



The Milemarker

EAST BRANDYWINE TOWNSHIP

End of Line for Landmark Building?

If the Board of Supervisors gives its approval, another bit of Guthriesville history may soon bite the dust—literally. The owners want to demolish the five-unit apartment building at the southwest corner of Horseshoe Pike and Bondsville Road, once the home of the former Temperance Hotel. Their request for a demolition permit will be made at the Supervisors’ November 15 meeting.

“The place has become a financial burden,” explained Steven Ulrich, one of the owners. “Everything needs to be upgraded, the plumbing, the wiring. We can’t put that cost on our renters. It would be prohibitive.”

Further, the owners face the prospect of steep bills to link into the new Guthriesville sewer system. “The connection could cost somewhere between \$8,000 and \$15,000,” said Mr. Ulrich. The fee for the service would mean a monthly rental increase of at least \$40 for each apartment, he added.

continued on page 2

FEATURING: *Photographs by George Chiodo*



Fall in full color as you go north on North Guthriesville Road. This and other East Brandywine pictures in this issue were taken by George Chiodo. All are copyrighted.

The Boy from Mahanoy City Makes a Mark in Downingtown

George Chiodo is what you’d call an all-around man. He’s a teacher, a very literate computer guy, a skilled photographer, a 3,000-mile-a-year biker, a cross-country skier—and a husband and father.

Quite some achievement for a Bloomsburg grad (the first college grad in his family) with a new business degree and a rock-bottom bank account who walked away from his home in Mahanoy City because the northeast Pennsylvania coal town had lost most of its industry and many of its people and services. His immediate goal was to teach accounting, his college major, but he ended up teaching typing and an introduction to business to students at Downingtown Junior High.

He recalls that once he saw Downingtown (“the stand-alone houses along Pennsylvania Avenue, the park, the big pond”), he told his mother that this was a place he wanted to be. It was a long way from the rundown city with its row homes where he’d grown up.

His move began a long career in the Downingtown schools—in the Junior High from 1973 to 1997 and in the Middle School ever since. Early on, he saw the future of computers and started to introduce his students to them in the early 1980s. He helped create the school’s first computer lab and today counts himself as one of only two teachers in the

continued on page 2

Volume 13, Number 4

In This Issue

- To catch up on police news, see [page 4](#).
- Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium has wonderful programs planned for fall and winter. See [page 5](#).
- For information about the MOMS’ Club of East Brandywine-Wallace/Downingtown, turn to [page 6](#).

Who, When & Where

Township Board of Supervisors

Jay G. Fischer, Esq., Chairman
Hudson L. Voltz, Esq., Vice Chairman
David A. Kirkner, CPA, 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.

Meetings at East Brandywine Fire Co.,
2096 Bondsville Road, Guthriesville

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 & RECREATION COMMITTEE

First Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Meetings at Delaware County
Community College campus,
100 Bond Drive, Room 238

Important Numbers

Fire and Ambulance911
Police (emergency)911
Police (non-emergency) 383-7000
Police Administration..... 269-4300
Township Administration.. 269-8230

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

Telephone Staff Directory

Tax Collector, Patti Piersol
Home Office (610) 269-4054
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

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

The Boy from Mohonoy City

continued from page 1

school system who have such a long history in computer use and education. Today, the Middle School has hundreds of computers and three major computer labs.

Mr. Chiodo and his family now live comfortably in the Cross Keys section of East Brandywine, where they moved in 1991 after 11 years in East Fallowfield. But he readily recalls when times were much tougher. His father immigrated to Pennsylvania from Italy and worked as a tailor, a skill he used to repair parachutes among other chores as an Air Force recruit assigned to a base in England during World War II—and where, incidentally, he made some cash on the side by tailoring uniforms for Clark Gable, assigned to the same base.

Like many an immigrant, Mr. Chiodo's father (and his Pennsylvania-born mother, a nurse), urged him to look beyond tailoring as a career and to head for college. It's one of Mr. Chiodo's great regrets that his father died just months before his graduation.

