



# East Coventry Times

Inside this issue...

Spring | Summer 2020

Staff Notes.....1  
 Earth Day Event .....2  
 Community News.....2-3  
 Historical Commission....4-5  
 Parks & Recreation.....5-7  
 Dates to Remember.....8

## Staff Notes...

### Halteman Road Bridge Project. . .

Halteman Road will be closed between Ellis Woods Road and Kulp Road from February 24, 2020 through June 3, 2020 for superstructure replacement over Pigeon Creek.

### Zieber Road Bridge Project. . .

Zieber Road Bridge project will begin on March 1, 2020.

### Census Day...

Census Day is April 1, 2020!

Learn more about the 2020 Census and the CCC (Complete Count Committee) at <https://chescoplanning.org/demographics/completestcount.cfm>

### Leaf and Yard Waste. . .

Township residents only may drop off yard waste which consists of small branches, leaves and grass clippings (NO trees or tree stumps) at no charge to Arborganic Acres organic composting facility ([arborganicacres.com](http://arborganicacres.com)), 901 Cherry Hill Ln., Pottstown, PA 19465 or contact your trash collection contractor for their pickup schedule.

### Finance Department. . .

**Sewer Account Payments.** Please indicate your address on your sewer payment, your sewer account number is the property address of the service connection. If you have an escrow account, make sure your sewer payments are not going to the tax collector. Remember, if your water is shut off due to delinquent sewer payments, it can take up to 10 days for the water to get turned back on. If you need to make payment arrangements, please contact us at 610-495-5443. We only accept cash or check.

### Public Works. . .

**Take it "Slow" through the work zones.** Public Works' personnel will be black topping the following roads in 2020: Ellis Woods Road between East Cedarville Road and Bethel Church Road, Eleanor Drive, South Keim Street from Porter Mill Road to the Township line. They will be replacing various storm sewer pipes throughout the Township. Be patient when they are working on the roads doing pipe replacement, black topping, road bank mowing and tree trimming. Slow down in work zones!!!



### Greetings from Township Staff...

*In this issue we share news about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.*

*From all of us here at ECT – we look forward to working with you this year!*



## Coventry Food Pantry...

You may drop off items in the Township office lobby. Your donations support families throughout the Owen J. Roberts School District. Thank you for your donations! **Items Always Needed:**

Canned Goods | Peanut Butter & Jelly | Cleaning Supplies | Personal Supplies  
Paper Products | Laundry Detergent | Diapers & Wipes

## Ridge Fire Company Reflective Address Markers If we can't FIND YOU we can't HELP YOU!!!

The signs are only \$15 each. You can have a 6" by 18" "Mailbox Marker" or a 14" wide by 5" high "House Marker". More information and forms to order the Reflective Address Markers are available on the Ridge Fire Company's website [www.ridgefirecompany.com](http://www.ridgefirecompany.com). You can also call in a request at 610-495-6063.

## Help Keep Our Waterways Clean and Free of Illicit Discharge...

If you see suds, oily sheen, odd colors, or anything else that tells you that there is more than just water in a storm inlet, that could mean that there is an illicit discharge! Our storm inlets drain to our local waterways, so it is important that we keep pollutants and debris out.

You can help by watching what goes into our storm system and watching what is already in the system. Please report any evidence of dumping, spills, or leaks into the stormwater system. You can report by calling the Township office at 610-495-5443 during business hours. After business hours and on weekends, please use the form located on the Township website, found by going to Stormwater Management and then to Stormwater Reporting.

## Earth Day Pigeon Creek Cleanup...



In support of Earth Day activities this April, the Board of Supervisors is sponsoring a cleanup of Pigeon Creek between Old Schuylkill Road and the Schuylkill River. Persons interested in keeping East Coventry clean and green are invited to volunteer a few hours of their time to participate in this 13th annual community stream cleanup initiative.

Interested volunteers are to gather at the Schuylkill River Trail parking lot located at the intersection of Linfield Road and Route 724, at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, April 18, 2020**.

The rain date will be Saturday, May 2, 2020. For more information, please contact Brady Flaharty with ARRO Consulting Inc., the Township Engineer, via email at [brady.flaharty@arroconsulting.com](mailto:brady.flaharty@arroconsulting.com) or phone at (484) 995-7137.

