



EAST COVENTRY TIMES

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COVID-19

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



In this issue we share news about recent changes here in the administrative offices, committee updates, as well as helpful tips for a safe winter from our Public Safety and Public Works personnel.

From all of us here at ECT – we extend our best wishes to you and yours for a safe and happy holiday season!

Grand Reopening of Ellis Woods Park

Please join us on Saturday, September 26, 2020 for an Open House from 12:00 to 4:00 pm at 855 Ellis Woods Road as we celebrate our accomplishments to bring you a newer and user-friendlier Ellis Woods Park.

With \$67,000 in grants from the following, we were able to hire a professional landscape architect team to create a signage system that will enable park users to have a more informative “Walk Through the Park”.

- \$20,000 grant from Pottstown Area Health and Wellness
- \$20,000 from the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Program
- \$27,000 matching funds from the Township Open Space Fund

In addition, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources also awarded us a grant of \$76,000 for the landscaping including two natural areas planted as wildflower meadows. We’ve added benches for guests to watch a game of pickleball or just be with their children as everyone enjoys their beautiful new park. The William Penn Foundation paid landscape planner, Rick Tralies, from Natural Lands for his design and expertise. The Township then matched the \$76,000 from our open space account.



The 53-acres behind the township building that we acquired using the Township Open Space Funds will have a half mile birding loop, a 1 mile farm loop, a half mile meadow loop and a half mile trail along Pigeon Creek, all color coded with different icons.

When you visit, you will first notice our new historically significant sign that will feature stone pillars that were used in Chester County to hold up barn lofts, that will be all hand pointed. The best photo taken that day at our new sign will be in the next Township Newsletter with a complimentary gift basket!

We will be hosting lots of fun activities:

- Hunters of the Sky program from 1:00 to 2:00 pm under the Pavilion will feature live hawks and owls by Dawn White of Indian Run Environmental Education Center.
- Pickle ball demonstrations and dedication of the courts to our dearly missed friend and mentor, Anne Sage.
- Ice cream and beverages from Kolb's Dairy and Farm Store.
- Guided bird tours.



Please, let's practice social distancing and masks are required. We want everyone to enjoy our new park safely and to come back soon.

Staff Notes...

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...

A friendly reminder to not rake or blow leaves and/or sticks and branches into roadside drainage ditches or onto the roads. This impedes water flow and can create a road hazard.

Tenancy Forms...

If you have a rental property in East Coventry Township a Tenancy Form must be filled out and returned to the Township Building. The Tenancy Forms can be found on our website www.eastcoventry-pa.gov.

Coventry Food Pantry...

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

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

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.

Burning...

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 3feet.



Spring City Public Library...

Visit the Spring City Public Library! Currently the hours are Monday-Wednesday 12 pm to 4 pm, Tuesday-Thursday 4 pm to 7 pm, Friday Closed, Saturday 10 am to 1 pm. Please check the website as their hours may have changed www.springcitylibrary.org.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Curbside Tree Pickup

Monday, January 4th and

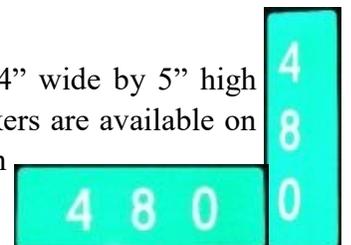
Monday, January 11th, 2021

Trees will be collected and chipped by the Public Works Department. This service keeps trees out of landfills and is a great way to recycle. Note: If lights or decorations are left on the tree, the tree will not be picked up. Please place the tree on your curb the evening before scheduled pickup date.



Reflective Address Markers...

The signs are only \$15 each. You can have a 6" x 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.



Stormwater Reminders for Residents and Businesses. . .

- Please look out for a public stormwater survey on The Township's stormwater page in September!
- A friendly reminder that disposing of yard waste including grass clippings and leaves onto roadways is prohibited in East Coventry Township.
- To report an illicit discharge and/or stormwater quality issue, visit the Township's stormwater webpage and call the phone number listed.
- For more information on how residents and businesses can help reduce stormwater pollution and/or get involved with the stormwater program, please visit the stormwater webpage located on the Township website.

Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee Update. . .

New Neighborhood Access-only Trail Opening

East Coventry is the place to live if you want friendly neighbors and plenty of safe walking trails to enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends.

Our newest neighborhood trail (no street parking) is open and is located around the perimeter of the beautiful preserved 24-acre farm at 644 Schoolhouse Road called Pandanwal Farm Sanctuary. There is almost a mile of walking around the perimeter. You can enter the trail at the bottom of Schoolhouse



PHOTO CREDIT PANDANWAL FARM SANCTUARY

Road near Saw Mill Road, walk up the hill, take in the views and vistas at the top, proceed around the fenced horse field, along Pigeon Creek, where we plan to install benches for a cool rest stop, before exiting out about a mile up further onto Schoolhouse Road.

Please, hikers and horseback riding only, no dogs, this is a rescue sanctuary for all kinds of animals, and they earned a well deserved quiet place to live out their years. If you want to make a donation to the Farm Sanctuary, you can contact them <https://pandanwal.com/>.

Please respect these wonderful property owners who have graciously opened the perimeter of their farm to the public. Please stay on the trail, no trailblazing is allowed. Enjoy another East Coventry trail where peace and tranquility will surround you.

Towpath Park

East Coventry Parks, Recreation and Conservation Committee has partnered with CMC Engineering out of Conshohocken to create a new master plan for Towpath Park on Route 724. We received a grant for \$16,000 from Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation to help complete this project that we hope to include baseball and soccer fields, a skate park, and a newer and more improved boat launch area.

This area will be well traveled once the Schuylkill River Trail connects to Pottstown. We envision riverside trails and overlooks, a nature based play space, bicycle amenities, and more interpretive signage.

There will be public meetings for the planning stages and we encourage all residents to come and voice their opinions. We will keep you posted on those dates on the East Coventry Township website.



Covid 19 and Keeping Each Other Safe in the Great Outdoors

We are living through some challenging times and many of us are finding peace through nature, it is the place we have gone to for generations to make us relax and forget about the outside world.

We are very fortunate in East Coventry Township that we have safe beautiful parks that we can visit daily for vital mental and physical benefits that we so urgently need in these trying times.

Many people are walking, biking, and horseback riding, and we want everyone to enjoy their time out safely.

- If you are walking or biking, try to enjoy off the roads trail first, but if you do walk in the street, headphones could impair your ability to hear oncoming traffic, think about the option to listen to the sounds of the many birds we have, or wave to your neighbors along the way.
- If you encounter horseback riders riding along the road, please, be aware that horses can be unpredictable, since they are prey animals, anyone running, biking, or driving up behind or in front of them, the horse may perceive this “moving object” as a predator and may bolt or run into your car or bike or you.

Please All Drivers consider slowing down as you approach all walkers, bikers or horses.

When you slow down as a driver, you’ll be able to enjoy the beautiful scenery as well.

Stay safe and please help keep each other safe while we enjoy this beautiful place we all live in.

Historical Commission Update. . .

Meet the Historical Commission Members

The Historical Commission (HC) members as volunteers are committed to preserve and protect the rich heritage of East Coventry Township. Every member of the HC brings their own unique qualities to the table to enrich the HC as a whole. Meet the members of the HC:

Larry Tietjen: Member/Planning Commission Liaison



My wife, Louise, and I grew up in Philadelphia and moved to Drexel Hill where we raised our 3 sons. I am an engineer who has worked for over 40 years designing and constructing automated mechanical systems. While my work focuses on application of modern technologies in new buildings, laboratories and manufacturing facilities, I have a great appreciation for historic structures and their construction. Louise and I both were interested in historic properties and 15 years ago we found our historic farmhouse in East Coventry. As a new member of the community I joined the Historic Commission to learn more about the area and the historic sites in the community. I also have the privilege to serve on the Planning Commission and the Open Space Committee. Serving on these committees has provided a great opport-

-unity to learn new things and meet some fascinating people in our community. While East Coventry is supportive of new development it has also done a fantastic job preserving open space and historic sites like Fricks Locks. Our parks and trails are well maintained so if you have not taken the opportunity to go out and enjoy our open space, now is a great time to go out and explore.

Scott Fitzgerald: Member/Vice Chairman

Hello, my name is Scott Fitzgerald and I have lived in East Coventry Township for seventeen years with my wife, Denise, two daughters, son-in-law, granddaughter and 4 dogs. I became aware of the East Coventry Historical Commission and Fricks Locks Village from the late Phyllis Snyder when we purchased her farmhouse in 2012. Phyllis served on the HC for many years. Upon meeting Phyllis, she asked me what I knew of Fricks Locks and I told her I NEVER heard of it! She lovingly scolded me, gave me a brief history, and then she instructed me to join the HC which I immediately did! How thankful I am to Phyllis for encouraging me to learn about Fricks Locks and to be involved with the Township I live in and love. Since joining the HC I have become a tour guide at Fricks Locks Village. What is Fricks Locks Village? It is an abandoned village that began with one farmhouse in 1757 and expanded to support the booming canal that opened in 1825. The village continued to flourish until the canal traffic eventually slowed, replaced by more efficient railroads, at the end of the century. Some of the surviving buildings include the 1757 house, lock tender's house, canal store (which included a post office), and the lodge and barn. How important was the canal? When it originally opened in 1825 the canal expected to ship ten thousand tons of coal. By the 1850's the canal was shipping over 1 million tons of coal! Please contact the historical commission to find out more about this treasure we have in East Coventry and to learn about volunteer opportunities. We are in need of volunteers and we are looking forward to hearing from you!



Jeffrey Stevenson: Member/Secretary



I am a licensed Property, Casualty, Life (Annuity) and Health commercial insurance broker. I have been in insurance for nearly 20 years. People may choose to become members of a historical commission for what I would imagine are many reasons—some for professional reasons, but most I would think are for personal reasons. I would fall in the latter mostly for sure. Having taken a tour at Fricks Locks Village, I found an immediate spark of connection with the site and belief in the mission as I heard the tour guides speaking to the history of the place. It brought me to thinking of my children and how I had desired as a kid to know more about the areas where I was from but learned very little about them specifically in school. I would think that it would be an amazing experience for them to understand the area where they are from and how helpful it may be to see their Fathers' interest in that history as well. My own Father and Grandfather were architects and builders a while back now, but it

drove me to have an interest in the preservation of historic and older buildings. In fact, that is how I grew up visiting many old farm houses, businesses, manufacturing plants, and homesteads that were of interest to my

Grandfather. I wish there were more awareness in the United States about historic knowledge, preservation, and I really appreciate historic places in Chester County being that is where I have so much connection having spent my formative years in the West Chester area. By joining the Historical Commission, I have continued past just volunteering for the Fricks Locks Tours, as I was already doing, and have taken action to support the core ideals of what the Historical Commission is attempting to accomplish. It is empowering and deeply satisfying to be a part of an effort that is bigger than your immediate day-to-day life. In addition, I feel there is definitely the ability to become more closely connected to the community in which my children and family live. Having the ability to be involved in the Historical Commission has helped me remain motivated to be involved in community social opportunities with individuals who also share my interest in the organization.

Gail Brown: Member/Chairman

My husband, Larry, and I moved to East Coventry Township 17 years ago. I worked in Nuclear construction and maintenance for 23 years before retiring as a Senior Supervisor, Quality Control, Mechanical Level III. Although we had been living in Williamsburg, VA we found ourselves lured to southeastern Pennsylvania by its beauty, heritage and friendly people. We found an 1853 stone house, the James Ellis House, with a small acreage and in the spring of 2003 moved in with three cats and a sweet and feisty Arabian mare. Our first summer, my neighbor Mary Anne Keen, asked me if I would like to volunteer to assist with a Town Tour and Village Walk at Fricks Lock Village (FLV). Little did I know this would be the beginning of an exciting, sometimes arduous, and ultimately rewarding journey toward the rehabilitation of FLV. The journey continues! Through the East Coventry Historical Commission, I have had the privilege of interfacing with and learning from individuals involved with Historic Preservation at a state, county, and local level. I have had the opportunity to attend various Historic Preservation training programs, the annual Leadership Luncheon, participate in Town Tours and Village Walks and attend the most rewarding Annual Volunteer Celebration of county historical commissions, committees and societies. Next year we anticipate the grand opening of the Fricks Locks Village Trailhead, Schuylkill River Trail.



The Historical Commission is required to have a **minimum** of five (5) members. We are actively pursuing new membership to the Historical Commission. Join Scott, Larry, Jeff and Gail as members of the Historical Commission.

Contact the Township to make an appointment with a Historical Commission member to discuss our responsibilities, commitments, and projects and/or fill out a Volunteer Position Form. Call East Coventry Township at 610-495-5443 to set up an appointment. Volunteer Position Forms can be found on the East Coventry Township webpage www.eastcoventry-pa.gov.



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

Anthony Duffy, Chair

Ray Kolb, Vice Chair

W. Atlee Rinehart, Member

Karen Nocella, Member

Michael Albert Moyer, Member

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
FALL/WINTER OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 8:00 am—4:30 pm**

Closed:

Thursday & Friday, November 26th & 27th

Thursday & Friday, December 24th & 25th

Friday, January 1st

Monday, February 15th

**DUE TO COVID-19 A MASK AND SOCIAL
DISTANCING IS REQUIRED WHEN ENTERING
THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING.**

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 and Conservation Committee

4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM

Open Space Committee (Quarterly) 1st Wednesday

At 7:00 PM

All meetings held at the Township Building