Anyone who regularly checks the East Brandywine Web site (ebrandywine.org) may recognize George Chiodo as the copyright owner of the enticing photographs featuring Township buildings or views. A number also are shown in this issue. They're drawn from an ever-changing and ever-increasing picture library that reflects Mr. Chiodo's unusual capacity to see

beauty or history or unexpected contrast in the world about him. A great many of the shots are taken as he bicycles around the area so, not unexpectedly, many feature scenes from East Brandywine.

It was back in Mahanoy City that Mr. Chiodo began a life-long love of photography. "I had a friend who worked in a photography shop and he got me a deal on a Minolta," he recalls. From then on he was "a Minolta man" until the digital age reached photography, when

continued on page 3



George Chiodo: cyclist, teacher, skier, photographer.

"These photographs are stunning. Somehow you've captured the very essence of what I grew up knowing and loving about this township"

—Michele Paiva

End of Line for Landmark Building

continued from page 1

Mr. Ulrich said there is no decision on how the site would be used if the demolition permit is granted.

According to the East Brandywine Township Zoning Ordinance regarding demolition of an historic resource, the Board of Supervisors can ask an applicant to explore alternatives to demolition, but ultimately, they may need to approve the

application. The East Brandywine Township Ordinance Task Force is working to strengthen the Township's Historic Resource Protection Standards in order to prevent future demolition of historic resources without first meeting specific criteria outlined in the Ordinance. It is expected that the Board will consider revision of the Ordinance by the end of this year.



This view along Bondsville Road looks across part of the extensive Overlook Road Farm. Much of the land soon will be consumed by new homes. Photo by George Chiodo.

George Chiodo

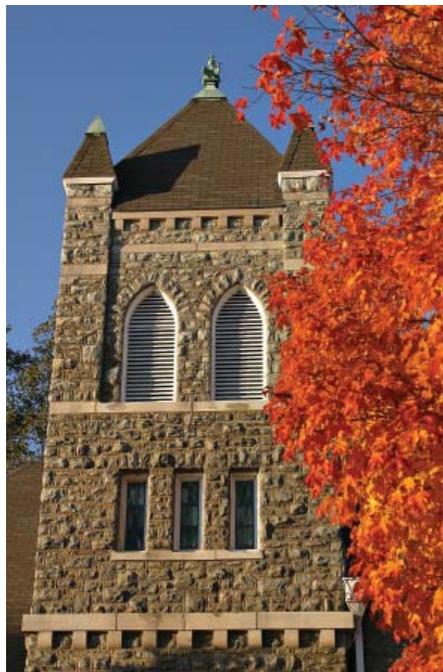
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he switched to Canon. “Now digital is the only thing,” he says and, indeed, Mr. Chiodo relishes his ability to enhance pictures through editing and various treatments.

Biking is also a long-time passion. It started when his grandfather, who still lived in Italy, bought his 11-year-old grandson something he yearned for: a new bicycle. In time that old Schwinn was replaced by the hi-tech models of today. And they’re well used. Mr. Chiodo pedals hundreds of miles throughout eastern Pennsylvania, each year totaling more than 3,000 miles. This year, by late summer he’d already topped 3,300 miles, including his first 100-mile jaunt, a seven-hour marathon with the Brandywine Bicycle Club.

Most important of all is Mr. Chiodo’s family. His wife Rebecca (“Beckie”), whom he married in 1980, grew up in Coatesville and is an English teacher in the Downingtown West High School. They met when both were teaching in Junior High. She is, says Mr. Chiodo, a wonderful wife, a wonderful cook and “how could I ride so many bicycle miles and take so many photos without such a supportive wife?” he asks.

Their three children seem likely to carry on some Chiodo traditions. Son Mike, a



Bright autumn colors brush against the Hopewell Methodist church on Hopewell Road. Photo by George Chiodo.

graduate of Penn State, is an accountant in New York City. Daughter Laura, a senior at Millersville where she excels in field hockey and Lacrosse, wants to be a teacher. Son John, a senior in Downingtown West, right now is into baseball and football. He’s undecided about college choices—but it wouldn’t be a surprise if somehow his courses included computers and/or photography.

