

# Pocopson Township

JUNE 2009

## Public Information Sessions to be Held on Stormwater Management

The Township will host two sessions to provide residents with useful information and instructions for the operation, maintenance and inspection procedures for various types of stormwater management systems. At least one board member of each Homeowners' Association should attend as HOAs have responsibility for stormwater system maintenance within their communities. Meetings will be held on:

- **Tuesday, June 30, 2009** at the Township Building, 740 Denton Hollow Road
- **Thursday, July 23, 2009** at Simon Pearce Restaurant, 1333 Lenape Road

Meetings will begin at 7:30 P.M. and should conclude by 9:15 P.M. Space constraints limit each meeting to 35 attendees. To reserve a space, please send an e-mail to [info@pocopson.org](mailto:info@pocopson.org), noting which date you prefer and if you will be representing an HOA. Replies will be sent via e-mail to confirm the attendance lists.

## Earth Day 2009 Cleanup a Success

A huge thank you to the residents, business owners, scouting groups and volunteers who celebrated Earth Day 2009 on April 18 with our second annual community cleanup. Over 1/2 ton of litter, including tires, was cleared from our roadsides by:

- **Pocopson Elementary** – Boy Scout Pack 231/Ray Farrell
- **Pocopson Road** – Pocopson Industries (Paige and Bruce Marra)/Jeff and Dolores Leiser (Birmingham Township residents)
- **West Creek Road** – Karen and Steve Myers and Neighbors
- **Route 52** – Bethany Siehl/Brandyridge Drive Neighbors/Galer Family/Bill and Carol Haaf/Lauressa McNemar
- **Pocopson Park, Locust Grove Road** – Jr. Girl Scout Troop 4735/Chrissy Kirkland
- **S. Wawaset Road, Pocopson Home to Rt. 842** – Dolata Family
- **Route 842** – Northbrook Marketplace, Brandywine Valley Association
- **Lenape-Unionville Road** – Dembek Family
- **Red Lion Road** – Bolger Family
- **Northbrook Road** – Northbrook Canoe Co. (Zeke Hubbard)
- **Bragg Hill Road** – Seth Cavallari

Special thanks to Lawrie Bolger for organizing the event, and to PennDOT Adopt-A-Highway sponsors — Northbrook Canoe Company, the Galer and Dolata Families, and Senich & Sons — for their (at least) quarterly cleanups of several State roads.

Still available for adoption are Route 926 and Pocopson and Lenape-Unionville Roads, as well as numerous local roads. If you would like to conduct litter cleanups throughout the year, supplies and road signs are available. Please call the Township office at 610-793-2151 for more information.

## Founders Day Sunday, Sept. 20

September 2009 will mark the 160th anniversary of the founding of Pocopson Township, giving special significance to the third annual Founders Day event.

This year's event will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2009, from 12–4 P.M. at Pocopson Park (Locust Grove Road entrance). All events are free, courtesy of Pocopson Township and local sponsors, with a variety of food from local Hickory House Catering available for purchase.

Children's activities include pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, and storytelling by the Chicken Lady. Adults will enjoy Longwood Gardens' floral arranging demonstra-



tions, and the Pocopson Home Boys band will be back for a second year to play live music all afternoon.

The Locust Grove Schoolhouse, just down the road from the park, will be open and staffed by members of the Historical Committee.

A special event this year will focus on the Township's founders. Come find out how many of your neighbors are descendants of Pocopson's original founding families.

**Board of Supervisors:**

Stephen R. Conary, Chair  
 Georgia F. Brutscher, Vice-Chair  
 Laoussa J. McNemar, P.E., Member

**Pocopson Township Office:**

Phone: 610-793-2151  
 Fax: 610-793-1944  
 Address: 740 Denton Hollow Road  
 West Chester, PA 19382  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1  
 Pocopson, PA 19366  
 Office Hours: Weekdays, 9 A.M. — Noon  
 Web Site: [www.pocopson.org](http://www.pocopson.org)  
 General questions: [info@pocopson.org](mailto:info@pocopson.org)

