



POCOPSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2025

BARNARD STATION

Progress has been made to the physical restoration of the interior of Barnard Station since November of 2024. The work has centered around the c. 1829 parlor in the front of the house. As with many houses of its age, the Barnard house had adapted to changing design and layout decisions over its history.

During the creation of the Preservation Plan, clues to some of the 20th century renovations within the space were discovered. Changes such as door locations and the addition of central heating systems had altered some of the original details. The addition of plumbing and electrical systems had a negative impact on the structure of the building. Much of the original fabric of the building survives but has seen significant wear over nearly two centuries. These finishes were covered under many layers of paint and wallpaper applied to early plastering systems. It was confirmed that the earliest paint scheme within the house was a light blue woodwork contrasting plastered walls.

Friends of Barnard Station (FOBS), using a combination of volunteer labor and professional trades workers, have made progress using contributions from private donors within our community to start to bring the house back to its 1850's appearance. The plaster walls and ceiling in the parlor have been repaired and an original interior door has been relocated back to where it started out in 1829.

Most of the woodwork in the parlor dates to 1829, but there were several missing sections that had to be reproduced using surviving original elements as their guide. Much of the original iron hardware for the doors and cabinets has survived. This period hardware has been stripped of many layers of paint and has been brought back to its original appearance and function. The c. 1829 parlor will be completed by April and the focus will transition to two other spaces.



The c. 1829 parlor restored back to the original color scheme.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Township Updates PAGE 2

Hazardous Waste Events PAGE 4

Continued on Page 2

BARNARD STATION

Continued from Page 1

Structural repairs to the second-floor system have been completed and a new gypsum ceiling was installed into the space that was the original dining room in 1829. The plaster walls retain clues to original details such as chair rail location as well as a partition wall that was removed in the 1870's. These elements will be reconstructed, and the plaster surfaces will be restored. In the adjacent c. 1841 kitchen, clues to a missing winder staircase were discovered in the plaster. This staircase was used by the domestic servants and hired farm labor living in the upper stories of the house in the 19th century. The framing for the staircase enclosure has been reconstructed and in the coming months the wall surfaces, woodwork, and period doors will be installed. For more detailed information about the restoration progress visit barnardstation.org.

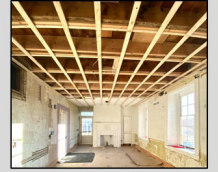
There will be many opportunities for public visitation to Barnard Station in the upcoming months. A monthly Open House will be held between 11 am and 1 pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month, May through October. In addition, there will be two special events hosted at Barnard Station in 2025. The first is Town Tours and Village Walks sponsored by the Chester County Planning Commission. This program is a series of free summer strolls, through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages, and farms to learn about their roles in Chester County, both in the past and today. Part of this series of events will be held at the Pocopson Township campus on Thursday July 31st between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Guided tours through parts of the township campus, including Barnard Station will be led by FOBS and the Pocopson Township Historical Committee. The event is open to the public and free of charge. For more information visit chescoplanning.org/historic/towntours/.

The second event is the 84th annual Chester County Day House Tour. The 2025 tour will feature some of Chester County's most beautiful homes and restored barns in the southwest quadrant. On Saturday October 4th, both Barnard Station and the Locust Grove Schoolhouse will be open for visitation. This annual event benefits the Chester County Hospital Foundation and tickets are required. More information can be found at chestercountyday.com.



The ceiling in the c. 1829 dining room was reconstructed.

The original plaster ceiling was removed when plumbing was installed in the second-floor bathrooms above in the 20th century.



A dramatic transformation in the c. 1829 parlor. The period door was moved back to its original location after serving as a hall closet door in the 20th century.



c. 1841 kitchen showing the ghost of a former corner winder staircase in the plaster. The reconstructed winder staircase enclosure will be used as storage closets.

TOWNSHIP UPDATES

With the start of the New Year, the Township Board of Supervisors and Staff have been working hard to best serve all those who live, work, and visit Pocopson Township. Here are a few highlights of the first few months of 2025:

- The Board of Supervisors held its annual Organization Meeting in January. This meeting formally appoints all Township Staff and Consultants, sets the annual meeting schedules, and provides the basis for much of our day-to-day operations.
- Welcome to Brittan Anderson, Rachel DeHaven, Mark Agostini, and Rob Meitz to the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee. All our committees are looking for new members. If you are interested in helping your community, please contact Township Manager Neil D. Vaughn at nvaughn@pocopson.org.
- The Township appointed Jordan Marzolf as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator following the resignation of Kevin Gosselin after 8 years of serving in the role. We thank Kevin for his dedication to the position, and welcome Jordan into his new role.
- The Board of Supervisors reestablished their Work Sessions to discuss progress on township goals and projects. These meetings will be held quarterly on April 23, July 23, October 22 at 5:00 pm. These meetings are open to the public, so please come out to join the conversation.
- The Chester County Prison leadership will be providing quarterly updates, which are open to the public, on Mondays April 28, July 28, and October 27 at 6:00 to 6:30 pm.
- Our Public Works Department worked hard during the numerous winter weather events we had over the winter. They were out 13 times to treat and plow the roads. We cannot express our thanks enough to our hard-working Public Work's crew!
- And we now accept electronic payments! You can pay online on our Forms page on the website Pocopson.org.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Dear Pocopson Township Residents,

I am honored to introduce myself as your new Township Manager and thrilled to join this wonderful community. Pocopson Township is a place rich in history, natural beauty, and a strong sense of community, and I look forward to working alongside residents, local leaders, and our staff to ensure its continued success.

My goal is to foster open communication, transparency, and collaboration as we work together to provide effective services, preserve our township's unique character, and address the needs of our community. We encourage your input, ideas, and involvement as we navigate the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Please feel free to reach out, stop by the township office, or attend any of our public meetings; I am eager to listen, learn, and serve. In doing so, please join us for our first (of many, hopefully) "Coffee with the Township Manager" on April 26th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Township Administration Building. Stop by to ask a question, voice a concern, or say hello. We will have coffee and donuts ready to enjoy!

I look forward to meeting many of you and am excited about what we can accomplish together.

Best regards,

Neil D. Vaughn
Township Manager
nvaughn@pocopson.org



Coffee with the Township Manager

Come out to meet with the Township Manager to discuss any questions, concerns, or just to say hello. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

**April 26, 2025
from 9:00 am to 11:00 am**

Pocopson Township Administration Building
664 South Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382
www.pocopson.org

BRANDYWINE CLEAN-UP!

Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 8 am to noon
Register Today at: <https://tinyurl.com/BVCleanup>

Volunteers needed for the Annual Brandywine Clean Up event to keep roads and parks along the Brandywine in Pennsylvania and Delaware clean and beautiful.

- Crews will work in small groups along assigned routes. If you want to work as a group/family, you can register all group members together.
- Volunteer forms will be available for youth community service volunteers
- All materials including trash bags, gloves, reflective vests, t-shirt and a clean-up route map will be pre-bagged and available for pick-up the day of the event.
- Clean up meeting locations; First State National Historical Park/Brandywine Valley (Delaware), Pocopson/West Chester, Downingtown and Modena/Coatesville Area
- All volunteers will meet at assigned meeting location (above) and go to specific road or trails routes from there. MUST have transportation to drive to assigned sections.

Crews will leave bags of trash along their route to be picked up by our truck crews. Register yourself, a family or group at: <https://tinyurl.com/BVCleanup>.

For more information email: contact@brandywineredclay.org.



Scan Here
to Register.



OLD TIMERS CORNER

On September 11, 1777, the largest land battle of the American Revolution was fought. It was the Battle of the Brandywine. Gen. George Washington's army was trying to stop the British advance on Philadelphia. Washington was expecting an attack across the Brandywine at Chadds Ford.