Resident Urges Move to Create New Township Park

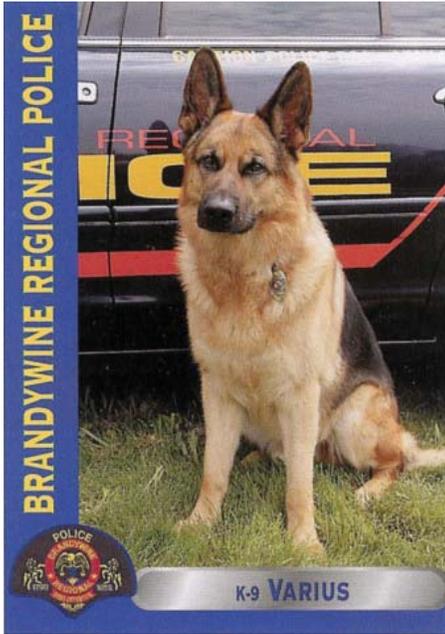
Carl Walker, a long-time resident of the Township, drew some 30 supporters to the June Board of Supervisors meeting where he urged the Supervisors to create a new township park in Lyndell. The 4.2-acre park would be land now occupied by the MacBrine greenhouse property, which is for sale.

Mr. Walker said the site would be ideal for a passive park. He cited its location as a convenient stopping point for runners and cyclists (in time, the Struble trail is proposed to reach Lyndell), its historical value as an area in close proximity to the old Brooklyn Woolen mill (Lyndell originally was named Brooklyn), and its ecological value, as the land borders both sides of Culbertson Run. He noted that water, a septic system and electricity already are on site, so it would be easy to install restrooms and drinking water. Overall, he added, such a park would enhance the attractiveness of Lyndell village.

Supervisor Chairman Jay Fischer agreed that the Township always is open to the idea of adding attractive sites to the park system, but said a Lyndell park is not currently a priority because the Township has recently purchased the Bondsville Mill property along Bondsville Road, which will require extensive renovations, and also has plans for further construction at the Community Park on Dilworth Road. Mr. Fischer went on to say that the Township’s goal is to construct parks in areas that can be enjoyed by most of our residents.

James Worrell, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Board, stated that although the Park and Recreation Board would always welcome parkland, their focus is on the lands currently owned by the Township. He also said it’s likely to be seven to ten years before Struble trail extends to Lyndell.

Awards, Farewell, Welcome



K-9 Varius aka Vic retires.

Brandywine Regional Police Chief Mark Kocsi honored two of his officers for an exemplary arrest, and bid farewell to K-9 Varius, (better known as Vic) who retired after eight years of service and welcomed a new officer. The multiple events took place at the Board of Supervisors' regular September meeting.

Officers Anthony Howe and Sean Gregory were commended for their "quick response, courage, teamwork and professionalism" in arresting a suspect at gun-point as he tried to flee from a home on Raleigh Drive. When arrested, the suspect had with him jewelry, money, electronic

Timely Traffic Tip

If traffic lights on Horseshoe Pike (and indeed on any state road) are not working for any reason, state law dictates that affected intersections automatically become three- or four-way stop intersections. This little-known law was handily ignored by a majority of motorists passing through the Township, probably because it was not known, when the Horseshoe Pike lights were knocked out by the drastic July windstorm.

equipment and weapons taken from the house. After getting a search warrant, the officers later checked the suspect's car and found jewelry, computers and cell phones stolen earlier in the day from a home in the Westtown-East Goshen police jurisdiction.

The suspect in question has been charged with numerous crimes in both police jurisdictions.

The farewell for Vic was linked with thanks to his handler, Officer John Williams. The eight-year-old German shepherd, born in Germany, joined the police here in March 1998 and helped in numerous arrests. Both Officer Williams and Vic were certified in police patrol and narcotics detection. Vic now is "living the life of luxury" with his handler, Chief Kocsi reported. His successor, Nelo, is now training and will join the force sometime in November. His handler will be Officer Denise Knoke.

The welcome is for a new part time member of the force, Officer John Sidiras. His hiring brings the Brandywine Regional Police to a total of 19 officers.

In other police news, Chief Kocsi reported that its Web site (brandywineregional.org) is now under construction by volunteer Web designer Dan Orris.

Robert Zynn, East Brandywine Fire Company Chief, and Todd Shaffer, Fire Company President, presented Chief Kocsi with a plaque that records the Fire Company's thanks for the police department's continued help and cooperation.

Fire Department Asks, "Display Your Number"

Too many local residents do not display their street numbers clearly—if at all—raising the possibly-fatal risk that a fire or rescue vehicle may not be able to locate their house quickly in an emergency.

This carelessness with the proper display of street numbers is an on-going fire department concern. To help deal with the problem, the fire department is proposing to sell 6x18-in. or 4x10-in. reflective street address signs, making it easy to find the right house. The signs can be attached to mailbox supports.

- The cost to the homeowner, with the correct street number in place, is \$15. A small portion of the cost of the sign goes to the fire department.

Scott Piersol, the Township Manager and Fire Marshal, has recommended the Supervisors consider adoption of an ordinance requiring proper posting of street addresses for all buildings. Any building which now has its street number clearly displayed would not be affected.

The Supervisors deferred any action on the proposal while the Township solicitor reviews sample ordinance language.

Note to Dog Owners: Pick up You Know What

The Community Park is designed for walking, running, playing games—but not as a dog toilet. Sadly, too many dog owners are letting Fido do his or her thing here, there and everywhere. This happens even though the Township provides collection bags right next to the parking lot.

"It just seems more and more dog owners are leaving the messes on the walkway," one resident complained "It's bad enough to leave it on the grass where the kids play but now they leave it on the walks."

If you walk your dog, be a courteous pet owner.

“These pictures are fabulous. You’ve captured everything that I love about East Brandywine Township on film. It’s a beautiful place.”

—Mary Ann Bodle (discussing the photos of George Chiodo)



It’s winter in Community Park, the snow sliding from a pavillion roof. The 60-plus-acre park offers wonderful walking paths, soccer and baseball fields and tennis courts. Pavillions can be reserved for special events. Photo by George Chiodo.



Winter sunshine lights up the magnificent Moore family barn across from the humpback bridge where Little Washington and Marshall Roads join. The swans that swim in the nearby Culbertson Run add a special quality. Photo by George Chiodo.

Recreation Group Sets Fall & Winter Programs

The Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium’s (DARC) fall brochure includes information for programs that began in September and run through mid December. Among the offerings: after-school French and science clubs, various exercise classes, online courses, yoga, scrap booking, crochet, dance, as well as numerous youth sports programs (basketball, beginner golf lessons, ice skating and ice hockey).

DARC will offer a Saturday Dec. 9 **Breakfast with Santa** at Old Country Buffet in Downingtown’s Brandywine Square. The first seating will be at 8:30 a.m.; the second seating at 10:00 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact the DARC office for more information or visit its website at www.darcinfo.com. The site offers a copy of the brochure and registration form.

Several bus trips are on the fall schedule. There’s a late October trip to **Gettysburg** for a “Historic and Haunted Tour” and four **Radio City Christmas** show trips—Nov. 9, Nov. 25, Dec. 7 and Dec. 16. There’s also a trip to see **Mary Poppins** on Broadway. Sign up early!

It’s also time to pull out skis and/or snowboards; winter is just around the corner! DARC offers discount lift tickets to Pennsylvania ski areas including **Jack Frost/Big Boulder, Bear Creek, Camelback, Blue Mountain**, and many more! Tickets become available in early to mid December. Call ahead for availability.

For more information, call the office (610-269-9260), e-mail DARC at darc@kennett.net or visit the Website.

Update

Wawa has revived discussions with the Township on its proposed gas station and convenience store at the southeast corner of Horseshoe Pike and Bondsville Road. One point of controversy: the future of the so-called Mama Lena building. In a recent meeting, Wawa officials indicated they might bear some of the cost of moving the building and members of the Inslee family, who own an adjacent property, have indicated that it might be possible to move the building to their land.

The big question of such a deal is cost. According to Jay Fischer, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the cost could add up to \$100 for each Township resident. In addition, money would have to be found to maintain the building. It is still uncertain as to what will become of the building. Stay tuned....

The proposal, made to the Planning Commission, to build a car wash on the northeast corner of Horseshoe Pike and Hopewell Road is most likely dead. Dennis Whitely, owner of the property where he ran a service station, said the time and cost of getting his plan approved make his idea not worth pursuing. Both the Planning Commission and Municipal Authority had concerns about insufficient room for a car wash and inadequate area for safe traffic circulation. Mr. Whitely, who owns Guthriesville Tire and Service in West Brandywine Township, has put his Guthriesville property up for sale.

Sunoco is looking for a November or December opening of its expanded gas station and convenience store at the northwest corner of Horseshoe Pike and Hopewell Road.

The new Township municipal complex, to house both the administrative and police offices, is tentatively expected to open in January or February 2007. All offices are now temporarily housed in the Laird Professional Building on Hopewell Road.



East Brandywine's quarterly newsletter, *The Milemarker*, won two awards in the 38th annual Township Resident Communication contest run by the State Association of Township Supervisors. The 2005 newsletters won third place in the 5,000 to 10,000 resident category and the issue celebrating the 50th anniversary of the East Brandywine Fire Company won second place for special editions. This is the second time in three years that the Township has garnered two such awards. At a recent meeting, the Supervisors honored *The Milemarker* art director Nina Pringle, editor George Holmes, and Reino's Printing of Malvern. Shown are Ms. Pringle and Mr. Holmes and Supervisors David Kirkner, Hudson Voltz and Jay Fischer.

Meeting for Moms

The MOMS' Club of East Brandywine-Wallace/Downingtown, a support group for at-home mothers and their children, is reaching out for new members. The club is open to at-home mothers and their children who live in the Brandywine Wallace or Beaver Creek school zones. The club meets on the third Monday of each month from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Wallace Township Building.

Jenna Kulp, membership vice president, lists a number of things that make the organization special. Among them:

- "We believe being a mother shouldn't isolate you, so children are welcome at all activities and meetings.
- "We know that being an at-home mother means making a financial sacrifice, so dues to our local chapter are only \$20 a year.

- "We have all types of activities including but not limited to park days, playgroups, community service projects, craft days, field trips and more."

The group currently has more than 35 active members and at least twice that many children. It is affiliated with the International MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support), a non-profit, non-denominational organization with more than 2,000 chapters worldwide.

"Our chapter is very welcoming to new members and you probably won't be the only new person there," says Ms. Kulp. "Although some of us have lived here for years, many of us are new to town and new to motherhood. We all have one thing in common—the MOMS' Club introduced us to other moms who stay home...the ones who soon became our friends."

For more info, contact Ms. Kulp at 610 873-9444 or jennakulp@comcast.net.



Blossoming dogwoods line a driveway off Crawford Road, one of the most scenic byways in all of East Brandywine. Photo by George Chiodo.

Tapping Insurance

The East Brandywine Fire Department is constantly on the lookout for new revenue sources—and figures business, homeowner and auto insurance policies are good places to look.

Township Manager Scott Piersol, who also is the Township Fire Marshall, says most homeowner insurance policies include \$500 for emergency service responses, but few policy owners realize this. Now the fire department wants to go after this money to help defray its costs in providing fire and medical emergency services.

Mr. Piersol stresses that the Township will not bill individuals, only their insurance companies. He also wants to assure property owners this will not affect their insurance premiums. One special target: non-residents of the Township who get involved in an accident here and benefit from East Brandywine emergency services.

Lock That Car!

Thieves are raiding and damaging unlocked vehicles in several local communities, including East Brandywine and Wallace, Mark Kocsi, Chief of the Brandywine Regional Police, reports.

In a warning, he notes that although this still is a relatively safe and rural community, residents are vulnerable to crime. He's urging people to remove all valuables—pocketbooks, cellular phones, laptop computers and wallets—from vehicles parked outside homes and make sure that all vehicles are locked when they're unattended. Also, he recommends leaving outside lighting on or installing motion sensors.

Criminal mischief includes use of indelible markers, motor oil poured on vehicles and other acts designed to damage cars.

The police believe most of the acts are committed by juveniles who are out late at night, possibly without their parents' knowledge. Six juveniles have been arrested but the vandalism continues.

"Please be aware of where your children are and what they're doing," Chief Kocsi asks of parents. "The police are taking a no tolerance policy to those juveniles who are arrested."

On the Move

The following real estate transactions were recorded in July and August.

132 Brookfield Court.....	\$243,000
331 Brookside Drive.....	\$245,000
74 Chatham Court.....	\$209,900
10 Clover Lane.....	\$481,500
118 Constitution Drive.....	\$325,000
613 Corner Ketch Road.....	\$252,530
120 Crawford Road.....	\$1,250,000
27 Cumberland Drive.....	\$919,502
34 Cumberland Ridge.....	\$876,488
6 Delancey Place.....	\$171,000
499 Dilworth Road.....	\$183,000
601 Dilworth Road.....	\$537,500
27 Hastings Court.....	\$196,000
108 Holly Drive.....	\$325,000
1036 Hopewell Road.....	\$530,000
211 Lenora Lane.....	\$360,500
6 McKenzie Place.....	\$175,000
1223 Osborne Road.....	\$330,000
550 Reeds Road.....	\$521,000
12 Rolling Glen Lane.....	\$545,000
12 Windemere Court.....	\$207,000
67 Yellowwood Drive.....	\$266,500
94 Yellowwood Drive.....	\$234,900

Homes sold in the township were on the market an average 38 days in June 2006, 42 days in July and 49 days in August.

Source: Weichert Realtors, West Chester.

The Milemarker

EAST BRANDYWINE TOWNSHIP

The Milemarker

Fall 2006

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Even More Students

The Downingtown Area School District expects the local building boom to swell the number of students at its various schools by about 25% by the year 2020. The district student enrollment for the 2006-7 year totals 11,347. It's expected to grow to 12,827 by 2011, to 13,930 by 2016 and 14,469 by the 2020-21 year.

The DASD estimates that in the period from 2000 to 2009 as many as 7,200 new housing units will have been built in Downingtown and the seven municipalities included in the school district. More than 4,500 would be built between last year and 2009, if all plans now on the books are turned into bricks and mortar.

Upper Uwchlan is expected to be the leader, with 1,136 new homes. East Brandywine is slated to add 971 homes and West Bradford 919. The smallest increase is expected in West Pikeland which would add a mere 62 homes in the five-year period. As *The Milemarker* reported in the summer issue, the school district is likely to spend more than \$150 million on new facilities to care for its growing school population.



East Brandywine will launch its 2006 fall leaf collection program on Oct. 30 with follow up collections on Nov. 13 and Dec. 4. Township Roadmaster Matthew VanLew is urging residents to place all leaves on their lawn areas within six feet of the road edge—with the correct placing shown in this photograph.

“Placing leaves on lawn allows them to dry and the vacuum can pick them up more easily,” says Mr. VanLew. “Leaves must not be placed in the roadway as this can cause a traffic hazard. The road crew will not pick up leaves left on the roadway. Do not block storm drain inlets and drainage areas. Our leaf vac cannot pick up sticks and branches, so please do not mix them with your leaf piles.”

Leaf collection is a major task. Last year, the road crew picked up about 272 tons of leaves, an increase of 13% from 240 tons the year before.



Mailing Address

1214 Horseshoe Pike
Downingtown, PA 19335-1153

Office Location

Laird Professional Building
110 Hopewell Road, 2nd Floor

www.ebrandywine.org

Postmaster: deliver to current occupant

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SOUTHEASTERN, PA
19399
PERMIT NO. 50