**Administrative Staff:**

Susan Simone, Secretary  
[secretary@pocopson.org](mailto:secretary@pocopson.org)  
 Peggy Lennon, Treasurer  
[treasurer@pocopson.org](mailto:treasurer@pocopson.org)  
 Ricki Stumpo, Receptionist  
[receptionist@pocopson.org](mailto:receptionist@pocopson.org)

**Building Inspection:**

Fran McArdle  
 Keystone Municipal Services  
 Phone: 610-793-9390

**Zoning and Code Enforcement:**

Yerkes Associates  
 Phone: 610-793-9390

**Public Works Department:**

William Harwood, Director  
 Don Lane  
 Phone: 610-793-2387  
 Cell: 484-947-9378

**Township Solicitor:**

Ross Unruh, Esquire  
 Unruh, Turner, Burke & Frees

**Township Engineer:**

Jim Hatfield, Vandemark & Lynch, Inc.

*See page 6 for a list of committees and their members*

## Open Space Preservation

Pocopson voters approved a referendum in 2006 for a one mill property tax dedicated to preserving the Township's natural resources. The first open space preservation project was completed in late 2007 with 66 acres protected jointly with Chester County under the County Agricultural Challenge Grant program plus 19 acres protected through a Brandywine Conservancy conservation easement.

Several landowners have since expressed interest in joining the program. The Township's Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC), with Brandywine Conservancy help, has had numerous discussions with the landowners to determine the rights they wished to retain and the features on the land. The OSAC then scored each tract according to a checklist of established criteria.

Several parcels that are possible prospects for preservation are being appraised. An appraiser values the land in two ways: with no restrictions on future usage, and with the development rights removed. The difference between the two figures is the value of the easement and the maximum amount that the Township can offer.

Later this year, after all appraisals have been received, the Supervisors will hold a public hearing and then decide which properties to make offers on. If the Township's offer is accepted, the landowner continues to own the land but extinguishes future development rights on the property. A permanent easement is written and an endowment created to monitor that easement in perpetuity, which guarantees that the property will never be developed.

## Historical Committee Progress

2008 was a successful year for fundraising for the restoration of the Locust Grove Schoolhouse. The Historical Committee received a \$7,500 grant from the Fair Play Foundation, a Wilmington foundation that has been very supportive of the project. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Committee Chair Sarah Mims, a significant federal grant for the development of educational materials has also been allocated. Additionally, we received over \$2,000 in private donations from Township residents. Special thanks to resident Barnard Baily for installing the bell tower, replacing the floor, and donating vintage window glass.

Once complete, the Locust Grove Schoolhouse will be used for field trips by local school districts as well as a repository for the Township historical archives. More information about the Schoolhouse restoration project can be obtained by contacting the Historical Committee or by visiting the Schoolhouse on Founders Day on Sunday, September 20.

Kevin McCarthy, a Unionville High School senior from Chadds Ford, successfully completed his Eagle Scout project at the direction of the Committee by improving the grounds of the Denton Hollow Cemetery. Kevin and his fellow Scouts cleared brush and fallen trees from the abandoned Civil War era cemetery. With a financial donation from the Kennett Underground Railroad Center, Kevin installed fencing on the property to delineate its borders. The Historical Committee is continuing to research the origins of the cemetery and the church that was on the property; please contact the Township if you have interest in this project.



## Natural Resource Protection

Homeowners are sometimes surprised to learn that ownership does not mean unrestricted use of a property. The Township's Resource Protection Ordinances provide that

- **Tree removal** is limited by species, age, and location. This activity may also require a permit.
- **Wetlands** and **designated floodplains** can not be filled in, diverted, built upon, or otherwise altered.
- **Riparian buffers** (areas extending 15-25 feet from stream banks and populated with trees, shrubs and ground cover) must be preserved.
- Disturbance of **steep slopes** (those exceeding 10%) requires a permit.

Before undertaking a project that could disturb natural features of your property, review the Township Code (available as a link from our web site; go to [www.pocopson.org](http://www.pocopson.org) and click "View our E-Code") to ensure that your plans do not violate the Township's Resource Protection Ordinances. Please call the Township at 610-793-2151 with specific questions.

## Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronic and Computer (E-Waste) Drop-Off Schedule

There are three dates left this year for residents to drop off Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) in the original, labeled containers.



Labels on HHW products usually include such words as Caution, Combustible, Corrosive, Danger, Explosive, Flammable, Hazardous, Poisonous, Reactive Toxic, or Warning. Acceptable items for drop-off include:

- Household batteries
- Smoke alarms
- Pool chemicals
- Septic tank degreasers
- Weed killer, pesticide, poisons
- Fuel additives, transmission/brake fluid, empty oil containers, gas, antifreeze
- Joint compound, caulking compound, roof cement, asphalt sealer
- Oil-based paints, paint thinner, stain, shellac, varnish, stripper
- Drain openers, acids/caustics/ solvents
- Rug/wood/metal cleaners
- Reactive metals

HHW drop-off sites will not accept latex (water-based) paint, explosives, ammunition, appliances, radioactive waste, tires, infectious waste, unidentified waste, or commercial or industrial waste.

Events are sponsored by the County, SECCRA, Pennsylvania DEP and municipalities.

### 2009 Drop-Off Schedule

Sites open 9 AM—3 PM

#### Friday, June 19

**CAT Brandywine Campus**  
1635 E. Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, PA 19320  
**Computers accepted**

#### Saturday, September 19

**New Garden Maintenance Building**  
8934 Gap Newport Road  
Landenberg, PA 19350  
**No computers**

#### Saturday, October 10

**Government Services Ctr**  
601 Westtown Road, West  
Chester, PA 19380  
**Computers Accepted**

## Road Improvements Update

The long-planned roundabout at the Route 52–Lenape–Unionville–Wawaset Road intersection is working its way through the PennDOT approval process. This project also requires replacing the small bridge on Route 52 just south of the intersection so that the road alignment is correct. This is a roundabout demonstration project for Pennsylvania and PennDOT has agreed to find the funding necessary to complete it.

PennDOT currently plans to go out for bids for the replacement of the Route 926 Bridge over the Brandywine in late 2010, which means construction



would start in 2011. Recognizing the significant impact that this project will have on the community, the Township has formally requested that PennDOT limit the shutdown of this crossing to no more than one school year, and that there be incentives for completing construction early. We have also asked that the design complement the rural and historic setting of the bridge.

We also plan for the intersection of Route 52 and Pocopson Road to gain a left-turn lane for drivers turning onto Pocopson Road from southbound Route 52 in the near future. This will be especially important to minimize backups while the Route 926 bridge is closed.

## Thank You!

Our thanks to Sandy Retzlaff and Tiia Rettig who are leaving their volunteer positions with the township. We appreciate their willingness to give their time and energy to help make Pocopson a better place to live.

## Focus on the Environment

### Recycling

Last year, we estimated that 65% to 70% of Township residences recycled — either curbside or by dropping off recyclables behind the Township building. These were reasonable rates for a small municipality that was not yet required by the State to provide Township-wide recycling — but short of our target of 100%. We also became aware of the disturbing practice among a small number of residents of burning trash in barrels on their property instead of using a regular trash pick-up.

Recognizing the soon-to-be-upon-us State requirements, the Board of Supervisors passed a new *Waste Management and Recycling Ordinance* in November 2008. The full text is available through a link from the Township website ([www.pocopson.org](http://www.pocopson.org)). A summary follows.

- Every household must either **contract for waste collection and disposal service** with a pick-up frequency of at least once per week or **self-deliver** to state approved drop-off locations or disposal facilities (such as the SECCRA landfill on Route 926). Waste collectors serving the area are listed in the phone directory.
- Recycling is mandatory in the Township, and all municipal waste collectors working in Pocopson must now offer **curbside recycling**. It is your responsibility to secure a collector who offers recycling pickup.
- **Separate recyclables** from the rest of your trash. This includes clear and colored glass food and beverage containers, #1 and #2 plastic milk and beverage containers, aluminum food and beverage containers, metal/bimetal cans, high-grade office paper, junk mail, magazines, phone books, corrugated cardboard and leaf waste.
- **Commingled recyclables** (excluding leaf waste) can be accepted by most municipal waste collectors, which means that you can store all your recyclables in the same recycling bin. Be sure to check if this is your collector's policy.
- Recyclables can still be deposited in five **large metal bins** behind the Township Office Building at 740 Denton Hollow Road.