The British sent some troops under the command of Gen. Knyphausen from Kennett along what is now Rt. 1. Gen. Howe would take a larger force north toward Unionville and east to present day Red Lion. They then marched up present day Red Lion/Northbrook Rd (see marker just north of Haines Mill Rd.), across present Rt. 842 down a now abandoned road to Bragg Hill Rd. and north to Trimble's Ford to cross the Brandywine at an unguarded ford. They would go east to Jefferis Ford, also unguarded, to cross the east branch of the Brandywine. The British were able to outflank and surprise Washington thus defeating the colonial army.

Many local properties in present-day Pocopson were plundered as the British army advanced through the area.

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Pocopson Township residents and property owners are reminded that residential rental properties are required to be inspected and registered pursuant to Chapter 158 "Rental Units" of the Code of Pocopson Township.

The purpose of Chapter 158 is to ensure the proper maintenance of all residential rental properties, and each owner of a rental unit is required to obtain a Certificate of Registration (long-term rental units) or Permit (short-term rental units) through the registration and inspection process set forth therein.

For more information, visit the "Forms" tab on our website to view the Rental Registration Packet, or contact Neil Vaughn, Township Manager, at nvaughn@pocopson.org or 610-793-2151.

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES CAN START FIRES!

DO NOT PUT THEM IN YOUR TRASH OR RECYCLING BIN!

TAKE THEM TO A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT OR VISIT [CALL2RECYCLE.ORG](https://www.call2recycle.org) TO FIND A DROP-OFF LOCATION CLOSEST TO YOU.

[chestercountyswa.org](https://www.chestercountyswa.org)



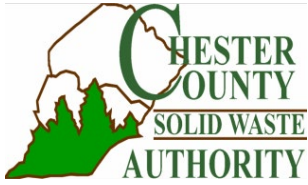
UPCOMING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

WE DO NOT ACCEPT HAZARDOUS WASTE AT LANCHESTER LANDFILL.

HHW Collection Dates:
Registration is required for each event! Registration will be available online a few weeks before each event.

- Saturday, April 12 - Phoenixville
- Friday, June 20 - Coatesville
- Saturday, August 23 - Oxford
- Sunday, October 5 - Downingtown

Go to [chestercountyswa.org](https://www.chestercountyswa.org) for further details on the upcoming Chester County HHW collection events and a full list of acceptable materials.



Li-ion Battery Fires Unfairly Cost Trash & Recycling Operators Over \$1.2 B/yr.



Lithium batteries range in size, but they are powerful. Lithium is a very reactive element and when damaged, can pose fire and explosion risks (even if it may be a “dead” battery).

Sometimes trash truck drivers do not notice the fire before it is too late, and the only response would be to exit the vehicle. When this happens, the truck driver’s life is in serious jeopardy as well as the lives of others on

the road, and your property. Landfill operators and recycling processing facilities staff can also be in danger when lithium batteries are placed in trash OR recycling bins.

NEVER PUT RECHARGEABLE & LITHIUM BATTERIES IN YOUR TRASH OR RECYCLING BIN!

PLEASE bring your rechargeable and lithium batteries to a Household Hazardous Waste event.

Register online:

www.chestercountyswa.org/121/UpcomingHousehold-Hazardous-Waste-Event

Lithium Battery Safety Tips:

DO ✓	DO NOT ☒
Keep batteries and devices stored at room temperature.	Charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
Store batteries away from anything flammable.	Charge a device unattended.
Always use the manufacturers charging cord to charge the battery or device.	Place loose batteries in drawers or containers that contain other metal objects (coins, paper clips, screws).
Watch for signs of failure – overheating, discoloration, swelling, odor.	Place in direct sunlight or leave in a hot vehicle.
Bring battery to a Household Hazardous Waste collection event or check the Call2Recycle website to find a drop off location closest to you: www.call2recycle.org/locator	DO NOT place lithium batteries in your household trash or recycling containers.

If your battery is leaking or bulging, place it in a metal or non-flammable container and surround it with sand or kitty litter. Bring it to a Household Hazardous Waste collection event or check the Call2Recycle website.

SAFETY FIRST!

FIRE/EMS COMMISSION

The most important function of township government is providing for emergency services. The 3 local providers, Longwood, Kennett, and Po-Mar-Lin, have been drastically underfunded for decades. The Regional Commission has been addressing the changing state of emergency services since 2017.