## Spring Cleaning? Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...

### • Hazardous Waste Collection

Visit the ECT Website ([eastcoventry-pa.gov](http://eastcoventry-pa.gov)) for a link to Chester County's tentative 2020 Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule.

Note: Latex paint may be discarded in household trash following these steps:

Remove lid, dry out paint completely, discard (without lid); or pour paint into plastic bag with absorbent material (clay-based kitty litter, sawdust, rags), place bag and can (without lid) in trash. Paint hardener can also be purchased at the hardware store.

### • Electronics

Brandywine Recycling and Disposal  
172 Barons Hill Road, Honey Brook, PA 19344  
M-F 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.-3 p.m. | Phone: 610-942-2500  
(\$20 - any size TV | Also accept scrap metal, tires, and propane tanks.)  
Visit the ECT Website ([eastcoventry-pa.gov](http://eastcoventry-pa.gov)) for a link to their flyer.



## BURNING . . .

A reminder that Burning is not allowed in the Township except for recreational purposes such as a fire pit in an area no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet.



## Dear Residents of East Coventry Township:

I am starting my 11th year as your Tax Collector and have enjoyed serving our Township and getting to know so many people. Listed below is important information you need to know in regards to your taxes.

All residents over the age of 18 are assessed a Per Capita Tax. This is not based on real estate values so whether you own or rent you still need to pay this tax. DO NOT send your Per Capita bill to your escrow company. They will not pay this bill nor will they inform you they are not paying. If you did not get a Per Capita Tax Bill for 2019, please contact me as soon as possible for 2020. There are certain exceptions. Please see the Township website under forms for Exonerations or contact me directly.

I only collect the taxes for East Coventry Township. For information about your Chester County, Owen J. Roberts School District or Earned Income Tax (1.25%) please contact the following numbers:

Chester County Tax Office:	610-344-6370 (Treasurer's Office)
Owen J. Roberts School District:	1-866-539-1100 (Keystone Collections Group)
Earned Income Tax (1.25%)	1-866-539-1100 (Keystone Collections Group)

I will be available for you to pay your taxes in person during the month of April at the East Coventry Township Building located at 855 Ellis Woods Road, Pottstown, PA 19465. If you wish to pay in person at any time other than the dates listed below, you need to contact me for an appointment. The Township office staff may not accept payments for taxes. They must be paid directly to me or mailed to the address listed on your bill. I do not have an office at the Township Building.

### TAX COLLECTION TIMES:

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28	1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23	1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Saturdays, April 4 & 18	9:00 AM—12:00 PM
Thursday, April 30th	1:00 PM—7:00 PM (final date of discount period)

(Credit card payments are not accepted.)

For further information or special appointment times, please contact:  
Missy King, Phone: 610-495-7667

**Missy King, Tax Collector**

## Spring City Public Library . . .

Don't forget to visit the Spring City Public Library! Their hours are Monday-Wednesday-Friday & Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 8 pm. Check them out on the web at [www.springcitylibrary.org](http://www.springcitylibrary.org).



## Historical Committee Update...

The Historical Commission is seeking a new member and volunteers are always welcome.

### **FRICKS LOCKS VILLAGE 2020 TOUR SCHEDULE**

The East Coventry Historical Commission and Exelon will host free tours of Fricks Locks Village National Historic District on Saturdays at 10:00 am, 11:15 am and 12:30 pm on the following dates:

May 9, 2020 and May 23, 2020  
June 13, 2020 and June 27, 2020  
July 11, 2020 and July 25, 2020  
August 8, 2020 and August 22, 2020  
September 12, 2020 and September 26, 2020  
October 10, 2020 and October 24, 2020

For Directions, Cancellations or Additional Information  
Please Check the East Coventry Township Webpage [www.eastcoventry-pa.gov](http://www.eastcoventry-pa.gov)  
(Cancellations will be posted after 12:00 noon on Friday preceding tour date)

Fricks Locks Village will be under construction for the Fricks Locks Trailhead Project—Schuylkill River Trail. Please stay with your guide to safely navigate construction areas and equipment. Construction may at times necessitate cancellation of tours.

### **FRICKS LOCKS TRAILHEAD PROJECT SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL**

Did you know the design and construction of a new trailhead facility along the Schuylkill River Trail (SRT) at Fricks Locks National Register Historic Village is in process?

The SRT is a multi-use path that will extend from Frackville in Schuylkill County through Montgomery, Chester and Berks counties to Philadelphia. The Fricks Locks Village Trailhead will provide needed trail user amenities.