### Leaves and Branches

You can manage **leaf waste** several ways. If possible, allow leaves to compost on-site, mowing them with your grass. Your trash hauler may accept bagged leaves (check their rules and fees). The SECCRA landfill accepts leaves in approved bags, without sticks and other yard debris, free of charge from Pocopson residents all year. **Burning of leaves is still prohibited**, as is disposal with regular trash.

During the fall, the Township's Public Works crew provides free curbside pickup once a week of recyclable **paper leaf bags** (available at local stores). Check the website later in the year for dates.

**Christmas trees** are picked up on the first three Mondays in January, weather permitting.

The Township also does **curbside chipping of brush** for a few days each spring and fall. Notices are put in residents' mailboxes about a week before the service is scheduled. Please note that there is a 5 minute chipping limit per house. This service is meant to assist residents with general brush cleanup, and is not a way to avoid paying for removal of accumulated debris and brush.

### Open Burning

Also updated in 2008 was the portion of the Township Code that governs **open burning**. Ordinance 4 of 2008 provides that except for recreational fires, it is unlawful to burn anything outdoors anywhere in the Township except during daylight hours. Specific requirements for allowable burnings are in the ordinance.

**Always prohibited** are the indoor or outdoor burning at any time of: leaf waste, municipal waste (household trash and discarded materials), household hazardous waste, construction/demolition debris, rubber, junked cars, human and/or animal waste; or recyclables, including all paper and cardboard products and packaging.

### Grants/Funding

Pocopson Township is awarded State recycling funds based on our annual recycling totals. We report to the State the tonnage collected of each type of recyclable material, including collections at Pocopson Home and the County Prison. In 2008, our award was \$3,227 and we expect nearly \$4,000 this year.

The more we recycle, the higher the annual award. Tossing recyclables in the trash is like throwing away money.

### What Can I Do?

- 1) Recycle everything that your hauler will accept.
- 2) Get everyone in your household involved in ensuring that your recycling bins are placed curbside for pickup every week.
- 3) Drop off old electronic and computer equipment on special collection dates; *see page 3 for details*.
- 4) Bring excess recyclables to the Township Building. There are two bins for flattened cardboard, two for plastic and cans, and one for mixed paper. These bins are emptied by SECCRA once a week (usually on Mondays), and so may fill up over the weekend. Please do not leave recyclables outside the metal bins if there is insufficient space to add yours.

## Public Works Crew Asks Residents to Report Problems

Although the Township's Public Works crew strives to address problems promptly, its members can't be everywhere at once to scan for maintenance issues. You can help – Pocopson Township is recruiting residents to be an extra set of eyes to report road and park problems.

You can leave a message at the Public Works Garage, 610-793-2387, to report potholes, clogged drains, overgrown vegetation and other maintenance needs. Messages about park and trail maintenance issues can also be left at this number.

For hazardous conditions such as downed trees or road signs, flooding, significant icing, or debris in the roadway, please call 484-947-9378. This is the cell phone number of Public Works Director Bill Harwood and should be used to report road or park emergencies during business hours.

On evenings and weekends, please contact the State Police at Avondale at 610-268-2022 to report hazardous road conditions. You can also call 911 to report road emergencies that you observe while driving.

## How Fast Do You Drive...

Concerned residents have contacted the Township about speeding, both on major roads like Route 52, and within communities. Please observe all speed limits and traffic control devices, especially as summer brings more children, walkers, and bicyclists to share our roads.



## Stream Team Still Flowing Along

Pocopson Township's Stream Team continues its efforts to assess and improve stream quality in the Township.

**Water Quality Sampling:** This spring, team members tested the water at two locations along Pocopson Creek, with mixed results:

- Nitrates (largely the result of fertilizer runoff) are high at both sites.
- Macroinvertebrate levels were acceptable at one site but borderline at the other — likely due to very muddy conditions at the second site. Sediment is the biggest threat to healthy stream life.
- Oxygen and pH levels were good, but showed the effects of acid rain.

Thanks to Jenel Edwards, Carol and Bill Haaf, Jennie Matkov, Laressa McNemar, Kathy Miller, Hannah Miller, the Mims family, Alex Pearlman, Tony Trease, and Brittany Yates for working in less-than-ideal conditions to obtain these results. Also, special thanks to Bill Haaf, Chair of the Stream Team, for acquiring a \$2,500 grant from the Dockstader Foundation that was used to buy stream testing equipment and chemicals.

By measuring stream quality twice a year, the Stream Team is establishing a baseline that will allow us to track whether corrective measures are having an effect on the health of Pocopson Creek. The most significant of these measures is:

**Riparian Planting:** Plant communities that extend along river margins are called riparian zones. Young trees and shrubs provided by the Chester County Conservation District (CCCD) were planted along Pocopson Creek at Denton Hollow Road last year and along the creek at Red Bridge Farms last month to broaden the riparian zones in these areas.

The Township is actively seeking additional sites for riparian plantings. There is no cost to participants, although homeowners are asked to help with the planting and to provide maintenance for the growing trees (e.g., watering, protecting against deer, and reduced mowing). If you have stream property and might be interested in riparian plantings, please call the Township at 610-793-2151. This number can also be used to report discharges into our stream or other waterway concerns.

## How quickly can your home be found?

In an emergency, just a few minutes could make the difference between life and death. Can your address be seen clearly and easily from the street, at a distance, and especially at night? If your home is on a shared driveway, is each driveway and each house identified?

The best way to identify your property is with reflective numbers that can be seen at night.



Longwood Fire Company, which serves a large section of the Township, sells reflective numbers. Please call 610-388-6880 for more information. Orders will also be taken at Founders Day on September 20.

## New Trails in Pocopson

Have you noticed new trails near the County and Township properties on South Wawaset Road? To access any of these trail segments, park on the gravel area behind the Barnard House on S. Wawaset Road. Or, park at either Pocopson Park parking lot and follow the walking trail to the Corrine Road crosswalk. Cross the road and continue south on a spur that links up with the western side of the Barnard Trail.

The Barnard Trail is located at S. Wawaset and Unionville-Lenape Roads on land that was transferred to the Township by the County last fall. The trail forms a loop of just over a mile with a striking view from the hilltop. Most of the trail is gravel.

The lower portion of this trail is designated as a paved bikeway. The bikeway begins near the bridge on Unionville-Lenape Road, turns north on S. Wawaset Road, then crosses the road behind Pocopson Home. Turn left shortly after crossing to stay on the paved portion, which parallels S. Wawaset Road and ends across the street from the Pocopson Park tennis courts.

Still under construction is the Lenape Loop trail behind Pocopson Home. The trail is paved through the Pocopson Home site, and becomes gravel to the right as you enter the prison property. Eventually the trail will form a loop, but presently, trail users who walk to the end must double back. A few items of which to be aware:

- The spur that leads south toward Route 52 is a dead end; there is no crosswalk or connecting trail.
- We only have trail rights on the perimeter of the prison property. Use the access road on the prison perimeter, but do not walk on connecting roads that lead into the main prison site.
- Much of this trail borders prison property spray fields, the last step in wastewater treatment. The facility is operated under close supervision and we are assured that the water is safe; nonetheless, you may want to stay clear of spray on windy days.
- The trail does not yet form a loop; no matter which direction you take, you must double back to exit.
- Continued recreational access will be permitted only if there is no interference in County operations.

Behind the scenes, a Trails Feasibility Study is being completed under a state grant. Many Township volunteers, in combination with the Brandywine Conservancy and Regester Associates, have been working to catalog existing trails and easements and to propose connecting trail segments. The study is meant to provide a framework for what the trail network could look like if easements were granted by landowners and what the cost might be to obtain missing links and create a comprehensive trails system through Pocopson Township.

