

A newsletter for residents of  
**New Garden Township**  
 Chester County, Pennsylvania  
 Autumn, 2003

**New Garden Township**  
*established 1700*



*New Garden Meeting House - 1743*

**Board of Supervisors**

- Patrick J. Keeney, Chair
- W. Brian Sundermeir, Vice-Chair
- Norman S. Nunn
- Robert J. Perrotti
- Robert N. Taylor

**Township Manager**

Carmen Raddi

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Joan F. Kelleher



*Landenberg Bridge - 1899*

**Township Office**

8934 Gap Newport Pike  
 Landenberg, PA 19350

Hours: 10:00 am-4:30 pm, M-F  
 Phone: 610-268-2915  
 Fax: 610-268-0458

**Internet**

Email:  
 supervisors@newgarden.org  
 office@newgarden.org  
 Township Website:  
 www.newgarden.org  
 Historical Commission Website:  
 www.ccil.org/~nghc

**Message from the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors**

by Pat Keeney

Dear Fellow Residents:

This will be my last message to you as Chairman of the Board and Supervisor of New Garden Township. By now most of you should be aware that I chose not to seek reelection in order to pursue the implementation of a Term Limit Ordinance for New Garden Supervisors. I am pleased to report that the Board of Supervisors passed the Term Limit Ordinance in September, becoming one of the very few Municipalities in PA to do so.

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Pat Keeney discussing plans for the new Township Building with residents

**Hurricane Isabel Turns Township Into A Disaster Area**

by Peg Jones and Kevin McCarthy

Emergency Management could be called emergency preparedness. Long before the recent storm, the Board of Supervisors adopted Township Resolution 538 establishing an Emergency Preparedness Team with the responsibility of preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from emergency situations. This team consists of the Coordinator: Police Chief Kevin McCarthy, and three Deputy Coordinators: Patrolman Gerard Lindenlauf, and volunteers Jim Campbell and John Riddle. In advance of the storm, the Emergency Management Team, Township Manager, public works and



Flooding at the Landenberg Store (photo courtesy of Steve Allaband)

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## Message from the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

*(Continued from page 1)*

Over the length of my terms there have been many positive changes that have occurred within the Township, some of which are: hiring a professional Township Manager, creating a Township Park and fledgling Park system, building and acquiring separate Township Spray Irrigation Sewage facilities, expanding the Police force from 4 to 10 full time Officers, beginning the construction of a new Township Administration/Community Center Building, creating the Township Historical Commission, acquiring many acres of Township owned Open Space and creating an Open Space Committee, implementing curbside recycling, and instituting a Road Surface Maintenance system for our highways, to name just a few. These accomplishments, and many others too numerous to mention, could not have happened without the enthusiasm and dedication of all Board of Supervisors' members, past and present, the Township Staff and countless hours from volunteers. These efforts have placed New Garden Township in an excellent position to address opportunities and problems as they arise in the future.

This has been a special time for me; therefore, it is only appropriate to end by thanking you, my fellow residents, for the trust and confidence you placed in me during my three terms in Office.

Sincerely,  
Patrick J. Keeney

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**Construction and Demolition Permits** - You must have a permit if you wish to build or demolish a structure. BOCA Code for 1990 is in effect. Applications are available at the Township Building. Building Inspector Don Taylor (610-869-2007) is at the Township Building every Wednesday afternoon to provide assistance.

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**Township Meetings** - are usually held at the township building and are open to the public. Citizens are encouraged to attend and participate - call the township office for more information.

Board of Supervisors:

first & second Mondays at 7:30 pm.

Planning Commission:

fourth Wednesday at 7:00 pm,

workshop : third Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Sewer Authority:

second Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

Historical Commission:

second Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

Park & Recreation Committee:

third Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

New Garden General Authority:

third Monday at 9:00 am (as required).

Zoning Hearing Board:

as announced.

## New Township Building's Environment-Friendly Features

by Brian Sundermeir

New Garden's new township building has several unique features designed to minimize the building's impact on the environment and save money too! Some of these are apparent, for others you may have to look very closely, and some are completely hidden from view.

The most obvious features are the way the building is situated and the strategic use of glass. The building was positioned on the site, not only to take advantage of the spectacular views of our park, but also to receive natural light as the sun moves through the sky. Because of large, well placed windows, the building will be filled with sunlight minimizing the use of artificial lights.

When the sun isn't shining, and the rain is falling, the water running from the parking lot and roof won't just run downstream. All that storm water will be collected in a re-charge basin, which will allow the water to percolate back into the ground. In our own small way, we will help to keep wells flowing and streams from flooding.

However, some of the water may not reach the re-charge basin. When designing the building, it was a tough issue deciding how much parking to provide. There had to be enough parking for those occasions when a large event takes place, but not so much that the lot would be vacant most of the time, creating a lot of unnecessary impervious (hard) surface. The answer: grass pavers. Grass pavers provide a firm surface for cars to drive on without sinking into the mud. As the name suggests, grass can grow up through the pavers. And best of all, rain water is able to filter through, recharging the ground water and eliminating additional runoff. Some of our new parking lot, not all, will be paved with grass to handle popular meetings and events.

Finally, we've tapped the earth to heat and cool the building. A geo-thermal heating and air conditioning system has been installed to provide comfort and save money. The system uses the earth's natural, year round 55 degree water temperature and converts it to warm or cool air, depending on the season. The ground water, which circulates through a "closed loop" system is derived from a series of wells, some 500 feet deep, drilled near the building. The only thing taken from the ground is its temperature. The system uses no fossil fuels and only requires a small amount of electricity to operate its fans and pumps. From the energy savings of a conventional system, the cost of the geo-thermal system will be paid back in just seven years.

These are some of the ways New Garden is trying to protect the environment as it builds a home for the future.

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**Sewage** - to assure proper maintenance, Township Ordinance #103 requires all property owners to pump out their on-lot systems at least once every 3 years. Proof of doing this must be submitted to the township secretary.

**New Garden Township  
Historic Architecture Documentation Project**  
by Peg Jones and David Hawk

The New Garden Historical Commission and the Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD) at the University of Delaware have started work on a project to document historic architecture in New Garden Township. The purpose of this project is to call attention to the rich architectural re-



The Hayden's home on Sunnydell Road was one of the first to be studied. Bernie Herman and Jeroen van den Hurk determined that it had been build in three stages. The original house, the stone portion on the left, was pre-revolutionary. Later a one-story addition was added to the right, then a second story was added to it.

sources of the Township and to create a permanent record of as many significant buildings as possible. This project, for a year of research, is being supported by a contribution from the New Garden Authority and by the Board of Supervisors. Jeroen van den Hurk, a CHAD Ph.D. candidate, will be the principle researcher, and Professor Bernard L. Herman will oversee the project.



**Bernie Herman** is an acknowledged expert on Historic Architecture in the mid-Atlantic region and teaches courses on traditional architecture, historic preservation, and other topics at the University of Delaware. He is cofounder and senior research fellow at CHAD and is also a member of the faculty of the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture. He has written several books on the subject including Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes with Gabrielle M. Lanier.

**Jeroen van den Hurk**, a native of the Netherlands, studies at the University of Delaware where he is a Ph.D. candidate in American Art History with a minor in architectural history. Prior to coming to Delaware, he studied architectural history at Utrecht University, spent a year at Delft Technical University studying historic preservation, and then did a two month intern-



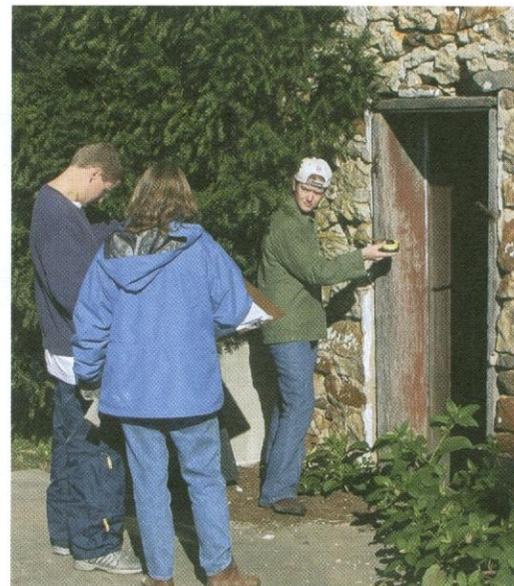
Jeroen points to evidence of an exterior bake oven on the Hayden House.

ship with the City of Den Bosch documenting a late medieval townhouse on Vughter Straat. Deciding to continue his studies in the United States, he considered Historic Architecture programs at the University of Virginia and the University of Oregon before choosing to the enroll in the program at Delaware in 1995. Since becoming a research assistant at CHAD in 1996, he has developed expertise in mid-Atlantic American Historic Architecture under the tutelage of David Ames, Bernie Herman, and other experts there. Jeroen intends to pursue a career in education after completing his Ph.D.

From among the many houses 150 years old or older in the township, an initial group of fifteen houses has been selected to be researched. Researchers from CHAD will work with Historic Commission members to document these houses. Jeroen

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The project is an opportunity for students to get some field training under the supervision of CHAD researchers. Right: CHAD's Rebecca Sheppard instructs two students in the finer points of architectural drawing while working at the Pierson's Home on Laurel Heights Rd.



## Hurricane Isabel Turns Township Into A Disaster Area

*(Continued from page 3)*

Starr Road Bridge, while still standing, was severely undermined and a large area of the road surface caved in.

The Township Board of Supervisors moved swiftly and declared a State of Emergency. The Emergency Response Team worked through the night identifying damage, making repairs where possible, and isolating hazards that could not immediately be repaired. Township maintenance crews worked around the clock clearing roads and erecting barriers to keep traffic away from the two damaged bridges. The State and Federal governments also declared a State of Emergency for the area, making it possible for individuals and businesses that suffered damage to qualify for low interest loans. For the Township, the State of Emergency means the usual rules for work along waterways and the need for bidding were suspended.

Estimates of storm damage in the Township infrastructure approach \$500,000, but the rebuilding and repairs are being done in a way so as to result in improvements for the future.

Replacement of the Egypt Run bridge was completed Oct 17<sup>th</sup>. It was rebuilt with an eight foot diameter pipe instead of the previous four feet to increase flow capacity by four times. The stream approaches were covered with riprap and the creek bed was cleaned.

The Starr Road Bridge is being replaced with factory-made, precast concrete that is being shipped in sections to be assembled on site. This new bridge, which will be 28 feet wide and will no longer have any weight restrictions, should be open by Thanksgiving.

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## Supervisors Engage Natural Lands Trust

The Open Space Task Force is ready to move forward. In September, the Board of Supervisors approved a grant of \$10,000 to engage Natural Lands Trust (NLT) as consultants to determine ways and means of preserving open space. According to NLT's Jack Stefferud who will work with the Township, the first step is to look at what land is already protected such as Township property along the White Clay and farms where the development rights have been sold. Other issues will include locating parcels of protected land which are or could be connected such as greenways threading through residential developments. Large areas of woodland also need to be identified for possible preservation.

Recognizing the need for education about the implications of an open space initiative, the Task Force will be asking Jack Stefferud and others from NLT to be available for a series of public meetings. Land owners can learn what their options are for preserving their land as open space. Resident homeowners need to understand the impact on their school tax burden if present open space is developed. Everyone in the Township needs to be aware of the end result if existing open space is built out; everyone needs to know how the preservation of open space will impact their lifestyle.

## Historic Architecture Documentation Project

*(Continued from page 4)*

and other CHAD researchers will study each house and examine foundations, interior and exterior walls, construction techniques, hardware and other physical clues. All rooms will be measured and photographs will be taken of significant architectural or decorative features. They will produce architectural drawings and an analysis of probable dates of construction, alterations over time, and history of use. Simultaneously members of the Historical Commission will be searching County records for the names of owners, their wills, inventories, family relationships and any other interesting or pertinent information. The information collected by CHAD and the Historic Commission will be combined into a report for each house that shows, to the extent possible, when the house was built, who built it, when changes were made and how it looked at each period. When available, information will be included about the families who lived there and, if they made changes to their houses, why they may have done so. Combining human history with architectural history will greatly contribute to our knowledge of how people in New Garden Township lived in the 18th and 19th centuries. These reports will be posted on the Historic Commission's website [www.ccil.org/~nghc](http://www.ccil.org/~nghc) as they become available. The Historic Commission's long-term goal is to document all the historic houses in the township using these techniques.

The impetus for this project was the demolition of three of the township's historic houses in fairly quick succession over the last year. For two of these houses the Historic Commission was able to arrange proper documentation before they were taken down, but the other house was demolished with only a few photographs taken to record its existence. It is hoped that this project will provide the people of the township with a better understanding and appreciation of their historic resources and ultimately lead to better historic resource protection in the township.

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**Old Photographs:** The New Garden Historical Commission would like to copy your old pictures of life in New Garden Township including photos of houses, barns and industry. If you have pictures you would be willing to share, please contact Peg Jones at [Marg251@aol.com](mailto:Marg251@aol.com) or 610-268-2363.

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**Snow Plowing** - Home owners can protect their lawns and plantings from damage by snow plows if they place reflectors two feet inside their property line (that is two feet in from the blacktop). Snow plow operators cannot see the boundaries of the road, especially at night, unless there are visible reflectors. For effective snow removal, the road master requests that property owners not push snow from driveways into Township roads and refrain from parking cars on the street or cull-de-sac. Plows cannot maneuver around parked vehicles. After the snow season, streets in developments will be swept clear of remaining cinders.

## New Township Building Nears Completion

Construction of the new Township Building, designed by Hooper-Shiles Architects of Wayne, PA, is progressing towards scheduled completion by the end of the year. The building, located at the southern end of the township park on Starr Rd just west of Newark Rd, will serve as an administration building, a community center, a voting polling place, and a gathering place for all township related activities. Offices and meeting rooms will have large windows looking out over the parkland. *(More information, p. 2)*



Groundbreaking took place  
on June 6, 2003  
L-R: Township Manager Carmen Raddi;  
Supervisors Brian Sundermeir, Pat  
Keeney, Bob Taylor, Norman Nunn;  
and architect Phil Hooper

Construction is progressing towards scheduled completion by the end of the year.

First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 23  
Landenberg, PA  
19350-9211

New Garden Township  
8934 Gap Newport Pike  
Landenberg, PA 19350