

THE Milemarker

[EAST BRANDYWINE TOWNSHIP]

SPRING 2013

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Spry Surgeon Will Bike 3,000 Miles for Memorial and Medical Causes



Dr. Richard Whittaker and his wife Peggy, both avid bikers.

You're 72. You've had two recent hip replacements. You've just retired. What do you do now?

If you're Dr. Richard Whittaker, you go full blast to develop a memorial park for your parents and lead a fund-raising drive to pay for it by pledging to bicycle for 3,000 miles and get the cash from your sponsors. Along the way, he also wants to raise funds for the Brandywine-Struble Greenway—which would include the park—and raise awareness of, in his words, “the benefits of total hip replacement.”

Though he's lived in Pottstown for 36 years, where he was an orthopedic surgeon in a private practice and also was a member of the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, Dr. Whittaker and his family have strong East Brandywine roots. He and his wife Peggy, along with his sister Susan Castaldi and her husband Andy, own the historic, 215-year-old White Acres Farm on Creek Road. Their parents bought the 180-acre farm in 1953 and raised their family there.

Today, the Castaldis live in northern New Jersey, but family members are regular visitors to the farm. Dr. Whittaker and his wife spend much time there. Last Christmas, 34 family

members sat down there for dinner, and they plan a big reunion in the summer. The Whittakers themselves have four children and 11 grandchildren.

Four years ago, the Whittakers and the Township Open Space Committee reached an agreement under which the family granted a conservation easement on some 60 acres fronting on Creek and Dowlin Forge Roads, and sold outright a 16-acre field between Creek

Road and the east branch of the Brandywine River. The proposed Helen and Robert Memorial Trailhead Park will occupy about one acre between Creek Road and the river just to the north of the existing Dowlin Forge Road bridge. The goal is to clear away all invasive plants, put in new plantings, walkways, benches and descriptive plaques. One will honor the parents; the other will describe the area's contributions to local agriculture.

To complete the work will cost an estimated \$50,000—the money Dr. Whittaker hopes to raise by many hours of pedaling. A dream plan for the project would add a pedestrian bridge over the river to connect with the Struble Trail, but here you're talking big bucks. Township officials hope that the pipeline companies laying new natural gas transmission lines nearby may be tempted to come up with the money for this public purpose.

The “trailhead” name is well chosen. Under the Township's comprehensive proposed trail system, a trail starting at the Whittaker park would run along Dowlin Forge Road, reach up to Batten Drive and then on to Community Park

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Firehouse Polling to Move to Baptist Church

Voters in the East Brandywine South Precinct who normally cast their votes at the East Brandywine Fire Company will do so at the East Brandywine Baptist Church, located at 999 Horseshoe Pike, starting with the May 21st primary election. Committee members from both the area Republican and Democratic Parties visited the church site in early March and reported that the “church's parking, gymnasium and lobby would be an improvement over the current polling place at the firehouse.” The change of site was approved by Voter Services, which is expected to notify registered voters in the South Precinct of the change later this spring.

**WHO, WHEN
& WHERE**



Township Board of Supervisors

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

Township Public Meetings

MEETINGS HELD AT TOWNSHIP BUILDING

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

First Thursday at 8:00 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.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Second Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Second Monday at 7:30 p.m.

ORDINANCE TASK FORCE

Third Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

First Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Fire/Ambulance/Police

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

Recreation

EBYA www.ebya.org
DARC www.darcinfo.com
PARK AND RECREATION BOARD EMAIL
parkandrec@ebrandywine.org

Township Staff Directory

Hours: M-F, 9 a.m. to noon; 1-5 p.m.

Dial (610) 269-8230.

Press the appropriate extension.

200 Norann King,
Building Department

201 Mary Beth Smedley,
Secretary/Treasurer

203 Scott Piersol, Township Mgr./
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

Township to Re-Examine Its Traffic Impact Fee

The Township plans to take a second look at the traffic impact fee that it introduced in 2003. The fee, paid by developers, is based on the volume of peak hour traffic that a new home or new business will add to local roads. The money is used to maintain and upgrade certain existing road facilities, such as intersections and traffic signals, and in some instances, create new roads within the community. The charge, assessed mostly for individual homes, starts at \$3,507. This figure

was developed in accordance with the Trip Generation Manual published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Developers of some commercial properties in the Township, which can generate multiple peak-hour trips, have been outspokenly critical of the fee, saying it is too high and out of line with those charged by other municipalities. The Traffic Impact Fee Advisory Committee will now revisit the issue and decide whether or not the fee should be changed.

Fun-Filled Program Set for Community Day in the Park

Community Day at the East Brandywine Community Park on Dilworth Road will be held Saturday, Aug. 24, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Park & Recreation Board promises that it will be a super day of fun and interesting activities. Its report goes on: "So rev up your bicycle for the bicycle parade; bring a canned good to help the Chester County Food Bank; be prepared to enjoy yummy food prepared by Hopewell Troop 8 and Victory Brewing Co.; and enjoy plenty of fun with bingo, kids' races and challenges, Shriners' Clowns, moon bounces, Civil War cavalry, face painting, pony and hay rides and more."

New this year is a contest to choose a singer or group to perform the National Anthem at the opening ceremony. Tryouts will be held before school is out so please check the Park & Recreation Website for more information at ebrandywine.org.



At last year's event, the Shriners' Clowns and antique cars were crowd-pleasers.

There'll be the ever-popular crafters, vendors and antique and classic car displays. "We encourage additional vendors and crafters as well as antique and classic cars for the car show," the Board adds. "If you can fill any of our needs or would like to try out to perform the National Anthem, please contact Sandy Lammey or Dave Summers at parkandrec@ebrandywine.org, or call the Township office at (610) 269-8230."

16 HOUSEHOLD HABITS THAT CUT POLLUTION

Roadmaster Matthew VanLew reminds us that polluted stormwater run-off is a grave threat to clean water. Practice these healthy household habits, he says, and you will be the solution to stormwater pollution:

- Use fertilizers sparingly.
- Use pesticides only when really necessary.
- Do not blow grass clippings or leaves into the street.
- Compost or recycle yard waste.
- Keep your nearest storm drain clear of debris and litter.
- Never dump anything down a storm drain.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved area.
- Service your car regularly to avoid leaks on to paved areas.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste at designated collection locations.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Do not litter.
- Produce less waste; reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Buy and use non-toxic biodegradable, recycled or recyclable products whenever possible.
- Have your septic tank pumped and septic system inspected at least once every three years.

WHITTAKER MEMORIAL PARK



A rendering of the new memorial park at the junction of Dowlin Forge and Creek Roads. When complete, it will have explanatory plaques, walkways and benches with views of the Brandywine River.

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on Dilworth Road. Eventually, it also would link Community Park with Spatola Park on the western side of Horseshoe Pike. Michael Wagoner, a member of the Township Planning Commission, is preparing a detailed scenario for the section of the trail linking the proposed new park to Batten Drive.

Long-term plans also call for a trail across the 16-acre tract the Township owns with a possible area for parking and a picnic pavilion. Late in April, members of the Friends of the Brandywine were scheduled to plant about 1,200 trees (still in their sapling stage) throughout the area. This project is being coordinated by Planning Commission member Michael Wagoner with assistance from PC Chairman Bruce Rawlings.

Richard Whittaker is a very fit man and a life-long biking enthusiast. He recalls getting his first bike at age 12 and his wife Peggy says he really got the cycling bug when he was serving with the National Guard in Germany during the mid 1990s Bosnian crisis. "Everyone there got around on bikes and we did too," she recalls. She and her husband, who'll be married 49 years

in June, are both ready and willing to tog up in their cycling gear, unload their bikes from their car and get going.

Dr. Whittaker does not plan to do the entire 3,000 miles in one shot. He'll split the journey into segments of from 40 to 100 miles and aims to add up to his total over about a year and a half.

A number of supporting pledges already have come in. The medical staff at the Pottstown medical facility contributed \$5,000 when Dr. Whittaker retired last February. Zimmer, a 75-year-old firm in Warsaw, Indiana, specializing in the orthopedic market and supplier of Dr. Whittaker's replacement hips, is a generous sponsor. (In his time, the doctor used Zimmer products when he performed hip replacement for his patients. Because he has retired, he avoided any conflict of interest in having Zimmer as a major sponsor). Other sponsors have tossed in as little as \$5. But as the doctor sees it, the size of the contribution is not the issue, as long as he reaches his \$50,000 goal.

Contributions made to the Helen and Robert Whittaker Memorial Trailhead Park Fund at the Chester County Foundation are tax deductible.

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Downingtown, PA 19335-1153
marybeth@brandywine.org

How to Junk Mail

Get a "Junk Mail Reduction Kit"

Who doesn't get sick and tired of junk mail?

The Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) says sufferers of this stuff in our area can now get a "Junk Mail Reduction Kit." The foldout brochure includes tear-off postcards that residents can fill out to take their names off the mailing lists of the nation's four largest direct mail advertisers. It also provides toll free numbers to call to stop five of the largest data-compiling companies from selling residents' names and addresses to marketers.

To receive a Junk Mail Reduction Kit contact the SECCRA office at (610) 869-2452 and one will be mailed out. SECCRA estimates that the average person receives about 60 to 90 pounds of unsolicited junk mail each year.

Our thanks to Sadsbury Township's Bookmark for this very useful tip.

Watch Out for Lyme Disease, Major Chester County Threat

The Park & Recreation Board sponsored a presentation at the Municipal Building on lyme disease in early March. About 25 visitors were treated to a detailed PowerPoint talk by Douglas W. Fearn of the Lyme Disease Association of South-eastern Pennsylvania.

Chester County is the number one location in Pennsylvania for this dangerous sickness, one that's widely underreported to health authorities.

Everyone affected suffers some degree of fatigue. Joints and muscles may ache, and pains may move to different parts of the body. Flu-like symptoms are almost universal in the early stages of the disease

Deer and mice are the primary animal hosts for infected ticks. A bull's eye-type rash around a tick bite is often a warning to get quick medical attention though a full diagnosis can be difficult. It's generally believed that it may take up to 72 hours before the disease is transmitted so it's important to see a doctor if you are worried about a tick bite.

Tick nymphs are most active from late May through July and peak activity for adult ticks occurs in late October and early November.

Mr. Fearn's group has a vast amount of helpful information on the disease.

The association may be reached on the Web at LymePa.org or by phone at (610) 388-7333.



Douglas Fearn is thanked for his talk by Park & Rec's David Summers.

Martin Weaver Keeps on Farming

Rare Survivor of a Disappearing Group

Martin Weaver moved here 51 years ago, in April 1962, to start his own farming career, leaving a farming family near New Holland in Lancaster County. Today he is one of the very few still in the business in what was once a thriving farming community. He's certainly the most active, working a dozen or more properties that total some 300 acres.

When the local housing boom took off in the late 1980s, developers scoured the area in search of buildable land. Mr. Weaver's 140-plus acre farm, across from the then-new Brandywine Village Shopping Center, was a magnet. "I got quite a lot of pressure," he recalls. "I had a lot of them look, on and off, for about eight years." He'd seen other farms swallowed up for new homes and "we knew it was going to come."

So, in 2002, Mr. Weaver signed an agreement with the K. Hovnanian Company. It planned an age-restricted development of some 270 homes, leaving Mr. Weaver with a 13-acre parcel around his home.

Then came the real estate bust and Hovnanian, although far along in the approval process, abandoned its venture and sold the land to the Downingtown Area School District. The District proceeded with plans for a new middle school but, in an economy drive, dropped its plan—though it has hinted that it may yet build some facility there in the future. Meanwhile, in an ironic twist, Mr. Weaver is now renting the land for his primary product, hay.

An early venture into tomato growing, with about 10 acres under cultivation, never matured. He recalls the many trips to Camden to deliver the crops to Campbell Soup, but finding skilled help was a

never-ending chore so Mr. Weaver decided to expand his dairy farming. He soon had a herd of 120 milk cows and another 60 heads of young stock. Along with the cattle came the barn, the milk house, other out-buildings and the silos, a landmark scene for travelers along Horseshoe Pike.

"There used to be 24 or 25 dairies around here," he remembers, "but mostly the people running them were older and the young people had no interest in following on." Soon, farms started to go on the market regularly.

In 2003, with cost of feed rising, Mr. Weaver sold off his herd. Working with his son Gil, who has a home on the property (the one Mr. Weaver himself moved into in 1962 and stayed in until he bought the main house in 1966), he concentrates on growing hay, with soybeans as a rotating crop. Without cattle and their feeding needs, the Weavers cut back their cultivation of corn and alfalfa.

"There's a good hay market today with a lot of horse farms around, many of them in Chester County," Mr. Weaver says.

It was the need for land to grow hay that pushed the Weavers into building the patchwork of properties they now rent. Most are in East Brandywine, with a couple in West Brandywine. Mr. Weaver has regular ties to Lancaster County because farm equipment and parts dealers there are now the nearest available. One-time outlets in Thorndale and other nearby locations have since either quit or focused their service on family gardeners.

The Weavers are a close-knit family. He married his wife Rachel, from Ephrata, in 1966, the year he bought his present house. They have four children. In addi-



Martin Weaver in the yard of his landmark farm on Horseshoe Pike.

tion to Gil, another son and one daughter live in Lebanon County with another daughter in Montana.

Over a working life here Mr. Weaver has seen many changes. The emergence of multiple housing subdivisions—along with some newcomers bothered by unexpected farm smells (mostly fertilizers) and noises. New roads to serve those subdivisions. Actual changes in the physical landscape as bulldozers leveled out hills and detention basins pocked major fields. A much bigger threat to crops from deer and, to a lesser extent, geese as new housing developments cut into their former habitat with its many sources of food. And, of course, much more traffic. That poses a special problem for someone who regularly moves heavy farm equipment around the Township.

Mr. Weaver also plays one other unusual role: he regularly attends Township Board of Supervisors' meetings, a practice few share. "I like to get a feeling for what's going on, what the future looks like," he explains. "I have to look out for what may happen to farmland. Should I go ahead and fertilize or is that field going for development?"

On the Move

The following transactions took place between November and February.

8 Blakely Rd.	\$283,000
170 Bollinger Rd.	\$298,190
172 Bollinger Rd.	\$283,435
143 Brookfield Ct.	\$242,000
455 Brookside Dr.	\$221,000
304 N. Caldwell Cir.	\$306,500
40 Corner Ketch Rd.	\$158,000
361 Corner Ketch Rd.	\$270,000
465 Corner Ketch Rd.	\$272,000
720 Corner Ketch Rd.	\$210,500
151 Crawford Rd.	\$240,100
780 Creek Rd.	\$100,000
74 Emma Ct.	\$489,874
243 Ferndale Ln.	\$405,000
483 Hallman Ct.	\$362,000
485 Hallman Ct.	\$363,000
302 Harcourt Ln.	\$700,000
207 Heritage Ct.	\$420,000
113 Hilltop Dr.	\$360,000
1018 Hopewell Rd.	\$247,500
1154 Horseshoe Pike	\$294,900
106 Laurelwood Dr.	\$282,500
800 Little Washington Rd.	\$388,000
106 Rebecca Dr.	\$483,326
114 Rebecca Dr.	\$538,829
210 E. Reeceville Rd.	\$320,000
470 Reeds Rd.	\$425,000
480 Reeds Rd.	\$301,000
560 Reeds Rd.	\$505,000
503 Rock Raymond Rd.	\$315,000
56 Somerset Ct.	\$220,000
117 Tradition Ln.	\$312,000

Source:

Weichert Realtors, West Chester.

LIBRARY GARDEN TOUR

The Friends of the Downingtown Library will host their seventh annual garden tour on **Sunday, June 9**, to benefit the library. A self-guided tour, beginning at noon, will encompass a wide variety of gardens in the Downingtown area. Any person who would like to showcase a garden, or who knows someone who would like to, should **contact Karen Miller at (610) 269-2741**.

East Brandywine's Finest at Your Service

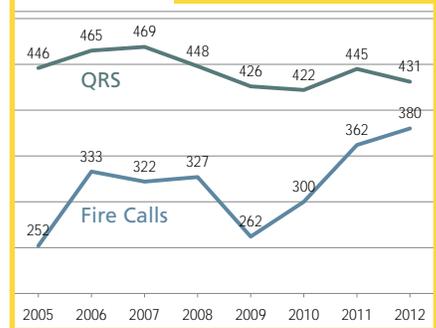


The East Brandywine Police Department prides itself on maintaining close contact with Township residents. The members gathered for a recent photoshoot and are, from left to right: Officers Jeremy Lanza, Beau Shephard and John Hayes; Corporals Steve Leifholt and Mark Twaddell; Lieut. Gene Babetski; Chief Mark Kocsi; Corporals Glenn Mooney and Jim Ferraro; and Officers Jeff Yankanich, Steve Tyree and Dan Orris.

POLICE AND FIRE GOLF OUTING SET FOR APPECROSS JULY 1

The 2013 East Brandywine Police & Fire Services Golf Outing will be held **Monday, July 1**, at the Applecross Country Club. The organizers are actively recruiting players and sponsors, with all proceeds going to the police and fire groups. Last year's event was a "huge success," recalls Police Chief Mark Kocsi, raising around \$10,000. Registration and a continental breakfast will be from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00. There'll be a scramble start and on-course refreshments. Lunch, with an auction and raffle, will be at 2:00 p.m. For additional information, **contact Linda Bowers at (610) 888-4730 or by e-mail at linda.bowers@talamorefamily.com**.

FIRE & MEDICAL CALLS



FIRES AND EMERGENCIES KEEP FIRE CO ON THE GO

Volunteer emergency personnel from the East Brandywine Fire Co. answered more fire calls last year than any time in the last eight years, averaging more than one call a day. It responded to fewer medical calls—QRS for quick response service—than in 2011 but still hit the road 431 times. Above is a graph of calls from 2005 to 2012. The Fire Company gives prompt, detailed reports on its day-to-day activities available on the Township Web site ebrandywine.org and directly on EBFC49.org.

PARK PAVILION ON ITS WAY



The new Dallas and Di Krapf Pavilion at the Community Park was still a work in progress in the early spring.

Community Park now has a new pavilion. It's between the two new baseball fields at the north end of the park—and was largely financed by a donation from Di and Dallas Krapf. The Township in November awarded the work to McComsey Builders of Parkesburg. The winning bid, of four offered, was for \$78,823. Work began over the winter months and the new facility will be open for use this coming summer.

READING PHILLIES OUTING

The Park & Rec Board is sponsoring a night at the Reading Phillies, **Friday, July 26**, versus Britain Rock Cats. Game time is 7:00 p.m. at First Energy Stadium. Tickets are \$8 each for a reserved seat in Red, section 7. Park & Rec reports that there'll be "awesome fireworks after the game and one lucky member of our group will have the opportunity to throw out the first pitch prior to the game." Reserve your seats by June 28. For more info, contact Sandy Lammey at parkandrec@brandywine.org or call the Township office at (610) 269-8230.

Milemarker Wins For Best in Its Class

The *Milemarker* was named the best municipal newsletter in Pennsylvania in 2012 for townships with a population of between 5,001 and 10,000 residents. This is the fourth time in the past six years that the newsletter received the top award.

The contest is run by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and recognizes townships that have successfully communicated programs and activities to citizens. All entries are judged on the usefulness of information and how well this is presented.

Townships with five to ten thousand residents are home to 5.5 million Pennsylvanians, more than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth. Judges said the *Milemarker* had "lots of good information" and makes "excellent use of graphics."

Moving Slowly with Plans for Giant Store

The proposal for a Giant Foods' supermarket next door to the Brandywine Village Shopping Center continues, very slowly, to work its way through the approval process.

It became clear at the March Planning Commission meeting that the Township and the developer have different readings of a judge's ruling that rejected the Township's 2011 conditional approval of the plan. A key issue was the ruling on Township's requirement that the developer build a new road linking Horseshoe Pike and North Guthriesville Road.

Such a solution would require North Guthriesville Road traffic to use the connector road to make a left turn on Horseshoe Pike to head east. The existing intersection with Horseshoe Pike would be restricted to "right-in / right-out" movements only.

82 Acres on Dilworth Road To Be Conserved As Open Space

In a major coup for the Township Open Space Committee, the owners of the 82-acre Dilworth Farm across Dilworth Road from the Community Park have signed a letter of understanding that would preserve it as an agricultural area. Working with the National Lands Trust, the Township has agreed to pay just over \$1,000,000 for a conservation easement on the land from open space funds.

The Natural Lands Trust submitted a grant application in February to acquire conservation and trail easements to the Chester County Preservation Partnership Farmland grant program. NLT's Jack Stefferud told the Township recently this program would fund up to 33% of the easement amount. While it is directly across from Community Park, there are no plans to make the farm part of the Park.

Lawrence and David Dilworth, who own the property, recently put it up for sale.



An aerial view of the Dilworth farm shows its location on Dilworth Road. The Township's Community Park, to the left, is on the other side of the road.



Tax Receipts Now Handled by Township

All Township tax receipts are now being processed in house; Berkheimer Associates is no longer involved. **All payments should be sent to East Brandywine Township, Attention Tax Collector, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Downingtown, PA 19335.**



Officials from Caln and East Brandywine Townships, along with some interested spectators, were on hand for the ribbon cutting. East Brandywine Supervisor Arnie Kring wielded the scissors.

Osborne Road Bridge Reopened

After being closed for two years, the Osborne Road bridge was reopened on Feb. 28 after a temporary repair funded by Caln Township, which owns the bridge, and East Brandywine, whose residents use it regularly. It has a weight limit of 8 tons, limiting its use to cars and light

trucks. Jeffrey W. McClintock, Caln Township engineer, said both municipalities are proceeding with plans for a major replacement using federal funds but added that “this process may take several more years to complete.”