



East Coventry Times

Inside this issue...

Spring | Summer 2021

Pigeon Creek Farm.....1

Staff Notes2

Community News.....3-4

Historical Commission....4-5

Parks & Recreation.....6-7

Dates to Remember.....8

PIGEON CREEK FARM

In 2019, our family was so happy to have found possibilities in a very old farm in East Coventry. Some of you remember the Albright Farm along Pigeon Creek Road where years ago it was a busy farm and good neighbors joined in sledding on snow days and playing in the creek in the hot summer sun. Its been a long time since there was life on the farm, however, we could see and feel the hidden potential. There was room for our animals and crops, a place to milk a couple of cows and have our chickens and goats.



COVID-19

Social distancing, washing your hands frequently, and wearing a mask will help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Stay Safe!

Farm living has been in full swing since we moved in with daily chores mixed with fixing buildings, making hay and building fences. With enormous support of the community, neighbors and friends, we were encouraged to pursue sales of our own milk and eggs. So much work goes into running a small farm let alone a small business.



Generous and talented family have helped every step along the way. With all hands on deck we tackled daily chores as well as making our new business dreams become a reality. Along with all the farm updates, we worked through the state regulations to become a licensed "micro dairy" where we could sell our own raw milk. Its hard to believe that our big dream in the summer of 2020 had become a reality by the end of the same year.

We were excited to open our little store in December to the public. The store is open Tuesday through Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-3 for sales of fresh RAW milk from our own milking herd and eggs from our happy chickens. We love talking to our neighbors about the farm fresh food we put on our table.



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!

During the warm seasons, passers-by can see some of our animals happily frolicking along Pigeon Creek Road, and we welcome visitors to ask questions. Many of the animals have been or still are 4H projects, so are used to being handled and having human spectators.

You may already be aware that a small part of our property along Schoolhouse and Pigeon Creek Road is part of a beautiful trail system. This trail system has been established so locals can have a safe place to walk and enjoy the sights of East Coventry.



Pigeon Creek Farm Cont'd. . .

Because the property is part of a Natural Lands Trust and we have active farm activities going on, designated safe access will be identified by the township by specifically marked trails for the community. Please be sure to follow the signs for marked trails as there is not public access to the entire property.

Pigeon Creek Farm

554 Pigeon Creek Road

Pottstown, PA 19465

484-256-5520

Staff Notes...

COVID-19...

Please check our website regularly for updates concerning monthly meetings and how they are being conducted due to COVID-19. A mask must be worn when entering the Township Building. Wear a mask and stay safe!

We are Now Accepting Credit Cards. . .

We are now accepting credit cards for payments such as real estate taxes, sewer bills, permit fees, parking tickets, etc. Payments can be made online through our website on the Home Page or in-person. A fee applies for this service. Credit card payments are not accepted for everything so please check the website or ask the Administration Office.

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), 901 Cherry Hill Ln., Pottstown, PA 19465 or contact your trash collection contractor for their pickup schedule.

Finance Department. . .

Sewer Account Payments. Sewer Usage Fee has increased to \$185 a quarter effective with the first billing cycle in 2021. 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 accept cash, check or credit card.

Public Works. . .

Take it "Slow" through the work zones. Public Works' personnel will be doing oil/chip on the following roads: Schoolhouse Road between Ellis Woods and Fulmer Roads, Sawmill Road between Harley and Schoolhouse Roads, Buckwalter Road, Earl Drive, Spring Creek Lane, Brownstone Drive, Springhouse Lane, Coventry Greene Lane, Kulp Road between Harley and Schoolhouse Roads. Be patient when they are working on the roads doing pipe replacement, black topping, road bank mowing and tree trimming. Roads will be signed for notice of work time. Slow down in work zones!!!

Please do not blow grass out into the ditches or roads!



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. You can also call in a request at 610-495-6063.

Spring Cleaning? Reduce, Reuse, Recycle . . .

Hazardous Waste Collection

Visit the ECT Website (eastcoventry-pa.gov) for a link to Chester County's tentative 2021 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: 484-908-4036

Chester County Solid Waste Authority, 7224 Division Highway (Rte. 322W, Honey Brook), Narvon, PA 17555

M-F 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sat 7 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Phone: 610-273-3771



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.



Spring City Public Library . . .

Don't forget to visit the Spring City Public Library! Check them out on the web at www.springcitylibrary.org for their hours of operation. At this time the library is curbside pickup of holds only. Check their website frequently for any changes.



Stormwater Information . . .

- 1. Please fill out the public East Coventry Township Stormwater (MS4) Survey. The survey is posted on the Township's Stormwater webpage. Physical copies of the survey can also be provided by the Township office upon request. Survey submissions are due to the Township by June 30, 2021.**
2. Please remember that nothing but stormwater should enter the Township's storm drain inlets. Common pollutants such as grass clippings, dead vegetation, household cleaners, trash, etc., are not permitted to enter the stormwater system. If you witness a discharge of materials/substances such as these into a storm drain, stormwater pond, or surface water of the Township, please call the Township office or fill out the Illicit Discharge Reporting Form found on the Township's stormwater webpage.
3. Please do not store any personal property in stormwater infrastructure. Please keep out of stormwater infrastructure such as stormwater ponds.
4. The Township will be publishing Stormwater related educational pamphlets in the coming weeks. Pamphlets will be available at the Township office, upon request, and in digital format on the Township's Stormwater webpage.

Tax Collection . . .

YOU CAN NOW MAKE PAYMENTS FOR 2021 TAXES ON-LINE. There is a fee for this service. Please go to www.eastcoventry-pa.gov for further information.

Payment in person at the Township Building will only be available if COVID RESTRICTIONS are lifted by the Township. Please check the Township Website: www.eastcoventry-pa.gov or call Missy King at 610-495-7667 for updates.

If restrictions are lifted, payments will be accepted at the Township Building located at 855 Ellis Woods Road as follows:

Tuesday—April 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Thursday—April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Saturday—April 10, 17 & 24 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Historical Commission Update...

In our update in the East Coventry Times 2020 Fall/Winter edition, we introduced the Historical Commission Members. We were at that time one member short of our minimum membership requirement. Through a response to the above East Coventry Times article and the assistance of the Chester County Historical Preservation Network, we would like to introduce our two new members!

HISTORICAL COMMISSION UPDATE . . .

Cathy Subick



Cathy Subick brings over 25 years of experience in the building restoration field to the Historical Commission. As Senior conservator for John Milner Architects, Inc. in Chadds Ford, she specializes in the treatment of wood and masonry materials and historic architectural finishes. Cathy has been involved in the restoration of a number of regional landmarks including Fonthill Museum in Doylestown, Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, the First Bank of the United States and Christ Church in Philadelphia. She is looking forward to learning more about the many historic resources in East Coventry and taking an active part in the preservation of Fricks Locks Village.

Peter Price

Eleven years ago, I arrived in East Coventry Township with my wife, Natasha, and our three sons. I was raised on a farm in northeast Pennsylvania where life was slow and lent itself to books being a main distraction. Not hard to do if your choice of television was limited to three channels! In college I was enthralled with the study of rocks. Why are these rocks red? These blue? How did marine fossils end up in the middle of Pennsylvania? The questions of time and history were always present in my mind. As the family settled in the Township, I began to read about the rich history of the area. The Coventry area is steeped in history that includes the final resting place of Revolutionary Soldiers, casualties not of battle but the extreme hardships of the winter encampment at Valley Forge. Remnants of the Schuylkill Canal Navigation System specifically in Fricks Lock Village and Towpath Park are tangible reminders of our bustling past. Trading posts, coach stops, and taverns still dot the countryside, not gone, only forgotten and hiding in plain sight. So, ask questions and explore your surroundings. You may be surprised to find a connection to your community that have been long forgot. As we emerge from the restrictions of COVID and begin again to gather, I encourage you to come out and join us for tours of Fricks Lock Village and other events, soon to come.



We wish to thank East Coventry Township and the East Coventry Community for their continued support of the East Coventry Historical Commission. We welcome applications for Historical Commission Membership and Fricks Locks Volunteers.

FRICKS LOCKS IMPROVEMENTS AND TOURS

The Fricks Locks Tours for the 2020 Season were cancelled due to COVID-19, but we were not idle in Fricks Locks. The first phase of the Fricks Locks Trailhead was completed. This phase included: paved parking, walkways and road entry; additional parking and lighting; benches; signage; landscaping; and a water well and septic system to support the restrooms to be added in Phase II of the Fricks Locks Trailhead construction. The Schuylkill River Trail—Fricks Locks Trailhead sign developed by the Fricks Locks Stakeholders has been placed along the Schuylkill River Trail at the pedestrian entrance to the trailhead. Go take a look! In addition, the East Coventry section of the Schuylkill River Trail will be under construction this summer.

Construction has been approved on the second phase of the trailhead and will commence as weather allows to continue through the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2021. The second phase will include adding a pavilion and picnic tables; a trailhead restroom and improvements to support electrical and plumbing additions at the James Ellis House.

Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19 and the on-going construction of both the trailhead and Schuylkill River Trail, we will be delaying our 2021 Fricks Locks Tour Season Schedule. We are optimistic we will be able to commence tours by late summer or early fall and along with Chester County and the Schuylkill River Greenways celebrate a grand opening of the Fricks Locks Trailhead.

Parks and Recreation Committee Update...



Bruce Stephens, Catherine Carney-Horner, Flora Kapp, Elizabeth Willow, Karen Nocella, Jason Stouch, Ray Kolb, Gary Hughes, Frank Coppo, Connie Coppo

On Saturday, September 26, 2020, the Parks and Recreation team celebrated their recent accomplishments with a fall festival. We received grant money to help pay for refreshments and our main attraction for the day, a live demonstration of different birds of prey by Dawn White.

We also honored our long time friend and mentor, Anne Sage, who passed away, with a dedication of the new pickle ball courts that she helped make a reality.

We are so proud of our new township park sign and all those who came together to make this special. From Jeremiah Wright, who used local stone to form the stone pillars, to Noel Billingsley (East Coventry Township resident) who inspired the historic forms of the stone pillars, to John Becker (East Coventry Public Works Crew Member) for the black locust beam that the sign hangs from, and Bob Bauers (East Coventry Township resident) for his expertise in iron works.

This project, paid for with grant money from Pottstown Area Health and Wellness, DCNR, Schuylkill Highlands and Township money from our Open Space Account enabled us to formulate a wayfinding signage system that makes finding your way around our beautiful parks like a walk in the park.



We now have a trail map kiosk to greet you when you enter the park at Ellis Woods with many trails, depending how far you want to go or the terrain you want to navigate. There will be five interpretive birding signs that will enhance your experience along with benches to rest and observe.

Forest Edge BIRD IDENTIFICATION STATION

Habitat
Forest edges tend to have more diverse and abundant wildlife, including predators. Edges are inhabited by the canopy and plants of adjacent vegetation communities, plus species that have both woodland and openland requirements. The forest edge is a place where the forest meets the open land, and the forest edge is a place where the forest meets the open land. The forest edge is a place where the forest meets the open land. The forest edge is a place where the forest meets the open land.

Meadow & Marsh BIRD IDENTIFICATION STATION

Habitat
A habitat is the type of environment in which an animal can find food and shelter and raise its young. A healthy habitat contains plants that provide flowers and seeds and which attract the insects a bird needs to survive. In the area there are meadows and marsh habitats. In the area there are meadows and marsh habitats. In the area there are meadows and marsh habitats.

Field & Farm BIRD IDENTIFICATION STATION

Habitat
An open field or farm habitat provides a variety of open spaces and multiple vegetation types for nesting, feeding, and foraging. In the area there are fields and farm habitats. In the area there are fields and farm habitats. In the area there are fields and farm habitats.

Water & Water's Edge BIRD IDENTIFICATION STATION

Habitat
The habitat at the water's edge should be growing with the diversity of plants and trees that provide food and shelter for birds. In the area there are water and water's edge habitats. In the area there are water and water's edge habitats. In the area there are water and water's edge habitats.

Forest Birds BIRD IDENTIFICATION STATION

Habitat
A healthy forest habitat provides a variety of tree species and multiple vegetation types for nesting, feeding, and foraging. In the area there are forest habitats. In the area there are forest habitats. In the area there are forest habitats.

The tracts of land that surrounds Schoolhouse, Maack and Kulp Roads will be called the East Coventry Nature Preserve. Check out the trail map kiosks at Maack and the Schoolhouse entrance. You will notice on the kiosk at the Maack entrance an icon for a tennis court! Yes, we have a tennis court!

Ray Kolb and his Public Works team can make anything happen! There was an old tennis court on the land we acquired through a conservation easement but was overgrown and in disrepair. Ray and his team cleaned out the overgrowth and now we have a tennis court. We still have to make many more repairs, but we hope to continue on with this effort. Please respect the privacy of the homeowners who live in the middle of this beautiful park and enjoy your visit.



Your Parks and Recreation Committee decided to do something really fun this holiday season with a tree decorated in edible ornaments for birds and animals. This tree was placed at the new trail head going into the woods at Ellis Woods Park. We encouraged everyone to add to the tree and enjoy the park. We hope to keep the tradition going for next year. The winner for the photo contest was Julie Martin and her beautiful family, congrats Julie, enjoy your gift card.



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

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

Board of Supervisors

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



Dates to Remember

Township Meetings

Board of Supervisors
2nd Monday at 7:00 PM

Planning Commission
3rd Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Historical Commission
2nd Tuesday at 7:00 PM

Parks & Recreation Committee
4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM

Open Space Committee (Quarterly)
1st Wednesday at 7:00 PM
April 2021

All Township meetings are held at the Township Building,
unless otherwise noted.

Masks must be worn when entering the Township Building.

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

Closed:

Good Friday, April 2nd
Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st
Independence Day Observation, Monday, July 5th
Labor Day, Monday, September 6th

**The Easter Egg Hunt has been
Canceled for 2021.**

Ridge Fire Co. Community Day
Saturday, September 11, 2021
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm