



East Coventry Times

Inside this issue

Fall 2015

FAST FACTS ABOUT EAST COVENTRY

Population*: 6,636
 Male 3,218 48.5%
 Female 3,418 51.5%
 Median Age: 40.1

No. of Households*: 2,624
 Owner occupied: 1,975
 Renter occupied: 501
 Vacant units: 148
 Average household size of owner occupied units: 2.72
 Average household size of renter-occupied units: 2.09
 Miles of Roadway

48.84 Township
 11.09 State

Number of Employees:
 8 Police
 3 Administration
 5 Public Works
 1 Seasonal/PT

Total 2015 Budget Expenditures: \$4,729,472.01

Real Estate Millage Rate: 3
 Fire Hydrant Millage Rate: .12

*2010 Census

Happy 40th Anniversary Kolb's Farm Store!



In November of 2015, Kolb's Dairy Store will be celebrating its 40th anniversary! This is quite an achievement in today's business world.

Kolb's Farm Store was opened in 1975 by Roy and Alice Kolb. They sold milk, bread, snacks and hand-dipped ice cream. The entire Kolb family did their share of working the dairy farm and store. In 2000, Leroy, Paul and Roland bought the business and expanded the store. You can find 3 generations working at their farm and store located at 151 Kolb Road, Spring City, PA 19475

Today, the store still sells milk, bread, snacks, had-dipped ice cream and has added fresh products for baking and cooking, spices, fresh grown produce and fruit along with deli meats and cheeses. There is also some very beautiful items available, such as woven baskets, candles, etc. One stop at the store will have you coming back time and time again for the special items and friendly employees. We are fortunate to have this store in our community. Let's continue to support our "gem in the country"!

New addition added to Ellis Woods Park

We hope everyone is enjoying the new Pavilion, which was constructed over the existing concrete pad at Ellis Woods Park. The basic framework was installed in one day! The roof had to wait until after the snow was done falling on the 1st day of Spring (March 20, 2015).



East Coventry Township received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation of \$12,683.70. These funds, along with matching funds from the Township, were used to construct the pavilion. The pavilion was completed before Community Day at a total cost of \$15,628.11.

The Township was considering the purchase of picnic tables to be used at the pavilion, however, the Public Works Department built the tables instead, at a cost savings to the Township. The tables are a welcome addition to the new pavilion. Residents now have a great area to have picnics and enjoy the many features the park has to offer which includes: the 1/2 court Basketball/Pickleball court, running track, play area for all ages and the nature trail through the woods. Pickleball is played every Tuesday & Thursday evenings 6:30 p.m. to dusk.



East Coventry Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee is looking for new people to help with recreation activities and share ideas to enrich our community. If you are interested, the committee meets at 7:30 p.m., the 4th Tuesday of each month. Feel free to stop in and meet us!

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Linfield Bridge Project Update



PennDOT has begun working on replacing/repairing the Linfield Road Bridge. The bridge was closed on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. The project consists of superstructure deck replacement, sandblasting of beams, bearing replacement and painting the superstructure. Both East Coventry Township and Limerick Township provided input on the new colors for the bridge. The estimated completion date for the repair is November 30, 2015.

Road Projects

South Keim Street and Porter's Mill Road (between Harvey Lane and South Coventry Township Line)

The Township paved South Keim Street and Porter's Mill Road during the summer. Both roads were paved by Glasgow, Inc., with the help of the Township Road Crew. The Road Crew did the prep work for the repaving. They milled the driveway aprons and the road crossings. The project was completed in three (3) days with minimal interruption to Township residents.

Kulp Road (between Halteman Road and Harley Road) and Kulp Road (between Schoolhouse Road and Harvey Road)

The Township oil/chipped Kulp Road during the summer. The work was done on Monday, August 10, 2015 by Martin Paving, Inc. With the help of the Township Road Crew, the work was completed in one (1) day with minimal interruption to the Township residents.

Recycling

MATERIALS TO BE RECYCLED

Township Ordinance No. 193 "Municipal Waste Collection and Recycling Ordinance", adopted by the Board of Supervisors to comply with Act 101- The Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988, as amended, makes recycling a requirement for everyone.

Occupants of residential units are required to separate and recycle clear glass, colored glass, high-grade office paper, newsprint (including newspaper inserts, junk mail and telephone books), aluminum cans, bimetallic cans, No. 1 PET plastics, No. 2 HDPE plastics, No. 4 LDPE plastics and No. 5 PP plastics.

Commercial establishments are required to separate and recycle corrugated paper, high-grade office paper, aluminum cans, bimetallic cans, No. 1 PET plastics, No. 2 HDPE plastics, No. 4 LDPE plastics and No. 5 PP plastics. Hospitality establishments which include restaurants are required to separate and recycle cardboard, high-grade office paper, newspaper (including newspaper inserts, junk mail and telephone books), aluminum cans, bimetallic cans, No. 1 PET plastics, No. 2 HDPE plastics, No. 4 LDPE plastics and No. 5 PP plastics. All Community events attended by 200 or more people are required to have recycling containers.

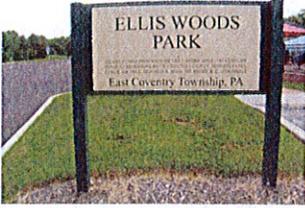
Grass clippings that are not permitted to lay on the lawn or disposed of at an appropriate composting facility may be co-mingled with other municipal waste and collected curbside. Household hazardous waste and leaf waste must be separated from recyclable material and other municipal waste. Leaf Waste is defined as, "Leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings and similar material, but does not include grass clippings." **The burning of leaf waste is prohibited.**

Municipal Waste collectors shall provide for the curbside collection of leaf waste at least twice per year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall but may schedule collection of leaf waste more frequently. **Please check with your collector to learn when your curbside collection dates are scheduled.**

The Township has contracted with Arborganic Acres, an On-Farm Organic Composting Facility, for East Coventry Township residents to drop off their Leaf Waste at no cost to the resident. Leaf waste may be dropped off at **Arborganic Acres**, an On-Farm Organic Composting Facility located at 901 Cherry Hill Lane, Pottstown, Pa. 19465, www.arborganicacres.com, pursuant to its rules and regulations. **Burning is no longer allowed except for recreational purposes, such as barbeques, campfires, chimineas and similar activities.**

East Coventry Parks, Recreation & Conservation Committee

The Importance of Our Parks!



Last year, Chester County was ranked the 4th best county in America. They say that this rating has to do with our economic state (low poverty and unemployment rates), but that is only a small part of what makes our county great. Anyone who has ever been here knows that what *really* makes this area amazing is our abundance of natural beauty. Pennsylvania, as a whole, values open space preservation and has a very substantial parks system. There is even mention of the concern of the preservation of our land in the constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." The

meaning and effect of that section can most certainly be seen in Chester County, and on a more personal level, in our very own East Coventry Township.

Nestled in the northern tip of the county, East Coventry Township is extremely diverse in a number of ways. We have some densely populated developments and our border backs up against the small town of Kenilworth, while on the other hand we have land adjacent to the Schuylkill River and sizeable tracts of protected open space. Some of the open space properties are owned privately, some are owned by the county, and some are owned by our township. Regardless of the landowner, East Coventry's conserved lands have one thing in common – they all have a stunning amount of biodiversity. This biodiversity is perhaps most conspicuous at what many would consider to be the township's most popular or most visited public space: Ellis Woods Park.



Over the past few years, I have spent a great deal of time at Ellis Woods Park. Located directly next to the East Coventry township building, the park is in a prime, centralized location for all members of our community to enjoy. I am lucky enough to live less than a quarter of a mile from Ellis Woods Park, so I frequently take advantage of this jewel in the crown of our area's open space. In the four years that I have been exploring the park, just under 120 species of birds and 100 species of plants have been identified on the property. Not only that, it is home to over a dozen types of mammals, about two dozen types of butterflies and dragonflies, and around 10 species of fish (in the stretch of Pigeon Creek that flows through it). Those numbers may not be very meaningful to those not interested in nature, however I can assure you that they are impressive. Just to compare, Warwick County Park (with which

many of you are probably familiar) has recorded only 3 more species of birds than Ellis Woods Park, yet Warwick encompasses 535 acres and a huge variety of habitats. That fact *alone* tells me that we have something special here.

I strongly encourage you to go out and visit our parks, because not only will you find it to be an incredibly relaxing and soothing experience, but you may also gain a deeper appreciation for the beautiful area in which we live; part of the area ranked by outsiders to be the 4th best place in the country. While exploring, be sure to keep an eye out for the plants and animals that exist in concentrations greater than many other places in the region. Our parklands are incredibly important, both for the people who visit them and for the creatures that call them home.

Article provided by Eric Hughes, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Committee Member

Election Day Update

We have a special update for Election Day on November 3, 2015. The Election Committee will be collecting can goods at polls for donation to the local food banks. The donations will be dropped off at a local food bank in our area to help families in need.

New Addition to Public Works Fleet



East Coventry Township purchased a new 2015 International Dump Truck at a cost of \$128,796.00. The truck was purchased from 5 Star International. The body, spreader and plow was purchased from E.M. Kutz Incorporated. It is a 6 wheel truck with a GVW (gross value weight) of 39,000 pounds. The plow is a 10 foot Snow King plow. The truck body can hold 10 tons of materials. Look for the new truck out on the roads.

East Coventry Pickleball Club

East Coventry Pickleball Club is celebrating their 2nd Anniversary of playing Pickleball!

What is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a racquet sport. It is a cross between tennis, badminton and ping pong. Pickleball is played with a wooden racquet and a wiffle ball. The court is inside of a tennis court, whether you play single or doubles. Scoring for Pickleball is similar to volleyball.



History of Pickleball.

Pickleball was named after the founders' dog. Today it is played on playgrounds, in YMCA's and in gym classes. The biggest growth of the sport is in the 55 and over retirement communities.

East Coventry Township Court Location.

The East Coventry court is located alongside the Township building in Ellis Woods Park. The Club has a net, racquets and balls for public use stored in a locker at the court area. If you are interested in playing Pickleball, you can sign out the equipment by going to the Township Administration Office. There is a core group of adults playing during the summer on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:00 / 6:30 pm to dusk. Please come and learn the sport!

Future Opportunities

The Club would like to introduce the sport to more families in the Township. We will teach the basic skills and rules of the game. We want to create more opportunities for people to play. Check the Township website for a fall schedule. The schedule will be available after Labor Day. We are hoping to play in the mornings. The tentative play time would be from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please contact Anne Sage, member of the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee and Pickleball team via e-mail at asage42@verizon.net or call 610-326-0725 for more information.

Community Day 2015



The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee once again held Community Day at Ellis Woods Park on Saturday, June 13, 2015. It was a very warm day, but everyone had a fun filled afternoon. The residents enjoyed blue grass music performed by Raven Hill Bluegrass, a scavenger hunt, flea market, pony rides, petting zoo, moon



bounce, speed pitch, fire trucks provided by Ridge Fire Company and a special presentation of Pickleball.

Stormwater Management Education Information

Environmentally Deice!

We realize everyone is awaiting the change to the fall weather, but it is never too early to start planning for the upcoming winter season.

Ice build-up on sidewalks and driveways caused by ice storms and melting snow is extremely common last winter. There are many alternatives to using traditional rock salt as a deicer, as rock salt carried by snow and ice melt pollutes our streams and waterways. To help minimize rock salt pollution, consider using more environmentally friendly deicers, such as calcium magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride or non-chloride deicing products.



What do you think about parks, recreation, and open space in East Coventry Township?



East Coventry Township Public Forum

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

7:00—8:30 P.M.

East Coventry Township Building

855 Ellis Woods Road

Pottstown, PA 19465

You are invited to become part of an important discussion taking place right now in our Township: How can we enhance the quality of life in our community through parks, recreation, trails, and open space?

Here's where you get to express your ideas and concerns about parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, programs and services. You can tell us what you'd like to have (or not have) so that we can use what you have to say to create the East Coventry Township Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Your opinions will help to form the ten-year action plan that the Township is required to have in order to secure grants, improve our park system, and provide the kinds of services that our citizens want.

This is a chance for you to help shape our Township.

What you have to say matters.

We hope to see you there!

For further information, please contact:

Bernard Rodgers, Township Manager,

by phone at 610-495-5443 or

e-mail at brodgers@eastcoventry-pa.gov.

Parks and Recreation Plan Underway in East Coventry Township

East Coventry Township is updating its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. The purpose of the plan update is to help enhance the quality of life in East Coventry Township by preserving the scenic character of the community, connecting the community with a township wide trail network, and providing opportunities for active healthy living through recreation and park opportunities. The plan will provide a course of action for improving parks and recreation facilities over the next ten years. It will explore ways of providing recreation opportunities through a combination of municipal support and partnerships, sponsorships, grants, and collaboration with public and private sector organizations.

East Coventry Township has been working strategically over the past decade to preserve open space. Currently, the Township has about 1,100 acres of open space preserved. There are three community parks, two county hunting areas, and Fricks Lock, an historic village, in the Township. The two county hunting parks are located at the Sanatoga and Linfield Basins. The Township's community parks include Towpath Park, Ellis Woods Park, and the Maack Property. All three parks have opportunities for walking and enjoying nature. Ellis Woods and Towpath Parks also offer playgrounds. Towpath Park is a wonderful riverfront park with access to the Schuylkill River.

East Coventry Township retained Natural Lands Trust and Toole Recreation Planning to develop this plan. Natural Lands Trust also serves as East Coventry Township's planning consultant. The team will be working with a study committee composed of Township residents including Karen Nocella, Bruce Stephens, Dorene Pasekoff, Gail Brown, Larry Tietjen, and Bill Keller.

The Township will hold a public meeting on Wednesday September 30, 2015 from 7:00 – 8:30pm in the Township Building. The meeting will be a forum for citizens to provide their needs, interests, ideas, and concerns regarding improving the community through parks, recreation, trails, and programs. We are asking for your help and hope that you will come out to let us know your ideas! Our goal is to find out ways to serve citizens of all ages and interests in our community with the kinds of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and programs they'd like to have available.

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is being funded with a grant from the Chester County Vision Planning Partnership program and Township funds. The plan will enable the Township to be competitive for future grant funding from a variety of public and private sources that can aid in improving Township parks and programs.

For further information, please contact Bernard Rodgers, East Coventry Township Manager at 610-495-5443 or by e-mail at brodgers@eastcoventry-pa.gov

East Coventry Open Space Committee

Please join the Open Space Committee on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm to learn about preservation options for your property, more general information about past and present preservation projects in the area. **Bill Gladden, Director of the Chester County Department of Open Space Preservation** will be on hand to review the County's Programs and answer your questions. The Chester County Commissioners have budgeted money to keep funding the programs administered by the Department of Open Space Preservation. These County grant programs provide funds to help preserve farms, parks, special undeveloped areas and nature preserves. Chester County's Open Space Preservation efforts and programs are designed to work best in partnership with municipalities, nonprofit conservation organizations, and interested landowners. East Coventry Township adopted Ordinance 175 in January of 2011 which generates funds the Township can use for land preservation (see the East Coventry Township Spring 2014 Newsletter for a great overview). One way the Township can stretch its dollars to accomplish more for the residents is by working in partnership with the County whenever possible. With both the Township and County working to preserve the places that make our area special—now is a great time to be well informed. Whether you are interested in preserving property you own, want to learn about what has already been preserved, or just want to hear a firsthand account of how land preservation takes place—this is an opportunity not to be missed. In the meantime, a great source of interesting information, maps, links, and grant program guidelines can be found on their website at www.chesco.org/openspace.

East Coventry Historical Commission

The East Coventry Historical Commission – Gail Brown, Chairperson; Scott Fitzgerald, Vice Chairperson; Penny Morton, Secretary; Larry Tietjen, Planning Commission Liaison, and Ann Keen. All Agendas and Minutes for the Historical Commission are posted on the Township webpage. In addition to our regular business that can be found in the minutes and agenda, we'd like to tell you a little about each of our Committees – The Archives Committee, the Oral History Committee, and the Fricks Locks Volunteers Committee.

Ann Keen, Chairperson of the Archives Committee is assisted by Mariea Geho, also currently the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Several donations for the Historical Commission archives were received this year including research materials from a resident on Kulp Road for the 'Posey House', a former Historical Commission member donated a wealth of documents which the Archives Committee is currently sorting and cataloguing, an antique advertising fan from the Parker Ford Hewitt Store, two photographs of Historical Commission members and their float from the 2000 Pottstown Fourth of July Parade, and a collection of antique ink wells, hat pins and cream bottles, and a substantial donation of antique furnishings from a gentleman from South Coventry Township. Previously donated items such items as books ranging from regional architecture to Native American arrowheads, photographs, maps and other items. Many of these items are on display at the Township in the cases or mounted on the walls of the large conference room. The Archives Committee is available at the Township on most Wednesday mornings from 9:15 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. to assist citizens with access to the archives information.

Scott Fitzgerald is the Chairman of the Oral History Committee. The Historical Commission has finished reviewing it's Oral History program and Scott will be recording oral histories from our residents. Oral history breathes life into the archives, artifacts and architecture preserved in our Township. Would you like to participate in an Oral History recording? Just call or e-mail the Township and Scott will return your call.

For the past three years the Fricks Locks Volunteers have conducted tours of Fricks Locks National Register District from May through October, the second and fourth Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Fricks Locks Volunteers Committee members Penny Morton, Committee Co-Chair; Gail Brown, Committee Co-Chair; Mariea Geho and Rugene Caldwell along with nineteen volunteers conduct tours for six months each year. Special tours are also hosted. Recently a tour was conducted for the Class Reunion of the Owen J. Roberts Class of 1975. Next year a Red Hat Tour will be conducted in the spring and later in the year an Exelon Employee tour.

A great big THANK YOU to the young family from Texas who toured Fricks Locks as a Home Schooling Project, the Boy Scout who asked for a 'Ghost Town' Fricks Lock tour for his birthday, the enthusiastic OJR class of 1975, the former Fricks Locks residents who come back to visit and all our guests. It is truly a pleasure to serve as a Fricks Locks Tour Guide!

Visit the Historical Commission at our regular scheduled meetings the second Wednesday of each month at the Township Building large conference room at 7:00 p.m.



East Coventry Township

855 Ellis Woods Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

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Website: www.eastcoventry-pa.gov
E-mail: info@eastcoventry-pa.gov

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Ray Kolb, Chair

Mariea Geho, Vice Chair

W. Atlee Rinehart, Member

Michael Albert Moyer, Member

Karen Nocella, Member

Dates to Remember

UPCOMING EVENTS

Electronic Recycling Event
East Vincent Township Building
Saturday, September 26, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Special Public Meeting
Trails, Greenways & Recreation Plan
East Coventry Township Building
Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
See enclosed article for more details

Fricks Locks Volunteer Committee
2015 Regular Tour Schedule
Second & Fourth Saturdays
10:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
October 10, 2015 & October 24, 2015

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors
2nd Monday at 7:00 P.M.

Planning Commission
3rd Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.

Historical Commission
2nd Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.

Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee
4th Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.

Open Space Committee (Bi-Monthly)
1st Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.

All township meetings are held at the Township Building