



## POCOPSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2024

### CELEBRATING 175 YEARS: POCOPSON TOWNSHIP'S RICH HERITAGE

This year, Pocopson Township prepares to celebrate its **175th Anniversary**. Nestled amidst rolling hills and meandering streams, this historic township has woven its story into the fabric of American life. Join us as we explore the past, present, and future of Pocopson.

Pocopson Township's roots run deep. Before the first European settlers arrived, the land was home to the **Lenni Lenape**—a Native American tribe that cherished the river valleys and creek banks along the Mid-Atlantic. Their presence lingers in

the susurrus of the pocaupsing creek or "roaring waters".

In the late 18th century, pioneers established homesteads along the Brandywine River. These early settlers built the foundation for what would become Pocopson Township. The area of Pocopson Township played a central role in the revolutionary **Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777**. By the mid-19th century, the area flourished with farms, stone houses, and a sense of community. Pocopson Township was formed from

Pennsbury, East Marlborough, and West Bradford Township land. In late 1848, 28 male residents from these Townships, along with Newlin, signed a petition to the Court of Quarter Sessions pleading that "they labor under great inconvenience for want of a new township to be composed of part of (their existing) townships." Eusebius Barnard, Pocopson's future **Underground Railroad** leader, was among these men. The new township was approved on **September 13, 1849**, with the court filing orders for Pocopson to elect its officers.

### DEMOGRAPHICS AND GEOGRAPHY

- **Population:** At the **2020 census**, Pocopson Township was home to **4,455 residents**. That total includes the patients residing in Pocopson Home (167\*) and the Chester County prison population (678\*). *\*These numbers are fluid due to the nature of the respective populations.*
- **Land Area:** Our township spans **8.4 square miles** of picturesque landscapes.
- **Roads:** A network of winding roads connects our neighborhoods totaling **43.15 miles**. The township roads are maintained by the Pocopson Public Works Department, and the state roads by PennDOT. The township recently received a \$500,000.00 grant from

Commonwealth Financing Authority LSA (Local Share Gaming) for repairs to West Creek Road.

- **Open Space:** We cherish our green spaces. About **44%** of Pocopson's total acreage of 5,328, is protected Open Space including parks, trails, and easements. The Township has purchased the development rights to **615 acres**. While the land continues to be privately owned, it will not be developed, thus ensuring that it will remain as open space and help preserve Pocopson's rural character. Nearly **1.5%** of the township is water, including tranquil ponds and babbling streams. Pocopson Creek is undergoing streambed remediation per federal guidelines;

ARPA money was used for the design and initial work. The Township will put the project out to bid in the next few months for a contractor to do the proposed work and plan approved by DEP. These natural and man-made oases provide harmony and beauty.

- **Agriculture and Farmland:** Our fertile soil sustains local farms. Fields of corn, wheat, and soybeans stretch across vistas all around the township. The legacy of hardworking farmers lives on, tilling the same earth their predecessors did.
- **Region:** Pocopson is part of the Christina River Watershed

## FOUNDERS DAY: SEPTEMBER 14TH

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, September 14th, Pocopson Township invites you to Founders Day. Join us at Pocopson Park, where the past and present converge.

### Festivities include:

- **Local Artisans:** Discover handmade crafts and artworks by local artisans.
- **Childrens' Activities:** Taste the flavors of Pocopson—fresh apple cider doughnuts—at the Doughnut Eating contest. Face painting and bounce houses are also planned.
- **Dog Parade and Contest:** Prizes will go to the best dogs in a variety of categories.
- **Historical Tours:** Step back in time as guides share tales of our founders at the Barnard House and the Locust Grove Schoolhouse.
- **Music:** Enjoy folk music played live by local musicians.
- **Food:** Available for purchase from local vendors.

We are looking for volunteers for this exciting event. Please contact the township! Pocopson Township, with its stone houses, babbling brooks, and open fields, remains a testament to the human connection with the land. As we honor our past, let's embrace the future with gratitude and hope. Happy 175th, Pocopson!

