



**New Garden Township**  
*established 1700*



*New Garden Meeting House - 1743*

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*Landenberg Bridge - 1899*

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**Message from the Chair of the Board of Supervisors**

by Steve Allaband

For the past year and a half, a group of volunteers under the chairmanship of Bernie McKay has been working on a revision of New Garden Township's Comprehensive Plan. Their work is nearly completed and a public meeting to share the Plan and to obtain public comment is scheduled for early Summer.

Every ten years townships are required by law to revise their Comprehensive Plans. These plans serve as guidelines for directing future growth, development, capital investment and other planning activities within each township. The goals are general statements

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**Buildings in the Park—by Peg Jones**

New Garden's Park contains two structures which represent the new and the old. The new administration building sits prominently on the hillside, overlooking the playing fields. Down in the park, enclosed by a chain link fence, is the old farmhouse built by Thomas Lamborn in 1817. Each represents the time and function for which it was built.

The newly completed administration building with its myriad offices and three meeting rooms will serve residents of the Township for years to come. It will house offices and provide space for meetings, both large and small.

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The New Township Administration Building

## Message From The Chair

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aimed at long-term desired conditions in the best interest of all residents. The goals address topics ranging from housing, natural resources, transportation, historic and cultural resources and land use to community facilities and services, recreation and open space.

In 2003, a survey of community priorities was completed by a random sampling of residents. Results from this survey combined with statistics available from the Chester County Planning Commission consultants guided the Task Force in its work. When the Comprehensive Plan revision is complete, residents will have another opportunity for input. Then after any necessary changes, but before adoption, the Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing. Once the revised Comprehensive Plan is finally adopted, it will serve as a blueprint for future growth and development as well as for the protection of valuable resources in the community.

Watch your local newspapers for notice of the public meeting. This Comprehensive Plan has implications for all residents; it concerns the quality of life of all who live in New Garden Township.

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## Phelps Tract Purchase Completed

The purchase by the township of the Phelps Tract of 38 acres of woodland along the White Clay Creek north of Landenberg has been finally completed.

Several years of effort, led by Supervisor Brian Sundermeir, were required to arrange the purchase. This included obtaining grants through the Natural Lands Trust to fund the \$575,000 purchase price. Grants were obtained from the State through the Keystone Recreation Conservation Fund and also from the County through the Landscapes 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund Municipal Grant Program.

The Phelps Tract consists primarily of wooded steep slopes along the east side of the Creek. The old Pomeroy-Newark railroad ran through this tract, and several railroad bridge abutments still remain. The tract has been placed under a conservation easement held by the Natural Lands Trust and will be used for passive recreation like fishing, hiking and bird watching. There will be no ball fields or other facilities built on the land. This summer, a small parking lot will be constructed off of Laurel Heights Road to make it more accessible for residents.

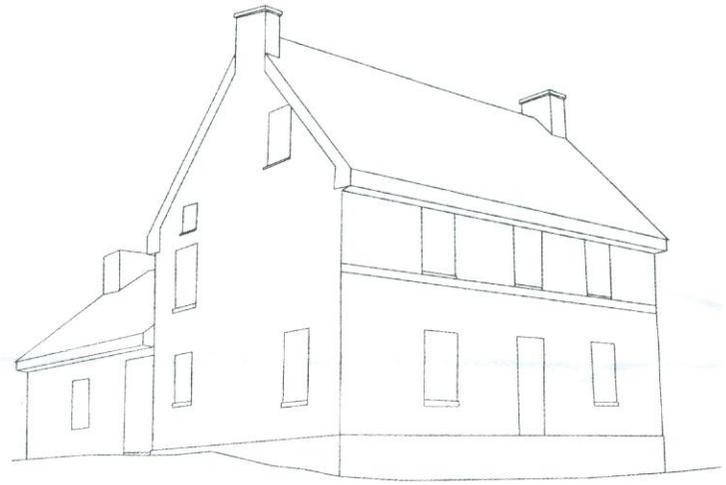
This purchase by the township is part of a larger effort to preserve undeveloped land along the White Clay Creek, which has achieved national recognition as a Wild And Scenic River. The long-range plan is to conserve up to 100 acres in the vicinity.

## Buildings In The Park

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Thomas Lamborn's farmhouse, however, has a very different history. Built on land which was granted by John Penn to James Starr in 1716, the farmhouse was home to generations of farmers named Lamborn, Hoopes and Kelleher. When the first Lamborn, named William, purchased the farm in 1787, it contained a log house and a log barn. Thirty years later William Lamborn's son, Thomas, built the brick house (now covered in stucco). Probably the brick house was built as an addition to the log house, and then sometime prior to 1858, the log house was taken down to be replaced by a stone kitchen wing.

According to Jeroen van den Hurk, the architectural histo-



The Lamborn House in an earlier period  
*Sketch by Jeroen van den Hurk*

rian who is documenting some of the early houses in the Township, the Lamborn house is of particular interest. At first glance its construction appears to be even older than its 1817 date. The steep pitch of the roof, a fixed light, stair box window on the ground floor and oversize hewn poplar joist would seem to point to a house built in the early to mid 1700's. Some have called this house a Stenning House, taking the name from William Penn, Jr.'s Stenning Manor of the early 18th century. A search of tax records and deeds, however, seems to support a later date of construction. One explanation could be a lag in building style. In other words, builders trained in their youth in one type of construction, continued throughout a lifetime to build in the same style.

Through the years, changes have occurred in Thomas Lamborn's house. Subsequent families have altered partitions, removed the pent roof and built an enclosed porch. The two large gable end interior chimneys have been removed, to be replaced by exterior chimneys. The house has suffered the

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## Buildings In The Park

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ravages of fire, water damage and renovations over time. Nevertheless, anyone who walks in the park can view Thomas Lamborn's historic farmhouse and be reminded of farm life in New Garden long ago.

If you venture inside Thomas Lamborn's farmhouse, however, you will see not just an historic house, but a building being made ready for two new uses. Boy Scout Troup #3 is to have part of the house for meetings and storage. Giving these Scouts a place of their own is yet another way the Township Park is filling a need in the community.

The other part of the house will become the new site of the Early Medical Response (EMR) team (Medic #94). Locating the EMR team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the Lamborn house will not only mean New Garden residents will have emergency medical service readily available, but will also mean enhanced security for the Park. At all times there will be lights, people and activity in the Park.



The Lamborn House as it appears today

## Parks and Recreation Director

New Garden Township is currently seeking applications for a Director for the Park. We need someone to plan and coordinate activities/programs in the Park, a person who has had experience working with children. Although this person would be responsible for day to day activities, they would work in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Committee and under the general direction of the Township Manager.

Other responsibilities inherent in this position include development, scheduling and general supervision of all activities in the Park, with planning for programs ranging from concerts under the stars to summer day camp. The Director is further expected to be able to provide the public with information and publicity about Park activities. Although this position is primarily one of summer employment, we need a Park Director who can also organize programs reflecting seasonal changes in operations.

For more information or to submit an application, please contact Carmen Raddi, Township Manager at the New Garden Township Building on Starr Road.

## Freed/Brown House - Architectural Salvage

After the Freed/Brown House was demolished, the Friels, owners of Edgecraft, donated several architectural items to the Historical Commission. There are twenty-two doors of various vintages available for free to New Garden Township residents restoring old houses in the township. Please visit the Historical Commission's website for photographs and dimensions of what is available:

[www.ccil.org/~nghc](http://www.ccil.org/~nghc)

Follow the link to "Historic Structures" and then "Available Architectural Salvage".



## Report From the Open Space Advisory Committee

by John Molster

When it comes to preserving Open Space, New Garden residents are in tune with thinking throughout the State of Pennsylvania. Responses to the Comprehensive Plan survey conducted in 2003, showed residents overwhelmingly in favor of preserving open space. First choices indicated a need both for open space for recreation and for passive open space. Now our State Representative, Chris Ross, has introduced legislation to make it easier for townships to conserve our open space.

The first of these bills will make it easier for townships to work with not-for-profit conservancies such as the Natural Lands Trust and the Brandywine Conservancy. The other will provide specific legislative authority for townships to create municipal land trusts.

In 2003, New Garden formed a committee of volunteers to explore ways to identify and to preserve open space in the Township. To give this committee some professional guidance, the Board of Supervisors engaged the consulting services of Natural Lands Trust. For a year, this group has been meeting, educating itself and planning for a set of recommendations to send to the Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors and the Open Space Advisory Committee are planning for a series of public meetings to be held in the new Township Building. These meetings will be an opportunity to share what information has been gathered and to give residents a chance to ask questions. For all of us in the Township, the topic of preserving open space can be reduced to two issues: quality of life and economic consequences.

**Quality of Life** issues include: clean and adequate water supply, safety, traffic, population density, as well as open vistas, rural appearances, connection of established parklands and historic preservation. The state of each of these will impact the "pleasantness of life" for those living in New Garden Township.

**Economic Consequences** of preserving open space are those pocketbook issues of school taxes and taxes for services such as road maintenance and police protection. Additional homes cost everyone higher school taxes; the taxes on each new house rarely cover the cost of schooling even one child from that house. The remaining cost is distributed among all other township residents. Additional homes also mean additional classrooms; building new schools to accommodate a growing population will mean service on a bond issue and the loss of even more open space.

Watch for notices of public meetings to discuss the pros and cons of open space preservation in New Garden Township. The first meeting is tentatively set for late September.

## New Appointments—by Bernie McKay

The Board of Supervisors recently appointed three new members to the Planning Commission and one new member to the Zoning Hearing Board. New members of the Planning Commission are:

- **Pete Dicce**, an attorney, who resides in Landenberg Hunt with his wife Rena and their sons Ryan, David, Daniel, Adam and Peter. Mr. Dicce is on the board of the Southern Chester County Soccer Association.
- **Mary Kay Gaver** who lives in Somerset Lake with her husband Eric and their sons Paul, Henry and Ben. She is also an attorney with experience in real estate and land development issues. Ms. Gaver has worked with both developers and community associations and has been actively involved in supporting smart growth initiatives in land use planning.
- **Doug Hostetler** who lives in Bancroft Woods with his wife Kelly and children Nicholas, Kyle and Madison. Mr. Hostetler is an electrical contractor who brings extensive experience in the building trades to the commission.
- The new member of the Zoning Hearing Board is **Don Kohler** who lives with his wife Kim and their daughter Meghan in McClellan Farms. Mr. Kohler is an attorney with extensive experience in both zoning and land use matters.

These four join over fifty unpaid Township residents who enthusiastically volunteer their time and a variety of talents to assure that New Garden continues to be a great place to live and raise a family. If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by the Township office and pick up an application form from Joan. You'll find volunteering both enjoyable and rewarding.

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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 7:30 pm,

workshop : third Wednesday at 7:30 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.

## The New Garden Inn

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rolls as a "Retelor of Spiritous liquers by the small measure" rather than as an innkeeper. The number of public houses in the County was much greater at this time in proportion to the population than it was a hundred years or so later when Quakers, as the hazards of rum drinking became more widely recognized, discouraged not only its sale but the construction of more taverns.

The Inn was first known as "Allen's Tavern" and was said to have been used for a day or two during the Revolutionary War as a hospital by American rebels during the Battle of the Brandywine. The British, on their march up from head of the Chesapeake Bay to the Battle, probably commandeered it when they camped in the vicinity, and after the war the Allens made claims for damages suffered from the British Army.

James Allen renamed the Inn "The Sign of the Conestoga Wagon", and it was operated by several innkeepers under that name before being renamed "Chandler's Inn" in 1801 when taken over by George Chandler. Jacob Taylor renamed it yet again to "New Garden Inn" in 1823, and the sign bearing this name hangs today at the Chester County Historical Society museum. It is round, painted black with a yellow star in the center and with yellow lettering around the edge.

The inn was operated under a succession of innkeepers through most of the 1800's, even being run briefly (and unsuccessfully) under temperance principles by William Jones in the 1840's. During this time the large Conestoga wagons that traveled the turnpike stopped and the teamsters would sometimes amuse themselves by competing to see whose team could lift a wagon over a large rock placed in front of its wheel.

The inn ceased serving as an inn during the 1880's, becoming instead a family residence and served, for a short time, as the Kaolin Post Office. The Inn eventually deteriorated and was demolished in the 1960's, but the original log structure around which other parts of the building were erected was dismantled and rebuilt near Chadds Ford as a residence at Talley Ho Place off of Heyburn Road.

**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 or 610-268-2363.

**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.

## Storm water Management Meeting

If you are interested in knowing what New Garden Township in partnership with the Brandywine Valley Association is doing to control storm water runoff, mark your calendar for May 13. This is the date of a Regional Meeting for municipalities which either have a population of over 12,000 people, or have an exceptional watershed. New Garden Township falls into the latter category because the White Clay Creek is considered of exceptional value.

All are welcome at this meeting to be held from 7:00 to 9:00 in the Red Clay Room of the Kennett Fire Company at 423 Dalmation St., Kennett Square. For more information, call Don Taylor at the Township Building.

## Landenberg Bridge Update

Word has been received from PennDOT of a tentative schedule for the renovation and reopening of the Landenberg Bridge. It is planned that the design work will be done this winter by Lichtenstein, PennDOT's engineering firm, and (assuming all necessary permits can be obtained), actual construction will begin in the Spring of next year. PennDOT has been consulting with the township's Historical Commission on the design, and it is anticipated that the result will be something that will please the community.

## New Landenberg Road Speed Limit

At the request of the township, PennDOT's District Traffic Unit conducted a traffic safety study for Landenberg Road (a State owned road) and determined that a reduction in the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph was warranted. Signs showing the new speed limit have been erected.

**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.

**Household hazardous waste collection** for 2003 will be held at the Township Building on Saturday, September 11, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This is a collection of paint, chemicals and pesticides. Watch for the notice in local newspapers or call the Township office for more information.

## The New Garden Inn

*Editor's note: A copy of a photograph of the New Garden Inn, taken in 1965 by Charles Apel Robinson, was recently given to the Historical Commission by his son, Christopher. The inn was located at the northeast corner of Sharp and Sheehan Roads (Sheehan Road was the original path of the old Newport-Gap Turnpike). The following history of the Inn was derived from Ann Hagerty's book Once Upon A Time In New Garden Township.*

The original structure of the New Garden Inn was built in the early 1700's and was a small cabin built of dovetailed logs built in the Swedish style. Later, two wings were added to the building and the whole plastered over, disguising the little cabin inside. The East wing bore a date stone marked 1773.

Isaac Allen petitioned Benjamin Franklin for permission to operate an inn or public house and said there was no other for twenty miles in either direction along the Newport Gap



The New Garden Inn in 1965  
*photo by Charles Apel Robinson*

Pike. The reason usually given by petitioners who sought to operate public houses was a desire to provide accommodations for travelers, but most inns were actually supported by the local community. Travel was infrequent in the 1700's, but strong liquors were popular, and indeed Isaac Allen was listed on the tax

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U.S. Postage Paid  
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Landenberg, PA  
19350-9211

New Garden Township  
299 Starr Road  
Landenberg, PA 19350