



For Immediate Release: June 8, 2023

## **Borough of Kennett Square Monthly E-Newsletter**

Below is a list of “what’s happening” in Kennett Square. A Spanish version of the newsletter can be found [here](#)/Puede encontrar una versión en español del boletín [aquí](#).

In addition to the regular meetings on June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>, Borough Council held a special meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Below is a list of several actions Borough Council took over the course of these three meetings (among others):

- Agreed to further deliberate as to whether the Borough will remain in the Kennett Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Regional Commission and will work with the Commission to try and come to a long-term agreement (more details below).
- Approved waiving fees in the Borough parking garage for all Third Thursdays this year (the Council is waiving the parking garage fee for Third Thursdays in response to public feedback about delays patrons experienced leaving the parking garage at the first Third Thursday event on 5/18).
- Approved an easement request for a portion of the Borough-owned parking lot on Church Alley. The easement was requested by a potential purchaser of the old library (Gish’s Furniture) to allow access to a rear loading ramp.
- Ratified a “Roadmap” document outlining the Borough’s Strategic Priorities. The document was developed after strategic planning sessions were conducted with the public, community/business stakeholders, and Councilmembers. The document can be found on the Borough website.
- Appointed Virginia Smith to the Human Relations Commission (HRC).
- Approved several Historic Architecture Review Board (HARB) and Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) applications.

- Honored Bill Taylor for the outstanding work he's done organizing the Memorial Day Parade and the Kennett Beautification Committee for their work in beautifying the Borough.

Residents who are unable to attend Borough Council meetings in-person but would like to see the meetings virtually can do so on-line at <https://www.kennettsq.org/calendar.php>. The Borough Council meets at 7:00pm on the first Monday of every month (Work Session) and 7:00pm on the subsequent Wednesday (Voting Session). Please note next month's (July) meetings will be Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup> due to the Fourth of July Holiday.

The Borough recently hired a professional Fire and EMS consultant, Fitch Associates (Fitch), to review the Borough's Fire & EMS expenditures. Fitch presented its findings at the June 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Borough supports collaboration and regionalization and is seeking ways to partner with the Commission including the sharing personnel, offering assistance in obtaining grants, and supporting the Commission's efforts in fundraising.

On Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Borough will be replacing a hydrant service valve which will impact the 700 and 800 blocks of Center Street. This will require isolation and draining of the water main. All residents on the **700 and 800 block of Center Street will be under a boil water notice from Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> through the evening of Monday June 12<sup>th</sup>**. The boil water notice is for any form of water consumption including drinking, use for a toothbrush, among other uses. In addition, the 700 block of Center Street will be closed off to thru traffic during the workday on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Updates will be posted to the Borough's Facebook page.

The Borough was recently awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the 2021 fiscal year. The Borough's financial report was assessed by an impartial panel and met high standards including a "constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report." The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Attaining this distinction represents a significant accomplishment for Borough government.

The sale of former Borough Hall (120 Marshall Street) to Riverwards General, a local development company, was finalized on May 24<sup>th</sup>. After the Borough extensively marketed the property, Riverwards General submitted a purchase offer (with a due diligence period) that Borough Council approved last year. The development company has plans to renovate the building into a boutique-style hotel.

The Borough has created a new digital form which allows residents to send messages to the Mayor and Councilmembers. Residents can a message to the Mayor and Council at <https://www.kennettsq.org/government/index.php>.

## Borough of Kennett Square

Borough Hall will be closed on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth. The Kennett Square Juneteenth Planning Council, in partnership with Chester County Community Foundation and Kennett Library, have announced several events throughout the community to commemorate

Juneteenth. For a full list of local Juneteenth events, please visit the Cultural Alliance of Chester County's website at <https://www.culturechesco.org/juneteenth-kennett-square>.

The Borough, in partnership with Kennett Township, was awarded a grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Multimodule Transportation Fund to add Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps and sidewalks on South Walnut Street (beginning at State Street and proceeding south). In addition to enhancing infrastructure, this project will improve connectivity to Anson B. Nixon Park and Pennock Field.

The draft final report for the Planning Kennett Connections project is available on its website, <https://www.kennectivity.com/planning-kennett-connections>. The Planning Kennett Connections project focuses on walking and biking connectivity between the Borough, Kennett Township, and East Marlborough Township. **The public comment period is open until Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**. Comments can be submitted through the previously referenced website. This project has been made possible through funding from the Chester County Planning Commission, the municipalities involved, and Longwood Gardens.

### Upcoming Events

The KSQ Farmers Market is a year-round program and has begun its spring season with extended shopping hours. Local vegetables, meats, mushrooms, and cheeses can be purchased **EVERY Friday from 3:00pm-6:00pm at The Creamery, located at 401 Birch Street**. You can sign up to receive their newsletter, with all the latest vendor and product updates and pre-ordering options, at <https://www.ksqfarmersmarket.com/>.

The Kennett Flash Rooftop Concert Series has **two remaining performances this month, June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>**. All concerts for the summer series will begin at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:00pm) and take place on the rooftop of the Kennett Square Parking Garage at 100-198 E. Linden Street. Patrons should bring their own chair. For more information about concert dates and performing bands please visit <https://www.kennettflash.org/2023-rooftop-concert-series/> (the link will be updated regularly as more performances are booked).

Tickets are on sale for Kennett Summerfest which will be held **on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**. Kennett Summerfest celebrates exceptional local wineries and distilleries and brings together wine, cheese, and live music in a sophisticated festival atmosphere. Tickets and additional information is available at: <https://www.kennettsummerfest.com>.

The second seasonal "Third Thursday" on State Street is scheduled for **Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**starting 5:30pm-9:00pm.** Parking prohibition starts at 4:00pm and the following streets will be closed to traffic from 5:00pm-10:00pm:

- 100 blocks of East and West State Street (between Broad & Center)
- 100 blocks of North & South Union Street (Maple Alley to Cypress)

**It's a party! On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm-9:00pm,** the Rotary Club of Kennett Square is holding its signature fundraiser, "Kennett on Top". This event will be held on top of the Kennett Square Parking Garage with Tuesday Nite Band performing. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and a signature cocktail will be available for patrons to enjoy. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased at [www.kennettsquarerotary.org](http://www.kennettsquarerotary.org). All proceeds from the event benefit organizations the Rotary Club of Kennett Square supports such as Young Moms, Family Promise, Kennett Area Community Service, and others.

The Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) is hosting a free 2023 Summer Concert Series on Wednesday nights from **June 21<sup>st</sup>-August 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-8:30pm.** All concerts will be at Anson B. Nixon Park. There will be two concerts this month (June 21<sup>st</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup>). The inaugural concert for the summer series on June 21<sup>st</sup> marks 30 years since Anson B. Nixon Park was opened to the public. The schedule and details for all upcoming concerts can be found at KAPA's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AnsonBNixonPark>. The schedule is subject to change and contingent upon weather conditions.

More information regarding these events can be found on the Borough's website, under the "Calendar & Events" tab. Residents are encouraged to periodically check the Borough website as community events are regularly posted.