the summer of 2011 and the suspect(s) were taking credit cards and using them in the surrounding area to make illegal purchases.

Officer involved:

Officer Daniel Orris.

Officer Orris’s investigation led to the identification of three suspects who had committed at least 13 thefts in more than a dozen neighboring communities. He coordinated his work with officials in the affected jurisdictions and with the Chester County District Attorney’s office. The suspects were arrested and charged with multiple counts of thefts, receiving stolen property, identify theft and related charges.

Suicide prevention

Police received a call asking them to check on the well-being of an individual at the Brandywine Creek Campground.

Officers involved:

Officers Steve Tyree and Jeff Yankanich.

The officers responded to the campground, determined that the individual’s vehicle and trailer were there, but were unable to contact him. Officer Yankanich contacted the subject’s family who told him that if the vehicle and trailer were there, then the subject should be, too. The officers began a more thorough search of the area and found the subject in the rear of his van in serious condition, bleeding “profusely” from self-inflicted knife wounds.

Officer Tyree, also an Emergency Medical Technician, immediately applied trauma dressings to control the bleeding until additional medical help arrived. The subject was taken to Paoli Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery—and survived.

Proposed Apartment Complex Would Exceed Local Height Limit

Marc Kaplin, attorney for Bolis Properties of King of Prussia, presented the Planning Commission with a “concept” plan for Applevue Apartments, a complex to be located on the Watters farm, just west of the Brandywine Village Shopping Center. It would contain about 205 units in eight cluster buildings with a principal entrance/

exit on to Horseshoe Pike and an emergency exit to North Guthriesville Road.

Much of the discussion on the plan was centered on the height of the proposed three-story buildings—up to 50 ft. Township zoning limits the height of such buildings to 35 ft. but Mr. Kaplin indicated that their peaked roofs would exceed that limit and said that if the



An artist's plan for the proposed apartment complex.

developer had to obey the 35-ft. rule the buildings would have to have flat roofs with rooftop utilities clearly visible from the highway. He said the buildings had to be three stories because

that is the style of building the housing market can absorb.

Chairman Bruce Rawlings said the next step would be for the Ordinance Task Force to discuss the plan.

To Win Eagle Scout Honors



Zach Voltz and his father Hudson Voltz at the War Memorial site.

One enduring landmark at the entrance of the Bondsville Mill Park—the World War II memorial to mill workers who fought in the war—is undergoing a major overhaul. Eighteen-year-old Zach Voltz is handling the project to win his Eagle Scout honors.

The work involves cleaning and painting the flag pole that stands behind the memorial, installing a solar light on the pole, cutting overhanging branches and clearing underbrush, power washing the memorial and fixing the masonry, putting in a couple of picnic benches—and then providing maintenance for a full year.

As befits a capable and savvy Boy Scout, Zach tapped some useful sources to help get the job underway. He recruited (maybe with help from his father, Hudson Voltz, Vice Chairman of the Township Board of Supervisors) Asplundh Tree Co. to volunteer a driver and truck to cut high branches, paint the pole and install the solar light. He persuaded Bill Finch, President of Township-based Alternative Energy Inc., to provide the solar light, one that retails for around \$700. And he persuaded “friends and neighbors” to come up with close to \$1,000 in cold cash to finance the work.

Collins & Aikman, then owners of the mill, built the memorial. The mill finally closed in the 1950s.

open space scores another

After long negotiations, the Township has acquired a conservation easement on the 11-acre Winship property on Dowlin Forge Road. The move, steadily pursued by the Open Space Committee, provides a vital link in the proposed trail that would run the length of Dowlin Forge Road and give access to the Struble Trail. The National Lands Trust played a major role in the transaction,

The total acquisition cost was \$220,690, funded by open space monies.

Another Step for Michelangelo's

Plans to have residents vote on Michelangelo's restaurant's wish to serve alcohol moved a step ahead at the July regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Neil Stein, attorney for the restaurant, made a formal request to the Board to include the issue on the May, 2013 primary. Paperwork must be filed 13 weeks in advance of the municipal election, including a petition signed by at least 25% of registered voters from the last election. More than 460 residents gave their support to the idea in a petition filed by the restaurant with the Township last year.