## Township Thrives on Volunteer Time and Talent

Pocopson Township is fortunate to have a great group of residents contributing their talents to our Committees. Thank you to these volunteers who dedicate their time to improving our community:

### Planning Commission

Gary Summers, Chair  
Suzy Breiseth, Vice-Chair  
Robert Costello  
Meg Johnson  
Lauressa McNemar  
Robert Miller  
Sean Rafferty

### Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee

Ezekiel Hubbard, Chair  
Bill Haaf, Vice-Chair  
Tom Bierl  
Lawrie Bolger  
Chris Conaway  
Joe Stumpo  
Ricki Stumpo

### Historical Committee

Sarah Mims, Chair  
Barnard Baily  
Pat Burnett  
Jean Canary  
Peggy Conaway  
Mary Beth Drobish  
Doug Fearn  
Kris Firey-Poling  
Alta Hoffman  
Dan O'Neill  
Sue Woodward  
Bruce Yelton

### Open Space Advisory Committee

Paul Haldeman, Co-Chair  
Randy Mims, Co-Chair  
Tom Bierl  
Nancy Ercolani  
Holly Manzone  
Linda Moore  
Dale Stratton

### Zoning Hearing Board

Nate Wilson, Chair  
Jim Noon, Vice-Chair  
Bob Woodward

### Barnard House Steering Committee

Georgia Brutscher, Chair  
Jean Canary  
Mary Dugan, KURC  
Kris Firey-Poling  
Alta Hoffman  
Rusty Jones, KURC  
John O'Neal, KURC  
Susan Simone

### Stream Team

Bill Haaf, Chair  
Lawrie Bolger  
Janet Cleaver  
Jenel Edwards  
Joanna Fox  
Carol Haaf

Bernadette Kegelman  
Kathy Miller  
Mims Family  
Sharon Rockledge  
Nate Wilson

### Founders Day Committee

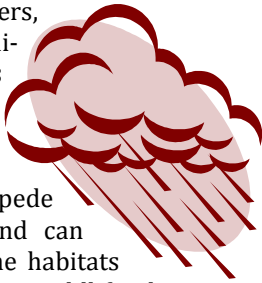
Sandy Retzlaff, Co-Chair  
Ricki Stumpo, Co-Chair  
Lawrie Bolger  
Marie Bontigao  
Suzy Breiseth  
Jean Canary  
Chris Conaway  
Jennifer Coyle  
Lele Galer  
Berle Goldman  
Bill Haaf  
Zeke Hubbard  
Danielle Lawrence  
Holly Manzone  
Linda Moore  
Karen Myers  
Julianne Ruocco

## Stormwater Management Education

*Information courtesy of the Office of Watersheds, Philadelphia Water Department*

The Clean Water Act requires that all municipalities develop comprehensive plans to manage stormwater. A key component of these plans is education about what stormwater management is and why it's important.

The term "stormwater" refers to rainwater plus everything it washes off the ground: oil, gasoline, anti-freeze, brake dust, road salt and cinders, fertilizer, and animal waste. As these toxins are carried into streams and creeks, they impede water quality and can badly damage the habitats of fish and other wildlife that depend on healthy waterways.



At this time of year, the most relevant targets for reducing the toxins in stormwater are lawn and garden care and vehicle maintenance.

- Use fertilizers sparingly. Lawns and plants do not need as much fertilizer — or need it as often — as you might think.
- Never fertilize before a storm. The chemicals will be picked up and washed away by the rain.
- If granular fertilizer gets onto paved surfaces, sweep it up; save it for later or spread small amounts on the lawn.
- Let your grass clippings lay! Don't bag the grass. Use a mulching mower to cut no more than one-third of the blade length each week and naturally fertilize your lawn in the process.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of the car. Most car washes reuse water several times.
- If you do wash your car at home, do so on gravel, grass or another permeable surface, so the ground can filter the water naturally.
- Use soap sparingly. Try to use non-phosphate detergents.
- Use a hose with a nozzle that has a pistol grip or trigger nozzle, which saves water
- When you're done, empty your bucket of soapy water down the sink, not onto the street.
- Plant trees and shrubs to catch rainfall on leaves, branches, and trunks. A single mature tree will intercept over 130 gallons of rain during a minor (¼") storm.