Proposed trail user amenities to be constructed at Fricks Locks include:

- A rehabilitation and paving of the existing access drive,
- Grading and paving of an existing gravel parking lot,
- Construction of an expanded paved parking area,
- ADA parking spaces with associated pavement marking and signage,
- A system of connecting pathways and sidewalks to provide an accessible route to all project improvements,
- A new picnic pavilion structure, site furnishings (benches, bike racks, and picnic tables),
- Landscaping, a project acknowledgement sign, and required stormwater management facilities
- Drinking water fountain for trail users and their pets

**A new public restroom building for trail users will be constructed as an addition to the historic James Ellis House.**

The project includes costs for the installation and provision of required restroom building utilities including new underground electrical services, a new water well, and installation of an on-lot septic system.

Funding assistance is being provided by the Chester County Commissioners in the amount of \$400,000 and a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant in the amount of \$376,200. East Coventry Township will be contributing additional funding that may be needed to complete the project.

Permitting and construction (2019/2020) of the Fricks Locks Trailhead is scheduled to be coordinated with the County SRT Phase II Project which will close the gap in the Schuylkill River Trail between Linfield Road in Parker Ford and the US 422 Bridge over the Schuylkill River in Pottstown. Closing of this gap will link the Philadelphia to Reading SRT section.

The Grand Opening Celebration for the Fricks Locks Trailhead and the SRT Phase II Project is scheduled for 2021.

(Original article written for the 2018 Fricks Locks Town Tour and Village Walk by Bernard Rodgers. Informational updates added by G. Brown)



## **Celebrating 10 Years of Accomplishments for Open Space, Parks and Recreation**

### ***Creating a Premier Central Park and Recreation Facility***

**Ellis Woods Park** is East Coventry's central park and recreation facility. We have expanded the park by 53 acres and provided new trails in addition to two new pickle ball courts and a picnic pavilion. In the fall of 2020, we will be rededicating the park with improvements from our latest state grant. We will use these funds to install new benches, improve stormwater management, create accessibility, provide new signage and landscaping as well as other site improvements.

During the warmer months, join in with our neighbors on Tuesday & Thursday nights (6:00 pm till dusk) for a pickle ball game and make new friends. You can also come over for a basketball game and enjoy the playground in the park. You can also make a reservation to reserve the picnic pavilion for a celebration with family and friends.

### ***Conserving our Farmlands and Creating Trail Systems***

In 2010 the voters of East Coventry supported an Open Space Referendum which enables the township to conserve land and provide parks and trails for our citizens. The Township Supervisors established an Open Space Committee and we have been active ever since. We generated close to \$1.2 million in additional funds for all of our projects.

We now have a fabulous inter-connected trail system and conserved lands on the Maack (73.5 acres), Kulp (16.6 acres), Ussler (82.26 acres), Taylor-Ashburn (10 acres) as well as the School House (.50 acre). The trail system running through these properties brings residents through active farms, beautiful woodlands, and a peaceful stream valley. Come out for a walk and enjoy these scenic trails. The best place to park and start your hike is the Wineberry Parking Lot at 154 Maack Road, Pottstown, PA 19465.

Ray Kolb and our crew at the Public Works Department have built benches that are placed throughout our walking trail system along with a magnificent long picnic table that is under the "Great White Oak" so that everyone may enjoy nature and the wonderful pastoral views of our township.

Farming continues on these newly protected lands as well as the 53.1 acres Creekview addition to Ellis Woods. The Elliott (26.25) and Albright properties (32 acres) have private farmland conservation easements. This totals 295.71 acres of newly protected lands and we have another 100 acres as a goal to protect in 2020.



### ***Encouraging our Residents to Connect and Enjoy the Outdoors***

On April 25, 2020, we host the **Annual 5k and 10k to honor John Doyle Rock the Wall Run/Walk**. The funds raised support the efforts of the township to restore the historic Stone Wall on the Maack property.

Each October, we organize and host our **Get Outdoors Nature Walks** to showcase different aspects of our trail system for our residents.

### ***Negotiating Opportunities for Parks and Recreation when Development Happens***

When the Whispering Woods townhouse development was proposed, we made sure that 50% of the lands were set aside as a passive park that the developer created and paid for. There are walking trails and new landscaping on 15 acres that everyone can enjoy and we made sure it connects to Orchard Ridge, as well. We are now providing a safe pedestrian crosswalk and light so residents can cross Rt. 724 to connect to the Towpath Waterfront Park and the Schuylkill River Trail (Linfield to Pottstown connection is underway by Chester County).

We made sure that when the Owen J. Roberts School District built the new East Coventry Elementary School, there were sidewalks installed around the perimeter of the property as well as a trail connection to the adjacent Coventry Glen Development.

We are working now to update our Open Space requirements in our Zoning and Subdivision ordinances when development happens to ensure the Township has made good use of its land use regulations to preserve open space alongside new development.

### ***Making Great Plans for the Future***

In April of 2012, we adopted the **Federation of Northern Chester County Communities Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan** as a component of our Comprehensive Plan. In June of 2017, we adopted a more detailed **East Coventry Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan** for our Township Comprehensive Plan.

Last year we signed on to partner with the **Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee** and Michael Lane, the Regional Recreation Coordinator, joined our enthusiastic team to help us obtain grants for our Township.

### ***In the Works Right Now***

We are designing a Township-wide Wayfinding Signage System for all of our parks. This interpretive system will help our residents enjoy our trails and parks on a deeper level through the installation of an interchangeable kiosk system to highlight and describe the environment and history of our Township and provide hiking maps.

We are partnering with the Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area, Chester County, and Limerick and East Vincent Townships to undertake a Master Concept Plan for the Parkerford Area Waterfront and Trail Head. We own 6.7 acres of waterfront property there.

The Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation has awarded us another grant. This will help us to complete a new Master Plan for Towpath Park (7.5 acres), Faulk (13.3 acres) and the Heyser Tracts (28.16) acres. These township-owned properties are located along Route 724.

**Join Us—The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee** meetings are held on the **4th Tuesday of every month**. We come together and dream about how we can make our community better. We are united by our love of nature and this beautiful place we call home. We would love to see you there!

**JOHN DOYLE ROCK THE WALL  
5TH ANNUAL 5K AND 10K  
EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP  
CHESTER COUNTY, PA**

**SATURDAY, April 25, 2020 @ 10:00 AM 5K/10K & 5K WALK (Rain or Shine)**

855 Ellis Woods Park—Pottstown, PA 19465

**8:30 am—Registration Opens**

**10:00 am—Start time for all races**

**11:00 am—Award presentation at Pavilion**

**Register on-line at Pretzel City Sports**

<https://www.pretzelcitysports.com/online-registration/>

**or**

**Download form from East Coventry Township website [www.eastcoventry-pa.gov](http://www.eastcoventry-pa.gov)**

and mail form along with fee to:

Pretzel City Sports, 112 W. 36th Street, Reading, PA 19606

**Register by April 5th, 2020—\$25.00, receive a “Rock the Wall” Thermal Long Sleeve T-shirt.**

**Register after April 5th, 2020 and day of run—\$30.00. Registrants not guaranteed T-shirt.**

**Fundraiser for East Coventry Township  
Parks & Recreation**



**East Coventry Township**  
855 Ellis Woods Road  
Pottstown, PA 19465  
Phone: 610-495-5443  
Fax: 610-495-9925  
www.eastcoventry-pa.gov

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*Be sure to visit the ECT website  
(eastcoventry-pa.gov) for Township  
news and activities!*

**Board of Supervisors**

Anthony Duffy, Chair  
Ray Kolb, Vice Chair  
W. Atlee Rinehart, Member  
Karen Nocella, Member  
Michael Albert Moyer, Member



## Dates to Remember

### Township Meetings

**Board of Supervisors**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7:00 PM

**Planning Commission**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 PM

**Historical Commission**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 PM

**Parks & Recreation Committee**  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 PM

**Open Space Committee (Quarterly)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 PM  
April 2020

All Township meetings are held at the Township Building

### East Coventry Township Spring | Summer Office Hours Monday - Friday | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Closed:**

President's Day, Monday, February 17th  
Good Friday, April 10th  
Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th  
Independence Day Observation, Friday, July 3rd  
Labor Day, Monday, September 7th

### Parents, Save the Date!

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 10:00 am  
Raindate—Friday, April 10, 2020 at  
10:00 am

(old) East Coventry Elementary  
Ridge Fire Co. Community Day

Saturday, September 12, 2020  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm