Pocopson Township Newsletter

NEW BUILDING OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE JOIN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND TOWNSHIP STAFF FOR AN OPEN HOUSE AT THE NEW POCOPSON TOWNSHIP BUILDING ON SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023, FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 3 P.M. AT 664 SOUTH WAWASET ROAD

FRIENDS OF BARNARD STATION PRESERVATION PLAN

Progress is being made on the creation of the Preservation Plan at Barnard Station. The historic building has been measured and drawings are underway to document the existing conditions.

Daniel T. Campbell, A.I.A, is in the process of creating drawings for the three construction phases of the house (circa 1805, circa 1840, and circa 1880).

In addition, selective demolition of some of the 20th century renovations has begun. When the house was turned into a duplex by Chester County, several door openings from the 19th century were closed up or altered.

Friends of Barnard Station will be restoring the interior of the first floor to its circa 1850 layout. To see more photos of the selective demolition, visit barnardstation.org.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Be sure to put the Open House on your calendar!
- Dogs must be leashed at all times at parks and trails.
- Details on Act 57 Local Tax Collection for new homeowners inside.
Fireworks are a popular part of the New Year’s and Fourth of July celebrations. However, they can cause concerns for some residents and animals. Some veterans have adverse reactions and animals can injure themselves if excited.

Commercial fireworks displays (rare) can be monitored by the township as they require a permit. Consumer fireworks are most effectively controlled by Pennsylvania law.

The Planning Commission has reviewed the issue and provides the following information.

**CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG**

Located underground is a complex network of pipes and wires for critical services such as electricity, natural gas, communications, water, sewage and other utilities. Unsafe digging can damage equipment. If you plan to dig anywhere—from large construction jobs to home projects—smart digging means calling 811 before each job. This is the first step in helping you to dig safely and avoid damaging critical utilities.

Make the call. One free, simple phone call to 811 will notify all appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig.

Provide advance notice. Contact 811 at least three full business days (but no more than ten days) prior to digging to ensure utility lines are properly marked.

Provide your project info. When you call, a representative from 811 will ask for the location and description of your digging project.

Allow utilities to mark underground lines. 811 will notify PECO and other affected utilities that will then send professional locators to the dig site to mark the exact location of any underground lines.

Understand the location marks. Each type of buried utility has its own color code. Marks may be painted or located with flags. *(See color designation list at left.*)

PECO is dedicated to providing education and assistance. Damage Prevention Group is dedicated to providing education and assistance to customers and excavators regarding safe excavation around PECO underground gas and electric lines. Safe digging is everyone's responsibility. They provide both office and field personnel to assist you with all issues related to excavation activities throughout our service territory. Our close partnership with PA One Call and our locating vendor, STS, Inc., gives you access to the resources you need to ensure your job site is properly marked before you start to dig.

For more information call: 610-941-1809 or 610-943-5515

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**“Celebrate safely, responsibly, and with consideration for others.”**
MOVEMENT MONDAY PHOTOS!

The Health Department is very excited to tell you about their Movement Monday Photo of the Week! This is a running submission opportunity for photos of how you stay active around Chester County. There are so many opportunities to get moving outside and they want to join you on your journey. Help them celebrate our communities by submitting a photo when you are on the move. Share an image of what your view looks like for a chance to be featured as the Movement Monday Photo of the Week on the Health Department’s website and social profiles.

They invite you to submit your own photos and share this opportunity with your friends, family and network. This program highlights the beautiful scenery in Chester County and the fun and unique ways people keep moving. All types of movement are welcome. To see previous Photos of the Week, check out their social media. They post the latest photo winner every Monday on all of the Health Department channels.

CURBSIDE CHIPPING WILL BEGIN MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

Guidelines:

- No branches over 12” in diameter
- Place large cut ends facing the street
- Do not stack; spread branches out
- No firewood, construction lumber, or fence posts
- No roots or stumps
- 15-minute limit per address
- Materials should be curbside by 7 a.m.

*Weather Permitting

WEST CREEK ROAD WORK TO BEGIN THIS SUMMER

The bidding process will begin in March, and the work will commence after school is out for the summer. The project should be complete by the time schools reopen in the fall. All road work repair plans are on schedule provided supply chains are not disrupted and the weather cooperates.
OLD TIMERS CORNER

Did you know...

♦ There were once four stations along the Wilmington and Northern RR in Pocopson. They were at Pocopson, Lenape, Wawaset, and Northbrook. Two remain but are now used for other purposes (Pocopson Vet and a private home).

♦ The first telephone came to the township in 1906. The number was 166-0. The operator was in West Chester.

♦ There was once a skunk farm near Wawaset for pelts and various oils. It was not successful as free-range skunks had better pelts (not sure why). It operated one year.

♦ In 1884, a blacksmith (farrier) shod 45 horses (all around) in 3 days.

♦ When the trolley from West Chester to Lenape was first extended to Kennett Square, it could not cross the railroad so passengers had to disembark, walk across the track and board another trolley to continue. Within a short time an agreement was reached for a crossing with the Wilmington & Northern Railroad and appropriate signals were installed.

RECYCLE RIGHT

Drop-off Recycling – Township Building*

Recyclables are commodities. Dirty or contaminated, they are worthless. But clean recyclables (a good rinse is sufficient) have value and may be turned into new products. Here are a few of the most common contaminants that must be kept out of the recycle bins: plastic bags, textiles such as bedding and carpets, holiday lights, clothes hangers, extension cords, and non-recyclable plastic.

Drop-off recycling is accepted at public recycling bins located behind the Township building at 740 Denton Hollow Road. The bins are emptied every Monday by SECCRA (Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority). It’s important that the only items you put in the bins are those accepted by SECCRA as listed in detail on the signs posted on each bin. When too many non-recyclables are mixed in with recyclables, the entire truckload becomes trash and has to be dumped at a landfill. **When in doubt – throw it out!**

Also, please be sure to remember if you plan to dispose of any household hazardous waste, you must register with the county at chestercountyswa.org!

ACT 57 LOCAL TAX COLLECTION FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS

Act 57 allows new homeowner taxpayers who fail to receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy to apply for a waiver from penalties, fees, and additional costs from the tax collector. In order to qualify, the taxpayer has to (1) attest they did not receive the notice; (2) provide proof of the property’s transfer within the last 12 months; (3) provide a waiver request to the tax collector; and (4) provide payment of the face value of the taxes. The Pocopson Township Board of Supervisors enacted Resolution 2022-25 implementing Act 57 and providing additional information regarding the waiver. The waiver goes into effect for the 2023 tax year going forward and does not apply for 2022. The State Department of Community and Economic Development created a waiver form for taxpayers to submit to the tax collector. The form is also available at the township office.

Sign, sign Everywhere a sign

April showers bring...May elections signs!

A friendly reminder that signs of any nature are NOT to be placed in our roundabout, the meridian strip leading up to the roundabout on 52, or other traffic calming features. Placement in those areas creates a safety issue for motorists.

Signs are also prohibited on Township owned property.

Help keep Pocopson roadways pristine and to collect your signs when the event is complete.

Thank you.
DOGS UNLEASHED!

We know what it’s like. You’re strolling on this bucolic trail, over the hill and through the dale. There’s a big open space and your dog is pulling you forward to the next scent. They want to run untethered through the grass and trees. You love watching them do it! Unfortunately, it is not allowed on any of the Pocopson trails or parks (Chapter 147 Pocopson Township Code).

There are residents that run or jog on the trails, and they do not feel safe when they are chased by an unleashed dog. We know your dog is very affectionate and simply wants to make new friends, but the walkers and runners don’t know which dog is safe, and which ones aren’t.

Fortunately, there are several local dog parks (Barkington Park in Kennett Township and at Anson B Nixon Park in Kennett Square Borough) that do allow you to unleash your dogs!

~ All dogs must be on a leash at all Pocopson parks and trails.

THE DUNCAN ALLISON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE AWARD

This year’s Duncan Allison Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture goes to the Baily family of Baily’s Dairy of Pocopson Meadow Farm in West Chester. Three generations of the family operate Baily’s Dairy, including patriarch Bernard Baily; daughter Becky Baily and her husband Eric Cockroft; daughter Meredith Parsons and her son Tyler Parsons.

The family is recognized for positively promoting local agriculture and serving as community ambassadors on the industry’s behalf. They have played an integral role in hosting the Chester Valley Dairy 4-H club and leasing cows to young club members who wouldn’t otherwise be able to participate.

Commissioner Michelle Kichline said, “The Baily family is an example of farmers who want to share the experience of living and working on a farm with others across Chester County. They are commended for their devotion to teaching youth about raising farm animals and letting children see a cow up-close, sometimes for the first time. Thank you to the three generations of Baily’s who continue the traditions of farming.”

Becky Baily, who oversees the milking and processing, said, “We grew up on the farm and were used to how things worked. Now, so many kids in Chester County are removed from the farm but want to get involved once they visit us.”
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Elaine DiMonte, Chair
Ricki Stumpo, Vice Chair
Ray McKay, Supervisor
meets last Mondays at 7 p.m. See web site for exceptions and a full list of this year’s meeting dates and agendas.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
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Phone: 610-793-2387

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PLANNING COMMISSION meets first Wednesdays at 7:30 pm (except August and December) Gary Summers, Chair, Robert Miller, Vice Chair, Mickey Bailey, Paul Cardell, John Hess, Sean Rafferty, Matt Murphy

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE meets second Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Don McKay, Chair, Pat Burnett, John Hedrick, David Miller, Randy Mims, Sarah Mims, Lorain Yost, Tony Musacchio Resource Members – Alta Hoffman and Doug Fearn

PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS COMMITTEE meets 2nd Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Jesse Noa, Chair, Janet Fassbender, Vice Chair, Jordan Gushurst, Judy Lovell, Thomas Bierl, Josh Burry, Jae Winter

Kevin Gosselin, Emergency Services
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Mike Balsama, Constable-Fire Marshall
Firemarshall@aol.com

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