## SPRING PROGRAMS & EVENTS AT KENNETT LIBRARY

Kennett Library is ready for its first spring in the new building! April and May are filled with programs and events centered around growth, imagination, and connecting with the community.

At a glance, the auditorium will feature a play by Pages Alive Theatre: The Student Shakespeare Festival, an election-year film festival, and Monday Movie Nights (now hosted by the Friends of Kennett Library).

Environmental programs include the relaunch of the Free Seed Library, the continuation of Friends of Meadowitos lecture series, and a walk in the park identifying wildflowers. The well-loved and attended Toddler Nature Camp will occur in Anson B. Nixon Park from mid-April through mid-May.

Makerspace programs include Coding with Swift Playgrounds on iPad, Video Production with iMovie, Podcasting with GarageBand, iPhoneography, Website Building with Google Sites, and many more 3D printing and laser engraving activities.

Art Exhibits in the gallery will include World of Jazz by Al Moretti (April 4th–30th), and a student art show in May. Other arts-related programs include Where Do Old Books Go (upcycling book pages) and fiber arts groups like the Knit Knook and crocheting classes.

Live Better, the library's health awareness initiative, partners with the YMCA and Anson B. Nixon Park on April 20th for WalkFest, a day focused on the health benefits of walking for all ages and abilities.

Special events include a Jazz Festival on April 27th with the Kennett Flash, a performance of Odysseus on April 6th, a celebration of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library on April 24th, and a Community Volunteer Fair on May 11th.

The library is especially eager to host its very first Starlight Soirée on May 3rd, celebrating the new library under the stars on the Melton Terrace. The soirée will feature a silent auction, local music, and delicious food (tickets will be available soon).



## 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!**

\*740 Denton Hollow Road

## BRANDYWINE RED CLAY ALLIANCE



### Brandywine Clean Up

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

Registration will begin soon to participate in the Annual Brandywine Clean Up event to keep roads, parks, and streams in our area clean and beautiful. Individuals and groups will be able to clean up areas in Northern Delaware and Chester County. No experience necessary and all supplies will be provided. For more information please visit [brandywineredclay.org/](http://brandywineredclay.org/) events.

### Trout Rodeo

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

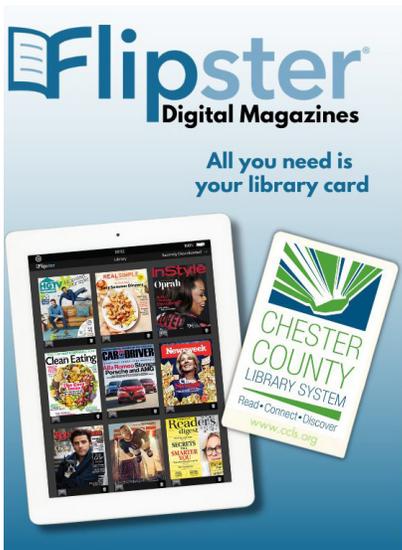
Stay tuned to BRC's website, [brandywineredclay.org](http://brandywineredclay.org/), or the Kennett Area Park Authority for more details on this family-friendly event!

## COMMUNITY WAREHOUSE PROJECT OF CHESTER COUNTY

The Community Warehouse Project is a local furniture bank that collects gently used furniture and housewares and then distributes these items to families, individuals, and veterans in need throughout Chester County. Their clients are referred to by over 90 social service agencies throughout the area. They served 486 Chester County households last year and believe that providing important furniture helps to transform an empty house into a home creating a stable environment for families and individuals to thrive.

