



THE East Brandywine MILEMARKER

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Summer 2003

Creek Road Is #1 For Traffic Accidents

Creek Road (Rte. 282), which twists and turns along the course of the east branch of the Brandywine Creek, is our most dangerous stretch of road. More than a third of all Township traffic accidents between September 2001 and June of this year occurred along this 4.2-mile strip within the township, according to records from the Brandywine Regional Police. The most dangerous spot, says Police Chief Mark Kocsi, is nicknamed "Deadman's Curve"—the nasty, hairpin curve between the intersections of Hopewell Road and Dowlin Forge Road.

Township Manager Scott Piersol, Police Chief Mark Kocsi and Representative Curt Schroder met with PENNDOT representatives April 4th to urge the Department to improve safety at this location and along

Rte. 282 in general, but so far have received a fairly muted response. Possible actions include rumble strips, better warning signs and reflective hazard markers. They're unlikely to show up any time soon.

Another one in five of all accidents occurred on Horseshoe Pike (Rte. 322), with trouble spots spread along the highway as it crosses the Township.

Bondsville Road, the third most accident-prone local highway, accounts for one in five of all reported accidents. Its worst danger point: the series of curves between East Reeceville Road and North Bailey Road.

Chief Mark Kocsi of the Brandywine Regional Police says speeding and inattentive drivers are to blame for most of the accidents.

Here's a Top Ten summary, based on almost 300 accident reports.

| Road/Highway | % Of All Accidents |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Creek Road (282) | 34.7% |
| Horseshoe Pike (322) | 22.2 |
| Bondsville Road | 9.1 |
| Hopewell Road | 5.0 |
| Rock Raymond Road | 4.7 |
| Dowlin Forge Road | 4.0 |
| Parking lots (various) | 4.0 |
| Little Washington Road | 3.3 |
| North Guthriesville Road | 2.3 |
| Marshall Road | 1.6 |

Who Gets Tickets, And Why

Just as Creek Road is the most hazardous local highway for motorists, speeding is the #1 reason for traffic

citations. A study of 2,000 plus citation reports filed by the Brandywine Regional Police from September 2001 to June 2003 shows that one in three tickets went to people exceeding the speed limit.

Failure to obey some other traffic signal—anything from running a red light to zipping through a stop sign without stopping to ignoring other posted signs (especially in front of the Brandywine/Wallace Elementary School on Dilworth Road)—resulted in another one fifth of citations. Here are the top five reasons for citations:

| Improper behavior | % of citations |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Speeding | 30% |
| Failing to obey signal | 20 |
| Expired inspection sticker | 11 |
| Expired registration | 3 |
| Driving with suspended license | 2 |

Citations for truck drivers are included in these figures. Local police keep close tabs on the many trucks that traverse Township roads, particularly Horseshoe Pike. In spring 2001, Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Pence told *The Milemarker* that police take off the road about one in six of all trucks stopped in the Township, primarily because of faulty brakes or because the driver had exceeded his daily time in service.

Drivers clearly have a few favorite stretches of highway where they like to speed. Horseshoe Pike seems to get the juices flowing. Our study of 22 months' of citations shows the straightaway past Sanner's Towing brings a lot of tickets; so does the section near Clearview and Raleigh Drives. But the big spot for speeding tickets starts near Corner Ketch

What's Hot At Blue Moon?



Blue Moon Florist, which plans to have its new building up and running on 322 near Corner Ketch Road by late October or early November, reports these best sellers for late spring, early summer. Ami Trost's list:

1. Fresh flower arrangements
2. Bunched flowers
3. Plants
4. Fruit and gourmet baskets
5. Corsages and boutonnieres

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Who, When & Where

Board of Supervisors

Hudson L. Voltz, Esq., Chairman
Jay G. Fischer, Esq., Vice Chairman
David A Kirkner, C.P.A., Member

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.

• Township Ordinance Force

Fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

All meetings in McCausland Hall,
1214 Horseshoe Pike.

Important Numbers

Fire and Ambulance 911

Police (emergency) 911

Police (non-emergency) 383-7000

Poison Control (215) 386-2100

Police Administration 269-4300

Police FAX 873-4550

Township Administration ... 269-8230

Township FAX 269-4157

email www.ebrandywine.org

Township Offices open

Monday to Friday,

9:00 a.m. to noon and

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Telephone Directory

The Township Directory is available from any touch-tone telephone 24 hours a day. Just call **269-8230** and press one of the extensions shown.

Township Staff Directory

4 Anne Taylor, Taxes (Voice-Mail)

5 Mary Beth Smedley,
Secretary/Treasurer

1104 Norann King, Building Dept.

6 Scott Piersol, Manager,
EMC and Fire Marshal

7 Matthew Vanlew, Roadmaster

8 Police Administration Office

Township Information Directory

1130 Curbside Trash

1131 Curbside Recycling

1132 Bulk Trash

1134 Leaf Collection and Xmas Trees

1135 Cardboard/Corrugated
Drop-off

1136 Motor Oil and Other Waste
Recycling Drop-off

1140 East Brandywine Youth Athletics

Subdivision News

High-end homes proposed on McCausland land

Gambone Brothers Development Co. submitted a sketch plan to the Planning Commission for about 20 homes priced from \$400,000 to \$700,000 on a McCausland tract between Route 322 and Corner Ketch Road, with access from Corner Ketch. Each lot would be about 1.5 acres.

The development will be located behind homes fronting on Route 322, and borders the new Hopewell subdivision. It might be extended to include two to three acres of the mixed-use McCausland land—the open space between Route 322 and Corner Ketch now clearly visible from both roads.

The Planning Commission is debating various aspects of the proposal. One question: should there be two rather than one access road. In a second appearance before the Commission, Gambone proposed a “boulevard” type entrance with both in and out lanes.

New on the landscape: Hurry Hill

Drivers on Route 322 near Buck Road can now see a sign for the new Hurry Hill Estates development, along with some early site preparation.

This project, originally identified as the McCahon development, will consist of six new homes with the existing farmstead on a seventh lot. Principal access to and from the 21-acre site will be on Rte 322, but two homes will have access from Heritage Court.

Campground gets preliminary OK

The new owners of the Brandywine Creek Campground along Creek Road in Lyndell won approval from the Board of

Supervisors, subject to ironing out some final details.

The facility, once known as Frank's Folly, is getting a major upgrade. It now will be open only seasonally, from April to October; the number of sites will drop from 94 to 56, there'll be new internal roads and a new tent camping area, an improved sewage system and, in time, a new office building and swimming pool. The owners say the new facility will have strict rules for guests that will include regulations on conduct and upkeep of campsites.

On The Move

The following real estate transactions took place between mid March and mid June 2003. All are multiple listings; private sales or sales directly by developers are not included.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 1504 N. Bailey Road | \$234,900 |
| 132 Brookfield Court | \$151,500 |
| 223 Brookside Drive | \$189,000 |
| 396 N. Buck Road | \$260,000 |
| 91 Canterbury Court | \$166,500 |
| 109 Cherry Grove Lane | \$371,067 |
| 390 Corner Ketch Road | \$108,000 |
| 420 Corner Ketch Road | \$184,900 |
| 117 Governors Circle | \$263,900 |
| 241 Hadfield Road | \$268,000 |
| 123 Holly Drive | \$294,000 |
| 1110 Hopewell Road | \$205,000 |
| 10 Kristin Circle | \$252,500 |
| 215 La Vida Via Drive | \$216,000 |
| 312 McFarland Drive | \$305,235 |
| 1206 Osborne Road | \$182,900 |
| Lot 1 Patterdale Place | \$349,900 |
| 118 Ridgewood Circle | \$236,900 |
| 520 Rock Raymond Rd. | \$216,000 |
| 129 Waring Drive | \$344,592 |
| 27 Wellesley Lane #109 | \$408,235 |
| 34 Wellesley Lane #58 | \$379,544 |
| 36 Wellesley Lane #59 | \$373,089 |
| 19 Windermere Court | \$159,000 |
| 103 Wooded Acres Lane | \$448,000 |
| 12 Wyndham Court | \$128,000 |

Source: Weichert Realtors, West Chester

East Brandywine Fire Company Chicken Bar-B-Ques

July 19 and September 20

Tickets are \$8.50 and are available from Fire Company members or by calling (610) 269-2625.

Bye Bye Bypass? Hello Traffic Woes!



Here's what one dismayed resident had to say about putting a bypass around the core of Guthriesville or widening Horse-shoe Pike to five or six lanes: "No! This used to be a charming village. I don't want it to look like Exton or Eagle."

Most of those who answered a survey in the spring newsletter (about 11% or 12% of East Brandywine residents) agree. Should lanes be added to the highway as it passes through Guthriesville? No, said 80%. What about a bypass as an alternative? Here, the "no" vote dropped to 59% vs. 41% saying "yes." Oddly enough, when asked if a bypass would make their commute easier, 73% said no.

If the poll is a good guide to community sentiment, then most people feel better coordination of the traffic lights along Rte 322 is the best way to ease traffic congestion. This idea won a yes vote from 57% of respondents.

The Township Traffic Impact Committee, which is trying to deal with the congestion issue and put together the poll, worries that residents think major road improvements would mean more taxes. That is not so. Hudson Voltz, Board of Supervisors Chairman, says most future costs for traffic improvements would be borne by *developers*, not existing residents. The state also would be a major contributor for anything as radical as a bypass.

The Traffic Impact Committee is planning an information session for this fall, likely to be held at the East Brandywine Fire Company, to discuss traffic issues in the Township, and educate our residents on the impact fee process.

Meantime, in the "somewhat good news" category, Township Manager Scott Piersol told the May Board of Supervisors meeting that PENNDOT plans to resurface the Route 30 bypass this summer.

Getting Ready For The Worst

A new state-mandated plan to deal with public emergencies is now in force in East Brandywine, the first township in Chester County to have a plan approved by Harrisburg.

"The last county plan was so large it was unwieldy," says Scott Piersol, Township Manager and Emergency Management Director. "The new one is very simple. It says how the township should react to a large-scale emergency and who does what to respond." All services in the Township, including police and fire, will report to Piersol in his role as emergency chief.

This isn't the stuff of terrorist attacks (though the plan would apply in such extremes), but ensures the Township is ready to respond quickly and effectively to the "it could happen here" type of emergency.

Some examples:

A truck carrying dangerous chemicals crashes on Route 322 near the Culbertson Run development and scores of residents have to be evacuated. As part of the plan, the township is building a file of all residents who would need special help if disaster strikes.

The dam in the Timbers development is breached. Again, a need to get people moved in a hurry.

A sudden flood on the Brandywine inundates one or both Creek Road campgrounds along the river. More forced evacuations.

"It's important to have a gathering place for people who have to be moved," says Piersol. "People have to know where to go and how to get there." One possible gathering point: the Baptist Church on Route 322 opposite Osborne Road. Maps would be available to guide evacuees to the church.

"This is a planning tool," says Piersol. "We want to reduce the initial chaos if there is an emergency." This means being able, among other things, to direct medical help or fire fighters and to arrange transportation for those affected.

"The basic plan is in place," Piersol says. "But refining it is an ongoing process."

Where Are The Parents?

East Brandywine residents gave a conclusive thumbs down to the idea of spending Township money to pay for school resource officers—namely, police officers—to act as advisors and counselors in the Downingtown School District. The idea, being promoted by the local unit of a national group called Communities That Care (CTC), aims to help students confronting such issues as drug and alcohol abuse, violent behavior and sexual misbehavior.