Mr. Stein said Michelangelo's will apply for an "R" license. To qualify, the restaurant must be reputable, regularly serve food to the public, not be less than 400 sq. ft., have tables and chairs and accommodate at least 30 people. Off-site consumption is not allowed, though patrons may take home an unfinished bottle of wine if it's resealed.

The Board said it would have the Township Solicitor review the issue.

Township Weathers Fiscal Storms

2012 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

(continued from page 1)

our Township and responding to our residents' needs. However, current staffing levels rarely afford Chief Kocsi the personnel necessary to do the type of activities we would like performed to prevent or discourage illegal activity.

The Chief and Township Manager are also keeping a close eye on other State and County initiatives to pass other operational costs on to the Police Department and Township. These include an increase in the per/person holding cell fees through the use of the City of Coatesville facility, recouping the increased costs from residents for the Emergency 911 Center, and the possible future cost sharing of the Emergency Services radio and dispatch system upgrades for Police, Fire and EMS. The Township recognizes the fact that we may have to

share in the costs of these projects and services, but maintaining a voice in these processes will be important going forward.

Unfortunately, we have had to defer several capital projects, including road improvement projects and repair or replacement of aging equipment during the past 4 years. Our wish list is long and varied, but cannot be addressed without additional revenues.

The Board of Supervisors and Township staff have worked very hard to avoid any increase in the tax burden of our residents and business owners, and will continue to do so. The Township has taken prudent steps over the past few years to manage both non-uniform and police pension plans through the uncertain financial times. Neither plan appears to raise any significant cause for concern at this time.

The future of East Brandywine Township is still very bright. We have acquired significant open space, through easements and outright purchases, and will continue to do so. These acquisitions will ensure we continue to enjoy one of the significant characteristics of our Township—open and natural vistas in perpetuity. In conjunction with this program, we are assembling the necessary easements for a user-friendly trail network throughout the Township. Our Ordinance Task Force and Planning Commission are working on an exciting plan for the future of the Village of Guthriesville.

I feel very blessed to live in a very picturesque community, with a dedicated professional staff and a pool of volunteers willing to commit the time, energy and skills to making our Township an even better place to live and work.

Planning Commission Views Plans for Village Indoor Soccer Clinic

Robert and Joan McCue, who own almost seven acres in the Village of Guthriesville, want to open an indoor soccer training clinic in a 6,000-plus sq. ft. warehouse behind their residence on Horseshoe Pike. Mr. McCue used the building in his contracting business, but no longer needs the space. The facility would operate seven days a week with hours from 4 to 10 p. m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to

5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Students would be between the ages of 6 and 18 with a focus on those under 13. The maximum number of kids present at one time would be 16.

The McCues presented their plan at the September meeting of the Planning Commission—and met an immediate barrage of questions about the likely volume of traffic the clinic would generate and the difficulty patrons would

experience getting in and out of the facility on Horseshoe Pike—just about opposite Village Hardware—and especially at rush hour. Vice Chairman Sandy Moser pointed out that traffic often clogs up along that stretch of highway well before 4 p.m. The Commission's consensus was that the McCues should have a traffic study conducted before asking for further consideration of their plan.

Milemarker

The Milemarker
Fall 2012
Volume 19, Number 4

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**GOLF OUTING
RAISES \$10,000
FOR POLICE AND
FIREFIGHTERS**

Applecross Country Club's Justin Meyers presents a \$10,000 check to Assistant Fire Chief John Edwards and Police Chief Mark Kocsi. The cash was raised at the July 3rd East Brandywine Police and Fire Services Golf Outing. It was, in Chief Kocsi's words, "an awesome event." He singled out Applecross's outing coordinator, Linda Bowers, for special praise for her work in securing sponsors and vendors.

The 2013 outing will be held July 1. "We invite all our residents to come out and join us," says Chief Kocsi.

WWW.EBRANDYWINE.ORG

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