

New Garden Valley

A newsletter for residents of
New Garden Township
Chester County, Pennsylvania
Autumn, 2002

New Garden Township *established 1700*



New Garden Meeting House - 1743

Board of Supervisors

Patrick J. Keeney, Chair
Robert J. Perrotti, Vice-Chair
Norman S. Nunn
W. Brian Sundermeir
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: 10:00-4:30, M-F
Phone: 610-268-2915
Fax: 610-268-0458

Internet

Email:

supervisors@newgarden.org
twpoffice@newgarden.org

Township Website:

www.newgarden.org

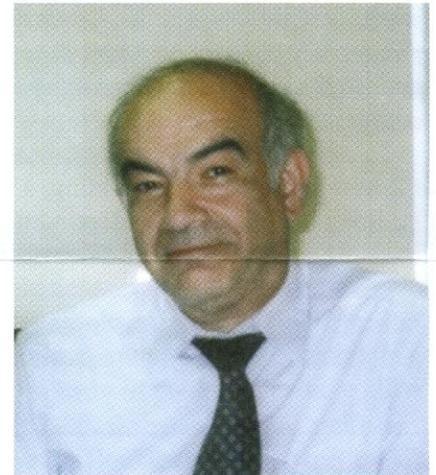
Historical Commission Website:

www.ccil.org/~nghc

Message from the Supervisors

by Brian Sundermeir

For the first time in our history, New Garden Township has hired a professional township manager. We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Carmen Raddi to our community in this new role. A graduate of LaSalle University in Philadelphia, Mr. Raddi has had over twenty years of municipal government experience in Bristol and Bensalem Townships, of lower Bucks County. Most recently he served as Director of Administration for the Redevelopment Authority of Bucks County. Carmen Raddi was selected by the Board of Supervisors after an extensive search and interviews with several very well qualified candidates.



Carmen Raddi

The township manager's role is one of great importance. He will be responsible for the day to day operations of the township's business, oversee most of the township's staff and carry out all of the policies of the Board of Supervisors. The Manager is responsible to the Board of Supervisors for the proper, efficient and economical administration of the affairs of the Township. With Carmen Raddi's help, the Supervisors hope to be able to spend more time focused on issues affecting our quality of life, planning for the future and better managing of our ever growing township.

Please stop by the Township Building any time during normal business hours, introduce yourself and welcome Mr. Raddi to our community. His door will always be open to meet New Garden residents and hear their concerns.

Water Restrictions - Because of drought, the water restrictions declared by Gov. Mark Schweiker remain in effect and are enforceable by local law enforcement officers. For details check the New Garden Township web site: www.newgarden.org

We're Moving...

If everything goes as planned, New Garden will have a new administration building and community center by the end of 2003. Hooper-Shiles Architects, of Wayne, PA was recently hired by the Township to design the new building.

Our new Township Building will be more than an administration building, it will be a community center, open to all of our clubs and civic associations; it will be a voting polling place, as well as a gathering place for all township related activities. The new building will be on Starr Road just west of Newark Road, and will be situated within our recently expanded Township Park. Offices and meeting rooms will have large windows looking out over the parkland.

The latest design technologies in heating and air conditioning, energy efficiency, environmentally sensitive materials, best management practices for storm water management and low impact land development will all be used. We expect a design which will be modern, yet consistent with local architecture. Mitch Shiles, of Hooper Shiles Architects said recently, "We are looking forward to working with New Garden Township officials, staff and community in defining a new home for its administration; and (to planning) a community space which will become a recognizable symbol in the New Garden area."

To deal with a shortage of meeting space while awaiting the new administration building, a temporary modular building housing a large meeting room will soon be erected at the west end of the present Township building.

Watch the Township website (www.newgarden.org) for information about the developing design and for an announcement of the future public meeting where the design will be unveiled.

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:

first Wednesday at 7:30 pm,

workshop meeting: last 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.

Zoning Hearing Board:

as announced.

Planning for the Future

Every ten years, the Township evaluates and modifies its Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the "blueprint" of the community's goals and values; the Plan charts the Township's future course. Many aspects of planning are included: road networks, land planning, facilities and services, and natural resource protection, to name a few. The Township's zoning, subdivision and land development, parks and recreation, and other ordinances use the Comprehensive Plan as the guide for implementing the Township's needs.