This is a way to recycle perfectly usable items instead of going to the landfill. By recycling unwanted furniture items to needy families and veterans, they estimate that they are saving 250 tons of furniture from landfills each year. Their warehouse is located at 800 E. Virginia Avenue, Building 3, West Chester, PA 19380 near Henderson High School. Donations must be pre-approved by sending photos to [donations@communitywarehouseproject.com](mailto:donations@communitywarehouseproject.com) or to our phone at 484-473-4360.

The CWP is open for donation drop offs Monday through Friday from 9 to 1pm and every third Saturday of each month from 9 to 1pm. Other drop off dates are available by appointment. They also have a Drop Off Day at their Downingtown warehouse the first Sunday of each month 10 to 2pm. Please email or call with any questions.



### Now Available

Instant access to the magazines you know and love in an easy-to-read digital format.

- Architectural Digest
- Backpacker
- Black Enterprise
- Eating Well
- Family Tree Magazine
- Fast Company
- Gluten-Free Living
- Kiplinger's Personal Finance
- Motor Trend
- Parents
- Popular Science
- Prevention
- This Old House
- Women's Health

And many more!  
over 70 magazine titles available!

## YOUR TOWNSHIP WORKING FOR YOU

The Township has always been a hive of activity providing services for its residents. The Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and other groups such as the Zoning Hearing Board have overseen many changes and upgrades for the betterment and enrichment of the residents living in Pocopson.

Aside from the substantial Gravix wall installation project completion on West Creek Road, the winter snow removal and the spring chipping in March, the Public Works Department will be paving Valley, W Creek, and Haines Mill Roads this summer.

The Zoning Hearing Board has presided over four applications over the past year, and the Planning Commission has made recommendations for zoning ordinance amendments regarding signage, fireworks, and accessory use of solar energy. They also provide recommendations for Conditional Use and Zoning Hearings.

The Board of Supervisors has passed twenty Resolutions in the past year directing the routine administrative tasks of local government including tax authorization, bid acceptances, and adoption of the township budget. Last year, the Board set taxes for Fire, Ambulance and EMS to ensure residents get the best possible emergency protective services.

Pocopson Township remains in strong financial condition due to conservative spending and the Supervisors decision to take advantage of the higher interest rates currently available. With a fiscally responsible budget for 2024 passed in December 2023, the Township should once again end the year in a very stable position. The 2025 budget preparation will begin in September 2024.

There are many volunteer groups such as the Friends of Barnard Station that offer tours of the Barnard House and the Historical Committee that offers tours of the Locust Grove Schoolhouse. The Deer Management Committee helps control the deer population. The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee discusses park and trail activities and upgrades. And this year the Founders Day Committee will re-establish the celebration for Pocopson's 175th anniversary.

## FROM THE WEST CHESTER LIBRARY Free Digital Magazines & Summer Reading Fun!

### Highlighted Service of the Month: Access Digital Magazines for FREE

Are you traveling for Spring Break and need a simple and convenient way to browse through all your favorite magazines in one place? Flipster is a digital magazine distribution service where library patrons can access magazines from a variety of publishers through a web browser using their Chester County Library System card number. Users can also download a free app from iTunes to view or download the magazine to a mobile device (an Android app is also available).

Access over 100 titles on the go with an active Chester County Library System card! Some titles include HGTV Magazine, Rolling Stone, Clean Eating, Real Simple, and House Beautiful. Once done reading, you also do not have to recycle any printed copies! Find more information at <https://bit.ly/3UGP8dx>.

### Summer Reading Fun!

**Saturday, June 8, 2024 | 10:00am-1:00pm**

*All Ages Welcome*

Barclay Park, 535 N High St, West Chester, PA 19380

Register for summer reading with the West Chester Public Library and enjoy an obstacle course, balloons, face painting, and MORE!

# WEST CREEK ROAD CONSTRUCTION

During 2024, the township will be engaged in one of the largest, most expensive, and complicated road projects in its history.

Several years ago, a portion of this road began to collapse toward the railroad below. This made it necessary to create a one lane section with alternating traffic.

Knowing the project would be expensive, and being unsure of the ultimate solution, the project was delayed until the engineers found a viable way to proceed. Financing would need to be in place and time set aside from other township needs.

Years ago, the western end of this road was vacated and made into a hiking trail. In effect, this created a mile long cul-de-sac for all the residents along West Creek Road. During the planning it was discovered that the road would need to be closed for periods of the day while heavy equipment worked. This left no way for the residents to come and go.

Arrangements were made with a landowner to reopen the trail as an alternate access as it no longer was

controlled by the township. Stone was added to the grassy trail route and the gates were opened during construction hours as needed.

A sign package was purchased to detour traffic to the trail entrance during construction hours. Emergency providers (fire/EMS) were made aware of the new access and its hours. This proved satisfactory when an ambulance was needed at a residence. The railroad was also kept apprised of ongoing construction adjacent to its tracks.

Funding for a major portion of the project was secured by a state grant of \$500,000. The grant announcement was delayed almost 6 months from its original date. Additional funding will come from budgeted monies.

A relatively new product was used to build a wall along the collapsed section. It is a precast concrete product now approved for use in more than 45 states. It is called the Gravix wall. After bidding



the wall project twice, the contract was awarded to Jurich, Inc. of Glen Mills.

The wall was completed in February thanks to the good weather and the dedication of the contractor. Guardrail will extend from the wall ends. During the months ahead the township will be making some repairs to areas of the road for improved base and other issues. At the conclusion of the project the entire road will be repaved from Rt. 52 to the trail entrance just beyond Lian Drive. This is a distance of about a mile.

The Supervisors wish to give special thanks to Mark Knightly, Director of Public Works, for navigating us through this difficult project for several years.

# OLD TIMERS CORNER

1. A part of Philadelphia International Airport is located on a hilltop west of Hickory Hill Road. It is a VOR (a navigational aid) for flights approaching the airport from the west and north.
2. The section of Locust Grove Road between Hickory Hill Road and South Wawaset Road was once known as "Hell's Avenue" but the signs were continually stolen.
3. The post office in Locust Grove could not have that name as there were already several in the state. A resident had attended a play in Philadelphia and suggested the name of "Corrine" (a character in the play). It became the name of the post office and later the east-west road through the village. Prior to that, all roads leaving the village were Locust Grove Road which made deliveries confusing.
4. Denton Hollow Road once was "Y" shaped. There was a spur from the stone bridge going south just east of the Pocopson Creek to Rt. 926. It was closed fifty years ago. It had not been passable for many years.
5. On September 11, 1777, over 8000 British troops led by General Cornwallis would have been seen strung out along what is now Red Lion Road. There were going north toward Trimble's Ford where they would cross the Brandywine. The road once went across present day Rt. 842 to Bragg Hill and beyond. This army was flanking Washington at Chadds Ford. (See the marker south of Marlborough Road).

## 2023 BRANDYWINE VALLEY SPCA ANNUAL IMPACT

### SHELTER SERVICES

- 47**  
Animals Arrived Daily
- 48%**  
Strays

- 17,082**  
Animals in Care
- 1,667**  
Lost Pets Reunited with their Families

### VETERINARY SERVICES

- 19,764**  
Pet Exams
- 28,314**  
Spays/Neuters

- 93%**  
Live Release Rate
- 26%**  
Transferred from Overcrowded Shelters

### COMMUNITY

- 89,806**  
Volunteer Hours
- 620**  
Critter Campers

- 70,000 lbs**  
of Pet Food Donated to Pet Families in Need

### LOCATIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>West Chester, PA</b> Shelter &amp; Animal Health Center</li> <li><b>New Castle, DE</b> Shelter &amp; Animal Health Center</li> <li><b>Dover, DE</b> Shelter &amp; Animal Health Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Plymouth Meeting, PA</b> PetSmart® Everyday Adoption Center</li> <li><b>Georgetown, DE</b> Shelter &amp; Animal Health Center</li> <li><b>Animal Rescue Center</b> Eastern Shore Pet Resort</li> </ul>
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## WHAT DO YOUR SUPERVISORS DO?

Each supervisor is a liaison to various committees or groups: Elaine DiMonte, Prison Board and Commissioners; Ricki Stumpo, Parks, Recreation, Trails and Founder's Day; Ray McKay, Historical Committee and Regional Fire & EMS Commission.

We attend meetings with our solicitor and other consultants as projects require. We belong to PSATS, The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors to keep abreast of legislation and issues that impact governance. We get updates on police activity and request traffic studies as needed. We review all issues that come before the planning and zoning boards and make recommendations or policy changes as needed. We monitor ongoing legal issues in the court system involving the township.

We appointed a new auditing firm to give us a fresh set of eyes on our procedures. We will be doing a stream reclamation project in the Wawaset Park. We oversee the maintenance of stormwater in developments. We have brought the bookkeeper position back in-house as of April 1, 2024.

We have added a part-time clerk for the massive amount of records that need to be reviewed, digitized, and archived. We keep up-to-date daily on a variety of issues. Currently, we are studying the structure of our Township Government looking to the future. We prepare for and attend monthly Township meetings.

## RAISING CHICKENS IN POCOPSON TOWNSHIP

Section 250-92 Keeping of Animals of the Code of the Township of Pocopson contains rules and regulations for raising chickens in the Township. The specific regulations are available on the Township website (<http://ecode360.com/6539575>) but below are few frequently asked questions about raising chickens and how they are addressed in the Code. Please consider these questions and review the Code requirements before raising chickens on your property.



**How many chickens am I allowed to have on my property?** Depends on the size of your lot and is shown in the table below.

LOT SIZE	NUMBER OF CHICKENS PERMITTED
Less than 1/2 Acre (21,780 square feet)	0
1/2 Acre - 2 Acres	5
2.01 Acres - 10 Acres	20
10.01 Acres and Greater	30

**Can I raise the chickens anywhere on my property?** No, structures housing chickens must be a minimum of 50 feet away from a dwelling on an adjacent property and a minimum of 25 feet from property boundaries.

**Can I let the chickens roam freely on my property?** No, a fence or otherwise enclosed outside area must be provided which is capable of containment of the chickens and of sufficient size and location for good sanitation practices.

**Do I need a shelter to house my chickens?** Yes, the chickens must have a shelter with appropriate and adequate facilities for food and water. The shelter must be located in the rear or side yard and must be a minimum of 50 feet away from a dwelling on an adjacent property and a minimum of 25 feet from property boundaries.

**Additional Resources:** If you find that you meet the Township Code requirements for raising chickens, below are links to some additional resources that may be of assistance:

- Poultry in Urban Areas - <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A3908-03.pdf>
- Raising Fowl in Urban Areas - <http://extension.psu.edu/publications/um194>
- Raising Your Home Chicken Flock - [www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/tech\\_manuals/cage\\_free/raising\\_chicken\\_flock.pdf](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/tech_manuals/cage_free/raising_chicken_flock.pdf)

Please contact the Township at (610) 793-2151 if you have any questions.

## FLOOD DAMAGE PROTECTION TIPS

*Tips to protect you from flood damage from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).*

- **Insure Your Property:** Flood damage isn't covered by standard homeowners' insurance policies, and flood damage is expensive. Just one inch of floodwater can cause more than \$25,000 in damage. Talk to your insurance agent about flood insurance or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).
- **Protect Your Home from Flooding:** Want to work on low-cost projects you can do yourself; learn more at [www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_protect-your-home-from-flooding-brochure\\_2020.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_protect-your-home-from-flooding-brochure_2020.pdf)
- **Protect Building Utility Systems:** Take a look at these surprising ways to keep your building utility systems secure. [www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema\\_p-348\\_protecting\\_building\\_utility\\_systems\\_from\\_flood\\_damage\\_2017.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_p-348_protecting_building_utility_systems_from_flood_damage_2017.pdf)
- **Retrofit Your Home for Flood Protection and Resistance:** Check out this guide for a great way to reduce your risks. [www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/FEMA\\_P-312.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/FEMA_P-312.pdf)

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS

Courtesy of PECO

It smells like rotten eggs. Natural gas has no natural odor, so an odorant is added to help detect when a leak occurs.

**If you smell natural gas or suspect a leak, go outside to where you do not smell gas and call PECO from a safe distance: 1-800-841-4141.**



## Know what to do about:

**A natural gas odor INSIDE:** Evacuate immediately and call PECO from OUTSIDE.



DO NOT open or close any windows



DO NOT smoke, strike a match, or use a lighter



DO NOT operate any electrical devices, including lights and appliances



DO NOT start a motor vehicle near the building



DO NOT use devices such as telephones, cell phones, radios, doorbells, or flashlights



DO NOT try to shut off the natural gas service

**A natural gas odor OUTSIDE:** If you notice a natural gas odor outside, especially near a natural gas meter or around the sidewalk or street, call PECO.

**Act quickly:** Leaks can occur after nearby construction or ground movement during winter's deep freeze. Reporting a natural gas odor promptly plays a critical role in ensuring safety.

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) IS SPECIAL—LET'S BE SAFE!

Patti Lynn, Recycling Resources Manager, CCSWA

If you are Trash Smart, then you know that household hazardous waste (HHW) includes the old gasoline, pesticides, chemicals, and batteries that accumulate in our basements, sheds, and garages. These materials need to be handled differently than other trash and recyclables in our homes, for the safety of people and our environment. "Hiding" hazardous materials in trash and recycling can be especially dangerous!

## These troublesome incidents happened in our region:

- On a household trash route, a Phoenixville Public Works employee was sprayed with motor oil that exploded inside the truck during compaction.
- A lithium battery is suspected of starting a fire in a recycling processing facility in York County, causing major disruption in the region for a year.
- At regional HHW collection events, our contractor has dealt with incidents of people hiding strictly unacceptable, and potentially dangerous, material in their otherwise acceptable materials.
- At one HHW event, a resident brought acid in an unsecured

container which leaked during transport, damaging the truck bed, and potentially causing injury to people.

Chester County is home to two landfills, Lanchester and SECCRA. Neither can accept hazardous waste. So, what to do? Register for a HHW event. Bring items such as fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, oil-based paint and solvents, gasoline, pool chemicals, and pesticides to a regional household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event. Chester County participates in this program with Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

- Residents of any of these five counties can use the HHW program in any of these five counties.
- In Chester County, you must register online at [www.chestercountyswa.org](http://www.chestercountyswa.org) for a drive-through event. Registering helps us manage capacity, supplies, and staffing needs. And it reduces wait times for the public.

Nearly 200,000 pounds of materials are safely managed through this program annually. If you are planning to move or clean out a home, make a plan for your HHW NOW! If in doubt, check it out! Stay safe and stay Trash Smart!

# CHESTER COUNTY INTRODUCES SMART911

A new service that saves critical time in an emergency using resident-led safety profile information.



Smart911®

Completely secure and private, residents control what information they want 9-1-1 and first responders to have in an emergency situation. The safety profile enables faster and more effective emergency response by law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services.

Safety profiles can be created at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com). Residents can customize their profile and share any information they want the 9-1-1 call taker and response teams to have in the event of an emergency. The information is seen only when the resident dials 9-1-1 and it is automatically displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker, allowing him or her to send the right response to the right location with the right information.

Further information on Smart 911 can be found at [www.chesco.org/217/Emergency-Services](http://www.chesco.org/217/Emergency-Services).

## FIREWORKS TIPS

*From the Pennsylvania State Police*

- Class C fireworks are allowed, however they are not to exceed 50 milligrams of explosives.
- You cannot have “display fireworks.” These are classified as fireworks which contain more than two grains or 130 milligrams of explosive materials, and professional-grade aerial shells containing more than 60 grams of pyrotechnic compositions and require permits. Leave it to the professionals!
- They cannot be ignited or discharged on public or private property without express permission of the property owner.
- They cannot be discharged within or towards a motor vehicle or building.
- Fireworks cannot be discharged within 150 feet of an occupied structure, whether or not a person is actually present.
- Fireworks cannot be discharged while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.
- **LAST BUT NOT LEAST: Be courteous to your neighbors. Many of our veterans who suffer PTSD have a hard time with fireworks, so let them know!** Please let those who have dogs, horses or other pets know you will be setting off fireworks as well so they can prepare their animals.

## FIRE/RESCUE/EMS

In the past 2 years the Kennett Regional Fire/EMS Commission has meaningfully addressed many issues to ensure the viability of all emergency service organizations in the area. This is the primary responsibility of all municipal governments.

Major funding increases from the municipalities (Kennett Twp., East Marlborough Twp., Pennsbury Twp., Newlin Twp., Pocopson Twp., and Kennett Borough) now provide approximately 50% of the funding for operations.

Longwood Fire Co., Longwood EMS, Kennett Fire Co., and Po-Mar-Lin Fire Co. have now combined operationally. This is resulting in a more coordinated response plan, more consistent training, and improved planning overall.

The Commission addressed the loss of volunteers in 2022 with a recruitment and retention program to reward service given. This has stabilized the situation and has resulted in larger crews for duty nights in anticipation of needs. Loss of volunteers means that paid firefighters would be needed. Several are already needed during the daytime hours during weekdays at Kennett and Longwood.

Budgeting has been made simpler by having the 3 companies present a combined budget. This makes identifying overall priorities a bit easier and can reduce duplications.

For 2024, the Commission has established for the first time, a capital fund, for the longterm replacement of vehicles. It is funded at \$750,000 initially but will be raised to \$1,000,000 annually in 2025 (hopefully). Equipment costs have escalated exponentially as has the time

needed for the delivery of new apparatus. Pocopson Twp. has addressed the County contribution toward emergency services and has secured an increase more reflective of its fair share. This is a substantial relief to local taxpayers.

Call volumes have dramatically increased in recent years.

**The following are statistics for 2023:**

COMPANY	CALLS	PER/DAY
Longwood EMS	3,414	9+
Longwood Fire	1,094	3
Kennett Fire	887	2.4
Po-Mar-Lin Fire	601	1.6

Jennersville Hospital is still not operational and will only be a triage facility with limited beds for longer term patients. Brandywine Hospital was to be purchased and reopened but the deal fell through.

Of concern was the decision by Kennett Borough to leave the Commission in 2024. However, since they were unable to find emergency coverage elsewhere, they are contracting directly with Longwood Fire/EMS at the cost they would have paid if still a member of the Commission. It is hoped they will rejoin in the future.

Finally, these services can no longer be funded in a meaningful way by pancake breakfasts, chicken barbecues, and ox roasts. They need more municipal support and donations from individuals. The recent fund drive is a combined appeal for all 3 providers to reflect their efforts to work more seamlessly together. Please support these appeals and the responders who do so much for all of us to help us in time of need.

## THE CHRISTIAN SANDERSON MUSEUM

You have driven up and down Creek Road “a thousand times” and have never stopped to visit the Christian Sanderson Museum? Starting Sunday, 3 March, from noon to 4:00pm, join us for “First Sundays” in 2024. Pay as you wish. The box by the front door is the Bean Pot, so drop in a bit to help a 100% volunteer organization. Do it either when you come in or after you are amazed by what Chris Sanderson collected over his lifetime. He was a teacher, musician, historian, lecturer, radio broadcaster, tour guide for Battle of Brandywine, Valley Forge, Gettysburg, friend of the Wyeths and more.

Can't afford it? That's OK. We want to see you anyway. Our volunteers will be there to answer questions and tell you a bit about Chris and the Sanderson Museum. Bring as many as you want (call us first if you are bringing a bus!). Leave a message at 610.388.6545 or email us at [info@sandersonmuseum.org](mailto:info@sandersonmuseum.org) or see our website at [www.sandersonmuseum.org](http://www.sandersonmuseum.org).





# POCOPSON

ESTABLISHED 1849

### Board of Supervisors

*Meets last Monday of the month at 6:30pm*

Elaine DiMonte, *Chairwoman*

Ricki Stumpo, *Vice-Chairwoman*

Ray McKay, *Supervisor*

### Pocopson Township Office

Susan Simone, *Township Secretary*

Aleida Diaz, *Assistant Secretary*

Sharon Gledhill, *Bookkeeper*

Marya Maki, *Archivist*

664 South Wawaset Road

West Chester, PA 19382

**Office Hours:** Weekdays, 9:00am–Noon

**Phone:** 610-793-2151

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

**General questions:** [info@pocopson.org](mailto:info@pocopson.org)

### Planning Commission

*Meets first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm*

*(Except August and December)*

Gary Summers, *Chair*

Sean Rafferty, *Vice-Chair*

Mickey Bailey, Paul Cardell, John Hess,

Robert Miller, Matt Murphy

### Historical Committee

*Meets second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm*

Don McKay, *Chair*

Pat Burnett, John Hedrick, David Miller, Randy Mims,

Sarah Mims, Loralynne Yost, Tony Musacchio

### Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee

*Meets every second Thursday of the month at 7:30pm*

Jesse Noa, *Chair*

Janet Fassbender, *Vice Chair*

Jae Winter, Josh Burry, Jordan Gushurst, Tom Bierl,

Brittan Anderson | *The PRT is looking for motivated volunteers, please contact the township about joining.*

### Zoning Hearing Board *Meets as needed*

Ed Foley, *Solicitor*

James Noon, David Ziegler, Nate Wilson,

Georgia Brutscher (Alternate Member)

### Treasurer

Peter Barsz - [treasurer@pocopson.org](mailto:treasurer@pocopson.org)

### Building Inspector

Fran McArdle, *Keystone Municipal Services*

610-793-9390

### Zoning and Code Enforcement

Craig Kologie, *Castle Valley Consultants*

### Public Works Department

Mark Knightly, *Director*

Ben Aponte, Mike Cialini, Ron Miller

1440 Lenape Road, West Chester, PA 19382

**Phone:** 610-793-2387

**Email:** [publicworks@pocopson.org](mailto:publicworks@pocopson.org)

Pocopson Township  
664 South Wawaset Road  
West Chester, PA 19382

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West Chester, PA

## UPCOMING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Saturday, April 20, 2024 - Phoenixville

Friday, June 21, 2024 - Coatesville

Saturday, August 24, 2024 - Oxford

Saturday, October 5, 2024 - West Chester

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR EACH EVENT! REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE A FEW WEEKS BEFORE EACH EVENT** at [chestercountyswa.org](http://chestercountyswa.org).



## STAY CONNECTED!

Would you like to stay abreast of the latest Township information? Sign-up for our email newsletter. Simply go to our website at [www.pocopson.org](http://www.pocopson.org), and fill out your information on the pop-up. All we need is your name and email address. Don't worry, we won't inundate your inbox with emails. You will be informed of office closures, public roadwork announcements and any municipal notices, etc.

## Your PECO account number will change Early in 2024

- PECO is upgrading its billing system, and customers' account numbers will change, too
- Remember to update your records and methods of bill payment
- Further information will be available in 2024



For more information, scan the QR code or visit [peco.com/NewBill](http://peco.com/NewBill)