Po-Mar-Lin
Fire Company



Longwood
Fire Company



Kennett
Fire Company

Emergency services, in general, has become a national problem, particularly with the loss of many volunteers and the increased call volumes. The increased training requirements and work nights to maintain equipment, put a strain on volunteers. EMS is now totally done by paid staff with Longwood EMS doing 3732 calls in 2024 (approx. 10 calls/day). At the same time, fire calls for 2024 were 1292 just for Longwood. Po-Mar-Lin did 517 and Kennett 1028. Many of these calls were joint responses. Each provider now employs paid firefighters for certain parts of the week when volunteers are not available.

The cost of apparatus (engines, ambulances, etc.) has skyrocketed after Covid since the number of manufacturers has drastically declined and the wait time for delivery has lengthened. A recent order for an aerial truck now costs \$2.3 million and will take 4 ½ years till delivery. An ambulance can now cost \$300,000.

There is some good news, however. The 3 providers have now joined together into a regional response plan. They are budgeting together, training together, reducing unnecessary duplication of equipment, and planning for the future together. Volunteer losses have slowed due to a retention/incentive plan that gives stipends for levels of service rendered. If the volunteer pool is lost, the cost of replacing them with paid staff will be considerable. The required replacement of apparatus over time is being funded by establishing a fund of \$1.25 million annually.

A 20-year replacement plan has been adopted. Population and development continue to increase in the region. Each township is assessed by the Commission based on population, assessed value of property, EMS calls, and fire calls.

In 2020, the township paid \$239,251.20 to the Commission. In 2025 the township will pay \$728,373.33. Because of an agreement between the township and the county, which receives coverage at the Pocopson Home and Prison, the county will pay \$182,093.33 or 25% of the township cost.

It is expected that future increases will be slower but many factors are beyond the control of the providers or the Commission. The state and county do not provide any additional revenues. The greatest driver of costs will be for apparatus and paid staff. That is a national problem.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your input is valuable in shaping the future of our community! Help us improve services, programs, and initiatives by participating in our Resident Feedback Survey.

Please scan the below QR code to participate or visit www.pocopson.org for the survey link.

Thank you for helping us make Pocopson Township a better place to live, work, and visit.

For questions, contact Township Manager Neil D. Vaughn at nvaughn@pocopson.org.



SPRING PROGRAMS & EVENTS AT KENNETT LIBRARY

KENNETT SQUARE PA—Kennett Library is stepping into a new season with a calendar full of programs and activities through the end of May. This season, the library will feature programs that inspire exploration, creativity, and conversation.



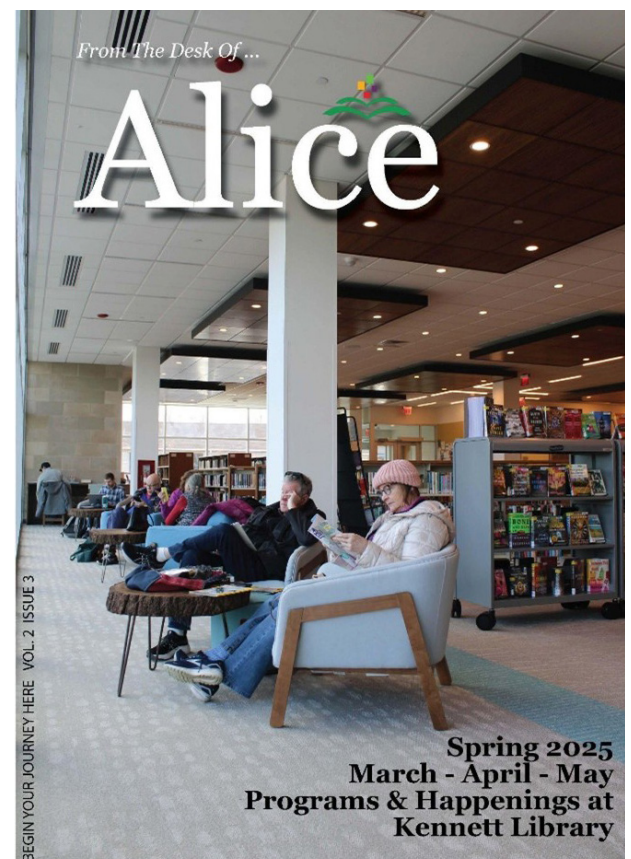
Chris Manna, Executive Director, said, "As we continue to dig deeper into our community feedback, our spring programming reflects more and more of our collective interests. Arts and Culture dot the season with exciting events like Open Mic Poetry Night, our monthly art gallery exhibitions, Conversations Between Writers, and Día del Niño. We hope you see our broadening palette of programs."

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- **Better On The Big Screen** • Select Mondays at 6 pm, *Auditorium*
The Friends of Kennett Library presents some of the best American films with this monthly movie series.
- **Open Mic Poetry Night** • April 24th, 6 pm to 8 pm, *Auditorium*
Celebrate National Poetry Month at the library with an open mic. Bring your favorite poems to read or just listen to.
- **¡Día del Niño!** • April 30th, 10 am, *Children's Area*
Happy Children's Day! Celebrate with us during a special bilingual story time and craft. Kids will learn about the history of Children's Day and leave with a goodie bag.
- **Maker, Meet Cricut** • April 14th, May 12th, 3:30 pm
Community Makerspace
This series will cover all of the basics you need to know for your first foray into designing and cutting thin materials with our Cricut Venture, including sourcing vector graphics, how to get started with your designs, using Cricut Design Space, and how to rely on our friendly makerspace staff as a resource.
- **WATER/ROOTS** • April 15th, May 20th, 7 pm, *Auditorium*
In our 2025 Environmental Lecture Series, we will investigate aspects of water in our daily lives and beyond. Invited speakers will share innovative research, creative educational programs, and solutions to establish healthy watersheds and explore our deeper relationship with water.

Lou Florence, Collection Development, said, "The world is waking up to the spring season and asks us to remember to flourish, not flounder. The library is here to give you a place to grow to your full potential, be among people who create a favorable (safe, friendly, open to all) environment, and share and support each other in creating."

The Kennett Library strives to offer a little something for everyone, and this is just a brief overview of what's to come this season. To learn more about these programs and more, please stop by the library and pick up our programs and happenings magazine *From The Desk of Alice* or visit the online programs calendar (Scan QR Code).





POCOPSON

ESTABLISHED 1849

Pocopson Township
664 South Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382

Presorted
Standard Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 50
West Chester, PA

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

Neil D. Vaughn, *Manager*

Aleida Diaz, *Assistant Secretary*

Sharon Gledhill, *Treasurer Staff*

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

General questions: 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 7:00pm

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

Brittan Anderson, *Chair*

Rachel DeHaven, *Vice Chair*

Robert Meitz, *Secretary*

Josh Burry, Mark Agostini, Jesse Noah

Zoning Hearing Board *Meets as needed*

Ed Foley, *Solicitor*

James Noon, David Ziegler, Nate Wilson,

Georgia Brutscher (Alternate Member)

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

SIGN UP FOR CONSTANT CONTACT

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, 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.

READYCHESCO

Chester County's Notification System

ReadyChesCo is the official notification system for Chester County. Citizens can register to receive emergency and non-emergency alerts for their community. Users can choose to receive the type of information important to them, and can also note any special needs information that may be useful for emergency responders. ReadyChesCo is a free subscription service. Sign up at readychesco.org.



82ND RUNNING OF THE BRANDYWINE HILLS POINT TO POINT

Sunday, April 6, 2025

It's the oldest point to point in the Delaware Valley, held annually at the Myrick Conservation Center. Proceeds benefit the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and help us continue our work promoting the restoration, conservation, and enjoyments of the natural resources of the Brandywine and Red Clay watersheds.

The race day begins with a jump race for junior riders followed by flat races for small, medium, and large ponies and the lead line pony race for those riders who have not reached their 7th birthday. The timber races will follow for the horses over a 3-mile course with 17 jumps. The day concludes with a one-mile Side Saddle Race over timber.