

THE Milemarker

[EAST BRANDYWINE TOWNSHIP]

SUMMER 2013

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Super But Sad, Our Eagle Story Had a Great Start, a Bad End

This year, probably for the first time ever, we the people of East Brandywine came face to face with our national symbol—the bald eagle, when a pair of these magnificent birds, with their eight-foot wingspan, took up residence just off East Reeceville Road.

The good story is that in late winter or early spring our local birds begat a healthy-looking eaglet. The bad story is that towards the end of May the chick fell from its nest and died. The possibility that the parents will return and try again gives at least the hope of another good story.

Over last winter, the mating couple built their nest, or more correctly eyrie—about two feet deep and five wide—in a tulip poplar just off East Reeceville Road next to a road in Applecross Country Club where no houses have yet been built. In early spring an eaglet stuck its head over the edge of the nest calling for the food its parents regularly supplied.

Word spread quickly, and the sightseers began to gather. Soon after that, the Pennsylvania Game Commission set up a barrier to keep humans at least 100 yards away (preferred Commission distance is 1,000 ft.). John Morgan, Southeast Regional Biologist Supervisor for the Commission, explained at a public meeting in



Left: Feeding time for a hungry youngster. Right: The great birds settling into their nest.

the Municipal Building on May 14th that such a barrier is needed because “people love bald eagles to death.”

Literally, this can be true. “Human disturbance” is a main cause why eagles abandon a nest, and any chick still in it. Without the parents, the small bird will die if conservation officers can’t rescue and care for it.

But another common cause of death is a fall of the eaglet from its nest. Wildlife Conservation Officer Scott Frederick of the Game Commission (and one of the speakers at the May 14th presentation) checked when he heard there was no adult activity at the nest and found the eaglet under the tree. He took the bird for further examination but figured the fall probably was the cause of death. Eaglets do a lot of hopping around and wing flapping and it’s assumed it just lost its balance.

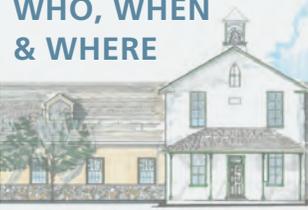
The bald eagle lost its federal protection in 2006, but is still protected in Pennsylvania and, said Mr. Morgan, “is doing well.” During the past eight years in his 12-county territory, the number of bald eagle nests has more than doubled, from 25 to 56. Fifty years ago there were only three such nests in the entire state but by ten years ago the Commission identified them in at least 22 of the state’s 67 counties with a total of some 230 nests.

The Game Commission actively endorses the practice of bald eagle etiquette. Basically, this boils down to asking people to leave the birds undisturbed. This request has teeth. Anyone deliberately scaring off a bird commits a chargeable offense.

The East Brandywine bald eagle family had only one chick; some nests may have as many as three. Eaglets develop most

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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



The Fearsome Four celebrate the finish. From left to right, Corporal Glenn Mooney, Officer Jeff Yankanich, Corporal Steve Liefholt and Officer John Hayes.

Local Cops Go to the Limit for Fun, Glory, Bragging Rights

THIS IS A STORY OF FOUR TOUGH MUDDERS. To earn that title they had to run an obstacle course, but a far cry from the one that kids enjoy at summer camp. For one thing it involves slogging through a lot of mud. Also, the Mudders had to:

- Climb a mud-covered pole festooned with barbed wire.
- Knee and elbow their way through a long narrow pipe with wires hanging from the roof, some with electric charges, others not.
- Crawl through six feet of water with more of those electric wires overhead.
- Run up many hills.
- Climb a 15-foot wall.
- Run along a narrow path between two borders of burning wood and then jump over a fire barrier to reach the finish post.

In all, they had 25 such obstacles.

All four are members of our local police force. Looking back a few weeks later Corporal Steve Liefholt says, “When you’re finished you’re in the early stages of exhaustion, almost delirious.”

To which his colleagues—Corporal Glenn Mooney and Officers John Hayes and Jeff Yankanich—could say, “You got it right.”

All this activity took place June 1 at the Jandl Farm near Allentown along with thousands of other Tough Mudders, people of all ages and physical abilities lured to the site by the chance to take part in one of the world’s most demanding sports competitions.

The program was developed for the British Special Forces to test mental and physical strength. Two Englishmen living in New York created the U.S. version in 2010. Their first shot attracted 4,500, to another location near

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Four Tough Mudders

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Allentown. To give some idea of the program's popularity, in 2012 almost 500,000 people worldwide participated in a total of 35 events.

Officer John Hayes took part in one event last year and was hooked enough to recruit his three colleagues to go for this year's June event. The goal isn't to beat other competitors for time or distance; it's to get the job done. To survive. Our local four ran, crawled, jumped and climbed for 11.2 miles in 3 hours and 15 minutes.

Says Officer Hayes, "You have a definite feeling of accomplishment." He also concedes he and his colleagues got some clear bragging rights.

The organization for the event was perfect, smart and trouble free. The various obstacles were well built. The course was clearly marked. The huge crowds were well managed, with batches of contestants leaving the starting line every 30 minutes, each setting his or her own pace. Women accounted for about one in four starters. Amazingly, most participants finished.

In its coverage of the first 2010 event, the New York Times had this to say: "Tough Mudder appears to have found an opening in the burgeoning action-sports realm, tapping into the growing appetite for accessible yet demanding competitions."

It's also a smart program. In 2010 the concept was a semifinalist in Harvard Business School's annual business plan competition.

Eagles

continued from page 1

of their feathers by three to four weeks, walk in the nests by six to seven weeks and begin to fly at about three months. Young separate from their parents in the fall, assuming the parents are not scared away—or meet death by poisoning, hitting power lines, being shot or just old age. The hope now is that they will return next year to the same nest and start raising a new family. Most bald eagles mate for life.

The local site is well suited to eagle needs. Some 80% nest within a short distance from a major body of water (think Marsh Creek reservoir) and fish accounts for by far the largest part of their diet. Snakes, groundhogs and chickens all are fair game.

Hundreds of Trees Planted along Brandywine

Travelers on Creek Road, close to where it intersects with Dowlin Forge Road, got an eye-opener in late April when hundreds of white poles blossomed along the east branch of the Brandywine Creek—from the distance looking not unlike a vast, military cemetery.

In fact, what they saw was a major reforestation effort sponsored by the Brandywine Conservancy, the Guardians of the Brandywine and put in place by hundreds of willing volunteers working under the guidance of Bruce Rawlings and Michael Wagoner of the Township Planning Commission and members of the Township Public Works Department headed by Matthew VanLew. His personnel cleared the site and will maintain it.

The project is funded by a Growing Greener grant.

The volunteer army descended on the site on the April 20th weekend and planted 1,200 saplings, each protected with a four-foot tube of biodegradable plastic. Mr. Rawlings, a landscaper in his day job, said all the plantings are native trees, with about 75% to 80% likely to progress to maturity in eight to ten years or so.



Some 1,200 native tree saplings were planted, as part of the county's Growing Greener program, along Creek Road in late April. Creek Road is on the left and the Brandywine Creek on the right.



DEMOCRACY AT WORK 1

At the May 17th primary, 23.6% of East Brandywine's registered voters took the time and trouble to go to the polls to vote, according to Jim Forsythe, head of Voters' Services for Chester County. Among the Township's 2,567 registered Republican voters, 30%, or 772, went to the polls. Only 13.4%, or 215, of the 1,602 registered Democrats voted. Various judicial offices accounted for the majority of the primary positions. Locally, voters were asked to choose candidates for the Township Board of Supervisors and Township Tax Collector.



DEMOCRACY AT WORK 2

An often-voiced complaint about government is that it is not transparent enough and that there's little or no chance for an individual to make his or her views heard by those in power. This may be true enough at the federal or state level. It's tough to make direct personal contact with elected officials—though an e-mail usually gets a reply. At the local township level, it's another matter. The East Brandywine Board of Supervisors meets twice a month and at each session the chairman invites public comment on non-agenda items before the session begins and asks again for public comment before the meeting is closed. In the nine Supervisors' meetings between Jan. 7th and May 2nd—which involved 18 calls for public comment—only one resident asked a question on a non-agenda item. **The Supervisors meet on the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 a.m. (most of these meetings are completed before 9:00 a.m.) and on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are in the Municipal Building.**

New Look at Expanded Guthriesville Master Plan

Residents and property owners in the Village of Guthriesville were invited to hear and review the latest plans for the Guthriesville master plan. About 20 attended the June 11 meeting in the Municipal Building. A second meeting, open to all members of the public, was slated for July 18.

Jay Fischer, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, reiterated the point that the master plan is designed to keep the Village economically viable as the Township changes from an agrarian to a more urban area. He urged residents to give their input to the plan, which remains a concept rather a done deal.

Thomas Comitta, principal of Thomas Comitta Associates in West Chester, the lead consultant for the village project, once more gave a broad overview of the plan and then asked for audience comment. Most questions focused on specific issues; there seemed to be general acceptance that a workable plan is a good idea.

Among the issues raised:

What is the actual area covered by the plan? The boundaries are not yet final but enclose about 10 to 12 acres in the Village "core" area. The entire planning area stretches along Horseshoe Pike from west of the Wright Agency to west of the Municipal building and on both sides of the highway. David Sweet, a Township consultant, said the area would extend beyond the present village commercial zoning, which covers the Village core, by adding a traditional neighborhood development (TND) zoning element which allows additional development in residential areas outlined in the master plan.

Will exiting driveways be shut off or used to offer access to developed areas

behind the homes fronting on Horseshoe Pike? No. Nothing happens without owner consent.

How will land be acquired for new commercial development? This has yet to be determined. The Township will not be directly involved; any deals will be between private parties.

Can present sewage facilities handle proposed new growth? Yes.

How will storm water management be handled? What about flooding which is now an issue? These issues will be dealt with when the process reaches the stage of developing engineering plans.

What about traffic? Will the proposed roundabout at East Reeceville and Bondsville Roads cause more problems? No. Study of existing roundabouts in Chester County and other locations shows that they improve traffic flow.

After evaluating any public comments at the July 18th meeting, the Township will draft ordinance language giving a firm guidance for future development of the Guthriesville area. This ordinance will then come up for public discussion at a Board of Supervisors' meeting when any new comment will be evaluated. At a further Board meeting, expected in late fall of 2013, a final ordinance will be approved and become the blueprint for future planning and development in and around the Village.

In a related development, Pulte Homes officials said they plan to build a group of high-density homes in the section of its Applecross Cross County Club closest to Guthriesville, on the east side of Bondsville Road. Such housing would tie in well with the overall plan to create a larger community in the area to support the Village plan.

GOLF OUTING SPONSORS

This year's Community Park Golf Outing, held May 13th at the Coatesville Country Club, attracted 28 sponsors.

CORPORATE

Krapf Bus Companies
Johnston Matthey,
Bernie Brady/Ed Cooney
SWF Industries, *Ryan Troop*
Shoreline Environmental,
Michael Wiest
Yerkes Associates,
Russell Yerkes

PLATINUM

Hydraterra Professionals,
Joe Boldaz
Industrial Floor,
Fred J. Coccagna, Jr.
A.N. Lynch Co., *Nev Lynch*
M. Davis & Sons, *Mike Nestore*
Universal Electrical Services
Inc., *Rich Nyce*

GOLD

Eagle Investment Advisors,
David Summers
DNB First
Keller Williams,
Cindy Dickerman
The Gilbertson Group,
Matt Gilbertson

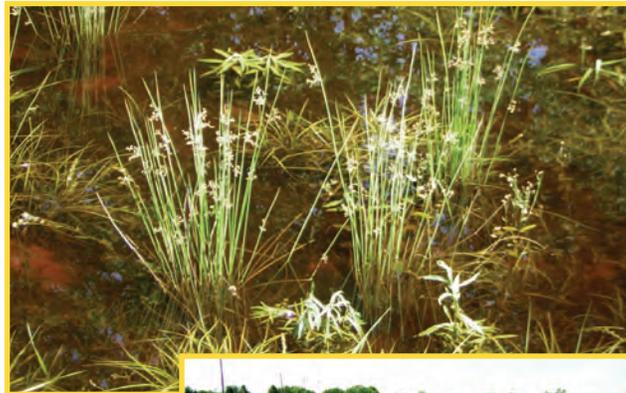
SILVER

ABC Paper & Chemical,
Thomas McQuilken
ADMIX, Inc., *Pete Leitner*
American Crane & Equipment
Corp., *Karen Norheim*
Archer & Greiner Attorneys,
Neil A. Morris Esq.
Commonwealth Fire Protection
Brandywine Machine Co.,
Todd McQueen
National Penn Bank, Eagle Of-
fice, *Mary Ann Riggins*
Heinrich & Klein Associates,
Andy Heinrich
Meanix Construction Co.,
Bob Meanix
Servpro of Chester County,
David Lyman
Charles Friel Inc.
Uhrig Construction,
Teri Yeager
Robert A. McCue Inc.,
Bob and Joan McCue
Chester County Milling-Paving
Inc., *Nick Chilla*

Flowers and Grasses Spur Stormwater Control Plan

YOU MIGHT CALL IT PRACTICAL BEAUTIFICATION. Late last year Chotty Sprenkle of the Chester County Conservation District approached the Township, and said it was looking for two detention basins to “naturalize.” The project involved enhancing the soil and introducing native plants to improve and increase stormwater runoff infiltration—and at the same time add a colorful palette to be provided by such plants as fox sedge, blueflag iris, cardinal flower, boneset and New England asters.

Township Public Works chief Matthew VanLew agreed to the plan and chose the detention basin at the northeast corner of Community Park, opposite the Dilworth farm. The Conservation District chose LandStudios Inc. as the contractor and the company installed more than 5,000 flowering plants and grasses in a single day. Some were planted at the bottom of the basin and some on the slopes, depending on the volume of water the various plants need. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is funding the project, which will reduce operation and maintenance costs for



Top: Many native wild flowers are planted in the basin. Bottom: The newly-planted retention basin at the north end of Community Park, along Dilworth Road.

the Township. Mr. VanLew notified the Brandywine-Wallace Elementary School about the project, so it can be used as a learning tool on protecting the environment and improving stormwater management.



MORE FIRSTS LINED UP FOR COMMUNITY PARK DAY

Earlier this year the Park & Recreation Board announced auditions for a local resident to sing the national anthem at the Board's East Brandywine Community Day in Community Park on Aug. 24th. The winner is a mother/daughter team—

- no names yet—who will sing at the opening ceremony. Also on the new list:
- A display of antique carriages along with the established antique car event.
 - Chester County Sheriff's K-9 unit demonstration.
 - Involvement of the Brandywine Shriners with popsicle and popcorn sales.

Says a spokesperson: “Don't forget the bicycle parade, rides, games, races, antique and classic car show, food, fun, music, bingo and clowns. Also, remember to bring a non-perishable item to support the Chester County Food Bank.” **The event runs from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Neighborly Snapshots: Marsh Creek State Park

Enough Outdoor Activities to Please Any Enthusiast



Left: Fishing done, craft is winched up at West Launch area. Right: Boat rental facility is at the East Launch area. See more on page 8.

On the Move

The following transactions took place between early March and mid June.

1461 North Bailey Rd.....	\$375,000
1531 North Bailey Rd.....	\$367,000
218 North Caldwell Cir.....	\$374,000
1671 Caln Meetinghouse Rd....	\$225,900
104 Cherry Grove Ln.....	\$415,000
128 Clearview Dr.....	\$210,000
48 Colleen Cir.....	\$506,375
381 Corner Ketch Rd.....	\$242,000
775 Creek Rd.....	\$ 49,000
20 Cumberland Dr.....	\$775,000
411 Dilworth Rd.....	\$251,900
682 Empire Dr.....	\$467,547
231 Ferndale Ln.....	\$437,000
17 Grovehill Ct.....	\$429,500
541 Hadfield Rd.....	\$450,000
432 Hallman Ct.....	\$457,422
469 Hallman Ct.....	\$360,000
192 Heritage Ct.....	\$530,000
110 Highspire Rd.....	\$560,000
540 Hopewell Rd.....	\$226,000
671 Hopewell Rd.....	\$244,900
1018 Hopewell Rd.....	\$247,500
13 Keller Way.....	\$290,000
180 Lenora Ln.....	\$470,000
220 Lenora Ln.....	\$460,000
309 McFarland Dr.....	\$389,900
2 McKenzie Pl.....	\$200,000
561 Old Horseshoe Pike.....	\$535,000
141 Randolph Dr.....	\$538,333
110 Rebecca Dr.....	\$469,734
622 Rock Raymond Rd.....	\$385,000
119 Tradition Ln.....	\$275,000
129 Waring Dr.....	\$435,000
24 Wellesley Ln.....	\$437,500
25 Wellesley Ln.....	\$432,000
50 Yellowwood Dr.....	\$239,900

Source: Weichert Realtors, West Chester

It's unusual to find a single site where you can, as your fancy chooses, fish, sail, canoe or kayak, swim, hike, picnic and hunt. Marsh Creek State Park offers all that and more. To reach the park office, go to Park Road (off Little Conestoga Road in Eagle) and drive to the end. Park rangers issue licenses for fishing, boating and hunting and all details about

the Park. There's a boat rental office nearby and swimming pools. You also can reach the Park by following Lyndell Road (from the village of Lyndell). The Park entrance is about a mile away. There's a boat storage area and boat slip, restrooms and the entrance to the hiking trails. There's no office on the Lyndell side, however.

The state created the park lake or reservoir to help control seasonal flooding, provide water for the Chester County Water Resources Authority, and create a recreation area. The land for the 535-acre park was acquired from 1964 to 1978. After the dam was built, it took three years to fill the lake. Residents of the farming village of Milford Mills were forced to relocate; the site now sits at the bottom of the lake. The park opened to the public in 1974. By 1979, all the present facilities were in place.

If you have not visited the park, try it. You'll almost certainly like it.

Major Rehab Proposed for Key Guthriesville Corner

The owner of the long-closed auto service center at the corner of Horseshoe Pike and Hopewell Road, Dennis Whitely, wants to rebuild the present structure. "We've got to get that building in shape before it falls down," he told the Planning Commission.

He said he does not yet have a tenant for the proposed rehab but identified some possible users—including a personal training facility or, more to his liking, a gourmet deli business or a high-end sandwich shop. "I want something that Guthriesville and the Township can be proud of," he explained. In his reply to questions from Commission members, Mr. Whitely said he had approached the owner of the two derelict

buildings immediately to his east on Horseshoe Pike with the thought of buying them, but said his approach was rebuffed. He also said that PennDOT has signed off on his plan and the traffic it might generate. Both Horseshoe Pike and Hopewell Road are state roads.

In 2006, Mr. Whitely presented a sketch to build an "antique car" car wash at the location. The plan did not proceed because of concerns about traffic issues and other matters. The Board of Supervisors gave final approval to the new plan, with conditions, at its July 17th meeting.

Mr. Whitely relocated his business in May, 1999 when he reopened his Guthriesville Tire & Service in a new facility located further west on Horseshoe Pike in West Brandywine Township.

New Help for Road Emergencies

GET WITH THE YELLOW DOT PROGRAM



HERE'S A GREAT IDEA TO GET the best care if you're in a traffic accident: make sure you're a member of the state's Yellow Dot program. By placing a special yellow sticker in the

bottom left corner of a vehicle's rear window, the driver alerts first responders to check the glove department for such critical facts as emergency contact information, medical history and a list of medications.

The national program, which Pennsylvania joined recently, was started in Connecticut in

2002. There are many places that have Yellow Dot kits available. Among them:

- Go on line to www.YellowDot.pa.gov and click on "How can I participate in Yellow Dot?"
- Go to one of Pennsylvania's 52 area Agencies on Aging or regional EMS/county health services. Call toll free 877-724-3258 to find the nearest center.

The kit includes directions and a Yellow Dot decal. Participants need to complete a personal information form that asks such things as name, address and phone number; emergency contact information; medical history and medications; and hospital preferences. **The information, along with a photo, should then be placed in the glove compartment.**

STATE ACTIVATES NEW WEB SITE

PENNSYLVANIA HAS COME UP with a new system that allows emergency workers to contact family or friends of someone involved in a vehicle crash or other situation where he or she cannot communicate. The Department of Transportation now has a website that allows a person with a state driver's license or identification to upload emergency contact information to an online data base. Only law enforcement and emergency personnel have access to the base. The system is designed to save lives by cutting down the time needed to locate an emergency

contact. To learn more, visit www.dmv.state.pa.us and click on the emergency contact information button. The customer, using a secure process, logs in and provides a Pennsylvania license or ID number, the last four digits of the person's Social Security number and date of birth. This sequence leads to a secure page where the user can add up to two emergency contacts—information that can be changed at any time by reentering the secure site. **Details of the program are available at the JNET Help Desk—call 877-327-2465 or by email to rajnethelpdesk@pa.gov.**

SUBDIVISION GETS OK

The Board of Supervisors gave final approval to a plan that creates six lots on an 89-acre property on the north side of Dowlin Forge Road. The property contains an existing farmhouse and outbuildings. An earlier plan, which was abandoned, called for 25 homes to be built on the site. The developers have agreed to construct a pedestrian trail, bordering on Dowlin Forge Road, which will become part of the planned Township-wide system that is outlined in the Township's comprehensive plan.

Summer 2013
Volume 20, Number 3

Editor
George Holmes

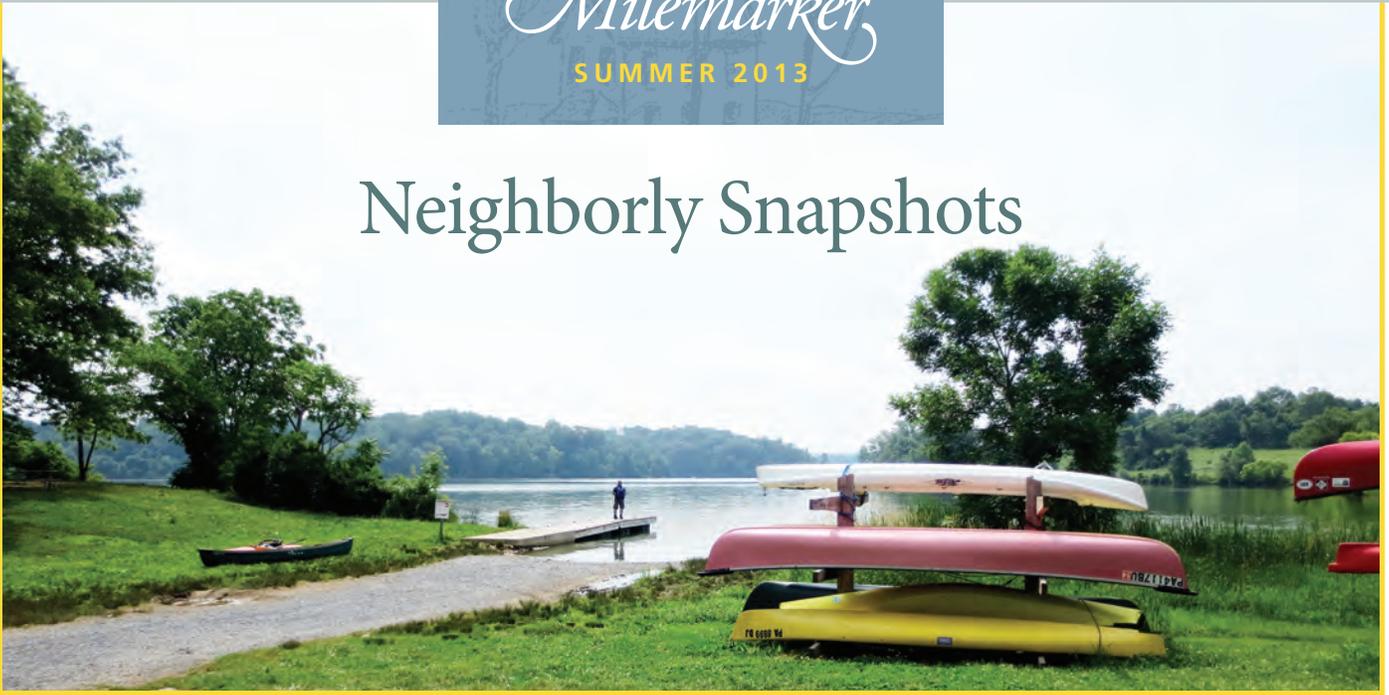
Design
Nina Pringle

Send community news to:
Mary Beth Smedley
1214 Horseshoe Pike
Downingtown, PA 19335-1153
marybeth@ebrandywine.org

Township Helps Fire Company Save Big Refi Bucks

The Township will save the East Brandywine Fire Co. some thousands of dollars by borrowing \$250,000 from National Penn Bank on its behalf. Tim O'Neill of Lamb McErlane, Township bond counsel, told the Board of Supervisors that the "guarantee" of the municipality would reduce the interest rate charged—from 4% if the Fire Company raised the cash alone to 2.47% if the Township borrowed the money—and passed the payments to the Fire Company. The money involves refinancing the remaining portion of an existing Fire Company loan used to purchase a \$655,000 pumper tanker it acquired in June of 2012. Mr. O'Neill noted that if the Fire Company failed to make any payments the Township could use the money from future contributions to the Fire Company to make the payments. The Board approved the deal.

Neighborly Snapshots



A lone fisherman on one of the docks at the West Launch area of Marsh Creek State Park. Story, page 6.

ANYONE WHO LIVES IN EAST Brandywine probably can give a non-resident a dozen or more good reasons why this is a fine place to live. One that may be over-

looked: the Township is close to a number of very attractive recreation sites—some well known, some not so. Over the next few issues we'll identify these spots and

give a snapshot overview of what makes them worth a visit. First on our list is Marsh Creek State Park. **Read the story on page 6.**