New Garden Township has hired the Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC) to assist us in evaluating and revising our plan. Over the next 18 months, Stephen McCulloch and Kevin Meyers from CCPC will meet with representatives from New Garden's Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and Historical Commission. These sessions, which are open to the public, will be held at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the conference room of the Police Station. The entire process of developing a new Comprehensive Plan is expected to take 18 months.

Some residents will be asked to complete a questionnaire indicating what current and future Township issues are important to them. This questionnaire will be sent, at random, to at least 30% of the property owners in the Township. If you receive a questionnaire, please complete it as soon as possible and return it, following the directions on the form. If you don't receive a questionnaire in the mail, but would like to fill one out, you can obtain one at the Township Building. This is your plan and, therefore, your input will be very important. The more responses we receive, the better our Plan will be. Stay in touch thru the website and future newsletters for information about public meetings, survey results and Plan updates.

www.newgarden.org

Check it out! New Garden's website has a new look; it has been updated and is now the perfect place to find out what's going on. This newly developed website comes to you through the tireless efforts of two township volunteers: Jackie Wilson of Landenberg and Rob Tuinstra of Bancroft Woods. Jackie and Rob responded to the Township's volunteer interest form and soon became a team committed to bringing you the latest news and information about New Garden Township.

The website is constantly being enhanced and updated, so log-on to www.newgarden.org often to see recent additions and find the most up-to-date news. Click on the webmaster link to offer suggestions or to submit ideas or information for posting on the website. We're grateful to Jackie and Rob for their efforts on behalf of our Township.

Your Township Park: New Garden's Treasure - by Bernie McKay

Our 22 acre park, located behind the Township Building on Route 41, is a virtually undiscovered community gem. With its expanse of green, shady trails and winding streams (tributaries of the White Clay Creek), it seems remote from the busy highway nearby. Furthermore, the Township has just purchased 32 additional acres south of the present facility and fronting on Starr Road to expand the park and provide the site for the new township building (see "We're Moving", p. 2).

The Park's outstanding features include:

- picnic tables,
- charcoal grills,
- playground,
- comfort station,
- walking paths,
- exercise stations,
- a ball field,
- a soccer field,
- two volley ball courts,
- a gazebo,
- Chip Smedley Pavilion,
- Tom Kelleher Pavilion.

Groups wishing to reserve any of the facilities should telephone the Township Office at 610-268-2915 between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.



The Park and Recreation Committee has begun scheduling Township sponsored special events. The first of which was held at dusk on September 6, when 150 residents enjoyed "a lawn chair movie" and free popcorn.

The next event planned is a December Holiday Festival scheduled for December 6th at 6:30 pm. There will be a tree lighting, caroling, mulled cider, roasted chestnuts and popcorn.

At a recent Supervisors' meeting, Jeff Sommers, president of the Southern Chester County Soccer Association, made a contribution toward the park, saying our soccer field was the best of all the fields the Association used.

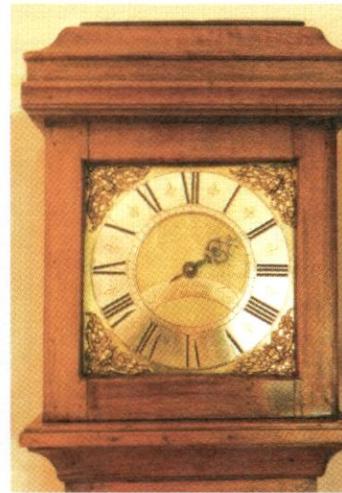
The all volunteer Park and Recreation Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Township Building, and the public is always welcome to attend. Members of this committee are: Rick Longo (chair), Vince Versagli, Jeff Outten, Harvey Crossan, Tom Lafferty, Vic Zunino and Pat Keeney.

The Park maintenance crew we thank for keeping the facility in excellent shape include: Joe Yakscoe, John Morris, Norman Nunn, Frank Zagorskie, Emedio Ianni, and Paul Testa.





Isaac Jackson's Home Today



An early one-handed, 30-hour Isaac Jackson clock



A later two handed, 8-day Isaac Jackson clock, dated 1774

Near the intersection of Route 41 and New Garden Road is a large white house which was once the home of one of Chester County's premier clock makers. Isaac Jackson, who made tall clocks during the latter half of the 1700's, built this house and lived here for over forty years. We remember him for his graceful yet simple unembellished clock cases and precision clockworks.

Born near West Grove in 1734, Isaac Jackson grew up in a family with mechanical skills; his father and grandfather were weavers as well as farmers. As a young teenager, Isaac was apprenticed to the master clockmaker John Wood, Sr. of Philadelphia. After acquiring the skills of his trade, he was bound over to Quaker clockmaker Benjamin Chandlee, Jr. of Nottingham as a fully trained journeyman sometime in the early 1750's. He worked in Chandlee's clockmaking shop for about four years and then, in 1757, returned to the family farm east of West Grove where he continued his clockmaking until 1762. In 1762, William Jackson, Isaac's father, deeded him a 200 acre farm in New Garden Township. Here Isaac and his bride, a distant cousin named Hannah Jackson, built a home and lived for over forty years. The farm, located southeast of New Garden Meeting House, extended across the present Route 41 and includes the New Garden Elementary School property. Today, the northern part of this tract is still being farmed and producing crops.

In Isaac Jackson's day, it was not unusual for farmers to engage in some sort of industry

(Continued on page 5)



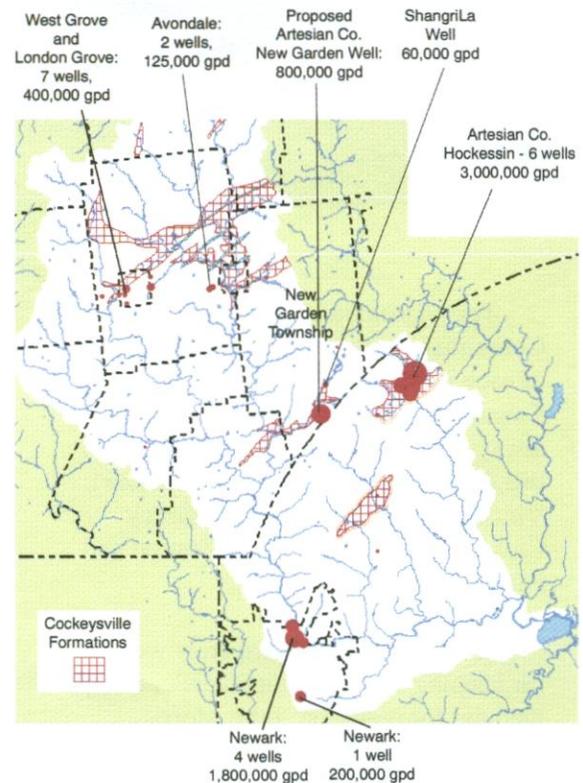
Township Monitors Large Well Proposal

by David Hawk

New Garden Township is actively working to ensure a proposal for a large commercial well at Broad Run and Newark Roads will not adversely impact the private wells of local residents or Broad Run Creek and its tributaries.

Last spring, Charles Wilkinson, one of the

(Continued on page 5)



Large Wells in the White Clay Watershed

Isaac Jackson, Clockmaker

(Continued from page 4)

during the winter months. However, because of his skill, the extent of his training and the number of his clocks which survive, Isaac was probably more clockmaker than farmer. Tax records list him as a silversmith, and he is known to have worked in both brass and pewter. The works of his clocks were brass and the dials were often of brass with silverplating. Not only was Isaac Jackson a clockmaker, but he was also a cabinetmaker who used walnut to make the cases of his tall clocks. Isaac's Jackson's clock cases are all similar in design and reflect the convictions of simplicity of both the Quaker clockmaker and his Quaker clients.

Three surviving early Jackson clocks have only one hand, showing the influence of his training with John Wood, Sr. These one-hand clocks, unique in Chester County, have only thirty-hour movements, meaning they will only run thirty hours after being wound, and therefore have to be wound every day. The remainder of the twenty-seven known Jackson clocks have eight-day movements which need winding only once a week. Isaac Jackson signed the faces of his clocks "Isaac Jackson, New Garden", but sometimes, due to lack of space, "Isaac Jackson" or "New Gar".

Isaac Jackson died in 1807. His house and 105 acres were willed to his daughter, Alice and her husband, Enoch Lewis. The Lewises enlarged the house to its present size and opened the New Garden Boarding School for Boys.

A number of Jackson clocks are still owned by Chester County families and, after two hundred years, continue to tell time. An Isaac Jackson clock is also among the tall clocks displayed at the Chester County Historical Society in West Chester.

Streets in Toughkenamon to be Paved - At their October 8th business meeting, the Township Supervisors announced the receipt of a Block Grant for \$150,000 from the Chester County Department of Community Development. This money, part of a federal grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, will be used to pave Reese, Pine, Church and Union streets in Toughkenamon.

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.

Township Monitors Large Well Proposal

(Continued from page 4)

biggest developers in the area, sold the well to the Artesian Water Company of Delaware to augment New Castle County's strained water supply system. The well, originally dug to service about 120 homes built by Wilkinson in the Broad Run Valley, had never been put into service.

In 1986, Wilkinson obtained a permit from the (federal) Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) allowing him to pump 800,000 gallons per day (gpd) from the well. However, he was only able to obtain a 108,000 gpd permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP); and this is currently the controlling limit. Artesian would eventually like to pump the full 800,000 gpd allowed by the DRBC, but to do so, it would have to obtain an increase in its PaDEP limit.

New Garden Township has requested that both DRBC and PaDEP review the appropriateness of their permits. Gerard Cehtofanti, PaDEP's program manager for water supply management, has said that before an increase could be approved, a comprehensive hydrogeologic study would be needed to gauge the pumping's effects on the region's ecology and watershed. Although Artesian has commissioned its own study that shows 800,000 gpd is a safe yield, New Garden Township has hired its own hydrologist to analyze the situation.

The proposed well would draw from an aquifer in Cockeysville Marble, a geologic formation found in several locations within the White Clay Watershed. Cockeysville Wells are prized by water companies because they typically yield far more water than those in the fractured crystalline rock which makes up the majority of the basin.

The well in question is 2-1/2 miles away from a cluster of six wells owned by Artesian in Hockessin. These wells are located in another outcropping of Cockeysville Marble and have a capacity of 4,000,000 gpd; but are limited to 3,000,000 gpd by Delaware permitting authorities.

After all the hydrological studies are completed, the amount of water which Artesian will be permitted to pump from the Wilkinson well will be decided by the federal and state regulatory bodies, the DRBC and PaDEP.

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.

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.

DARE program to be expanded - by Peg Jones

With the opening of school, New Garden Township police officer Mario Raimato is back in the classroom again teaching children how to be safe from drugs and violence. For the past two years, Officer Raimato has been in the elementary school using lessons developed by DARE (drug-abuse-resistance-education), a nationwide program conducted by police officers in their local schools. Children participate in discussions ranging from how drugs may be helpful or harmful, to how to deal with angry feelings. Officer Raimato spends 17 weeks at New Garden Elementary School dividing his time according to grade level: the third through fifth grade classes have five sessions each; the first and second grades have four sessions; and he meets each kindergarten class once.



Mario Raimato

Starting this year, the program is being expanded into Middle School (New Garden now has the only middle school certified DARE program in the County). During the second semester, Officer Raimato will be spending ten weeks meeting with all eighth grade students for one period a week. In addition to the topics discussed with younger children, students will talk about issues of domestic violence and how to deal with bullying situations. In cooperation with the High School Guidance teacher, selected high school students join Middle School DARE classes to share stories of "how it is."

Officer Raimato, who has had specialized DARE training and is certified to teach these classes, says one of the most rewarding aspects of this effort is the relationships he builds with the students.



Ban On Open Burning



The Chester County Commissioners have enacted a temporary open burning ban effective until Oct 30. This will be extended if present drought conditions do not improve. Open burning is defined as the ignition and subsequent burning of any combustible material out of doors in either a burn barrel (screened or unscreened) or on the ground. Enforcement of this ban is authorized by the Laws of Pennsylvania and is enforceable by any police officer.

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

New Garden Township
8934 Gap Newport Pike
Landenberg, PA 19350