Simply put, people who voted on the issue said dealing with school students' non-academic problems is a job for (1) parents and (2) existing school counselors. "Drugs and other bad behaviors are the parents' concern" was a typical comment.

There's also a strong feeling that any Township action resembling a tax increase is doomed. "Old people and single people can't afford any more taxes" was a common complaint.

Residents in Uwchlan Township do support the CTC program. But East Brandywiners were most concerned by the possibility that some of the eight municipal units in the school district might give financial help while others might freeload. By a margin of 85% to 15%, residents here said they would not pay if some others did not.

The votes were pretty conclusive on other points as well. By a 78 to 22 margin, residents here rejected the proposal that student misbehavior is serious enough to warrant community action; 75% rejected any tax increase to fund such a program, and 64% rejected the idea of putting up about \$15 a year to support the CTC plan.

Overall, the concept that an outsider, a police officer, can do more for a troubled kid than the school itself was rejected by 71% of respondents.

Payoff From Cable

Each time a township resident signs up for cable TV, it's good news for the township treasury as well as for Comcast. The company pays East Brandywine 5% of its total revenue from township cable viewers—a "franchise fee" that brought in just over \$50,000 last year.

Other townships have similar deals and now a number of them, including East Brandywine, want to hire an auditor to look over Comcast's books. No one says that Comcast is short-changing the townships, but they'd like to check the figures for any unintended mistakes.

The townships also note that Comcast pays no franchise fee for residents who sign up for high-speed Internet access. That's something the township managers would like to discuss with Comcast.

Tickets

continued from front page

Road and continues all the way to Bollinger Road, with the highest concentration in the 1100 and 1200 blocks from around the Agway store to North Guthriesville Road (Don't drivers realize that the police headquarters overlooks this stretch of highway?)

Several other bits of township roads appeal to speeders. High on the list, based on citations issued: Dilworth Road, Dowlin Forge Road, Hopewell Road (especially around Batten Drive and Bell Lane), North Bailey Road in the area of Ridgewood Circle, and Osborne Road near Constitution Drive.

Chief Kocsi and Lt. Ron Marshman, a 22-year veteran of the force, both say their goal isn't to add points to a driver's record but simply to get people to slow down. They even concede they'll rarely stop a car unless the driver exceeds the speed limit by more than 10 MPH. "People have such hectic lives these days," says Kocsi. "They need to allow for more time to get from point A to point B. When they don't, they end up speeding." The two officers say that most speeding offenders are drivers just passing through the Township. Local residents are much better behaved.

The police hope they may get a new weapon in their battle with speeders. Pennsylvania currently is the only state that doesn't let municipal police use radar, but Kocsi says Harrisburg may soon change that rule.

What's Hot At Cropper's?

A list of best-selling items at Croppers' market in East Brandywine from January 1 through the first week of June may surprise you. Here are the top 9, according to store manager Tom Brophy:

1. ShurFine water, 1-gallon size
2. Large eggs
3. Bananas
4. Donuts
5. Hard rolls
6. Newspapers
7. Lemons
8. Strawberries
9. Navel oranges

Brought To You By...

It's happening in Dade County, Florida. It could happen in East Brandywine. What? Local businesses sponsoring emergency vehicles?

"You could have sponsors such as Croppers or Burger King or Guthriesville Pharmacy, even some business outside the Township," says Scott Piersol, Township Manager. "The Township or Fire Company can say what they feel is appropriate."

The sponsorship idea, which comes from a company in Florida, is "very successful" there and in some Pennsylvania communities, too—mostly with police cars. "The kids really like it," says Piersol. Our police are discreet—but not enthusiastic.

The payoff is a big savings in car leasing costs. Rather than pay some thousands of dollars, the township pays just \$1 for a three-year deal; sponsors pay the rest.

The Township Solicitor is checking out the idea on behalf of the Fire Company.



**The East Brandywine
Milemarker**
East Brandywine Township
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Downingtown, PA 19335

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