## Historic Barnard House: Renovate and Repurpose

In October 2008, the Township took possession of 68 acres at the northwest corner of the intersection of Lenape-Unionville and S. Wawaset Roads. This land was transferred from Chester County to Pocopson at no cost to us.

The transaction included the Eusebius Barnard House, an early 1800s stone house and a stop on the Underground Railroad located opposite the Pocopson Home. This historic stone house will eventually be renovated and repurposed to house the Township's administrative offices and public meeting space and as a home for the Kennett Underground Railroad Museum.

A Steering Committee has met bi-weekly since February. The first step, working with architect Dennis Melton to identify space and functional needs, was completed in April. Floor plan options are under review, with a final plan to be selected by the end of the summer. Depending on funding opportunities, work could start on the building as soon as this winter.

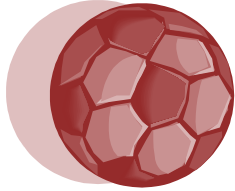
A top priority is to utilize green and resource renewal technologies to make the renovated building a showcase project for carbon footprint reduction. We're applying for grants so that a geothermal HVAC system can be installed in the house. Retrofitting the existing wood windows is important to maintaining the historic appearance of the structure while reducing energy usage. Water reuse and energy saving electric lighting are also part of the plan. By taking a leadership role in emphasizing green building techniques, the Township hopes to encourage the community to implement the same types of improvements on the residential level.

Our thanks to the Steering Committee members who have spent hours on this project. Chaired by Supervisor Georga Brutscher, the Committee includes three representatives from the Township Historical Committee: Jean Conary, Kris Firey-Poling, and Alta Hoffman; Township Administrative Secretary Susan Simone; and several representatives from the Kennett Underground Railroad Center (KURC). Their efforts will ensure that a renovated Barnard House meets the needs of the Township for administrative and public meeting space while saluting the building's historic past.

**Pocopson Township**  
**P.O. Box 1**  
**Pocopson, PA 19366**

### **Summer Sports Camps**

Pocopson Park will host a summer soccer camp this July. UK Elite offers a morning soccer camp from July 13-17 for ages 5-14. More information is available at [www.UKElite.com](http://www.UKElite.com).



**Our web address:**

**[www.pocopson.org](http://www.pocopson.org)**

**First Class**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**P A I D**  
**Pocopson Twp.**  
**19366**  
**Permit No. #1**

## **Where does the time go...**

What keeps us — the Supervisors, staff and volunteers — busy on behalf of the Township? Residents' inquiries and needs and the day-to-day demands of keeping the Township running, including maintenance of roads and parks, are our first order of business.

Projects include the repurposing of the Barnard House, road improvements, open space preservation, looking for ways to bring benefits from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) — also known as the federal stimulus package — to the Township, and preparing for the turnover of a community waste water system.

Additional projects include construction of trails, moving township operations into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, state imposed stormwater management re-

quirements — the list goes on. Articles elsewhere in this newsletter give more details on many of the projects underway. Much of the work is behind the scenes.

The State's Right-to-Know law that went into effect this year essentially reverses the long-standing practice of releasing information only after the requestor proves s/he should have it. Now, almost everything is open to anyone, with a few exceptions. The State has outlined a specific process for requests with mandated time limits for replies. Susan Simone, as our Open Records Officer, endeavors to satisfy all requests promptly. The Right-to-Know Request form can be downloaded from the Township website or filled out at the Township office.

To better organize our records, we're hiring a part-time employee this summer to help move our filing from an "individualistic" system to a more holistic, anyone-can-find-anything system. We're also looking into modern document management tools to further improve our access to township records, and we're adopting State records retention criteria to ensure that we keep what's required.

We're also planning an improved website, including an email function to allow electronic notification of Township events.

This is where some of our time goes.

*Steve Conary*  
*Chair, Board of Supervisors*



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***Pocopson Township Founders Day***  
***Sunday, September 20, 2009 12 — 4 P.M. Pocopson Park***