



For Immediate Release: May 5th, 2023

Borough of Kennett Square Monthly E-Newsletter

Below is a list of “what’s happening” in Kennett Square.

At the May 3rd meeting, the Borough Council took several actions including the following (among others):

- Approved the appointments of Esmerelda Carrillo and Aide Garcia Hernandez to the Borough’s Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs (ACOLA)
- Accepted the Civil Service Commission’s Certified Hiring List for the position of a full-time Police Officer
- Approved updates and recommended revisions to the Borough’s Parking Ordinance
- Accepted funds from a successful Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant application
- Approved a grant application to the Chester County Community Revitalization Program (CRP) for repaving of Willow Street
- Scheduled a special Council meeting for Monday, May 15th at 7:00pm at Borough Hall to discuss an easement request for a portion of the Borough’s parking lot at Church Alley

Residents who are unable to attend Borough Council meetings in-person but would like to see the meetings virtually can do so via zoom. 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). Below are the reoccurring links and log-in information for each session:

Monday Work Session Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86803349026?pwd=TngxZU44TFgyczJtdTJ0TjhLaVdwdz09>

Dial In: 1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 868 0334 9026

Passcode: 19348

Wednesday Voting Session Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85677260295>

Dial In: 1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 856 7726 0295

Passcode: 19348

Moody's, a major, international financial rating institution, has upgraded the Borough's credit rating from A3 to A2; a positive development in the Borough's priority of strengthening its financial position. Moody's referenced the Borough's "conservative budgeting practices and return to pre-pandemic business activity" (among other reasons) for the upgraded rating.

As part of the Borough's overall initiative to improve public communication, engagement, and customer service, the Borough has begun the process of digitizing its forms. Several forms have been created and posted on the Borough website, <https://www.kennettsq.org/>. When visiting the Borough website, there is now a pop-up that directs individuals who wish to sign-up for the Borough's e-newsletter. In addition, the website now has a digitized Customer Feedback Survey, Employment Application, and Board and Commission Candidacy Form. For reference, the direct links to these forms are listed below. Additional forms will be posted on the Borough website as they are finalized.

Customer Feedback Survey- <https://us.openforms.com/Form/8ef79b1e-6a06-4228-8fb8-6d3a33950dcc>

Employment Application- <https://us.openforms.com/Form/dbd8feb0-2820-4599-8749-10686a323a57>.

Board and Commission Candidacy Form- <https://us.openforms.com/Form/14b84b41-0b51-4665-bf3a-2f10fd2f8cc4>

The Borough recently submitted funding requests to its federal representatives (Senators Casey and Fetterman and Congresswoman Houlahan) for the Borough's Wastewater Treatment Plant project. All three of the Borough's federal representatives are publicly supporting and advocating for the Borough's project. It is important to note, these requests must undergo review and debate in the Appropriations Committee (and a final federal budget must pass) for the funding to be secured. The Borough appreciates the support of its federal representatives and thanks them for recognizing the merits of this important project.

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Several residents recently contacted the Borough due to an increase in their water bill. The water rate for Borough residents has not changed. Increases in water bills are a result of an increase in water usage; however, significant increases could be the result of a water leak. Any resident who has seen a significant increase in their water bill are encouraged to contact Borough Hall at 610-444-6020 or via email, reportaproblem@kennettsq.org. Borough personnel can look into a specific account to try and help determine if the increase in usage is due to a leak.

On Thursday, May 25th at 7:00pm at Borough Hall (600 S. Broad Street), a special Borough Council meeting will be held to discuss the Borough's needs and interests as it relates to its Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The Borough (along with five other local municipalities) is a member of the Kennett Fire and Emergency Services Regional Commission (Commission), which was created in 2017 to provide funding support to our local fire companies and reduce expenses. In 2018, the Borough's contribution was \$254,630. This figure has increased by 80% and is currently \$457,957 (for 2023). Furthermore, this cost is projected to grow significantly over the next several years. The Borough Council wishes to gain more information to better weigh the benefits and costs of additional spending.

As such, the Borough recently contracted with Fitch & Associates, a reputable Fire/EMS consultant, to review the Borough's Fire & EMS expenditures. The overarching objective of the review is to promote fairness, help foster a sustainable strategic plan for the Commission, and provide the best (and most efficient) service for Borough residents based on a thorough evaluation of objective data. Fitch will present its report and findings at the May 25th special meeting. The special meeting is open to the public and residents will be able to make public comments after the report is presented. Borough Council will decide how to move forward at a subsequent Council meeting, after reviewing the report and hearing public comments. The Borough appreciates the public's interest and welcomes feedback. For questions or comments, please contact the Borough by calling (610) 444-6020 or via email at kcoleman@kennettsq.org.

The Borough would like to remind residents and business owners about registering alarms for their residential and commercial properties. Alarm registration, and yearly renewal, is helpful to the Kennett Square Police Department in contacting residents quickly during an emergency. Listed below are the new alarm registration and renewal fees, as well as the false alarm fees. Any question about the alarm registration process can be directed to Tricia Jones at 610-444-0501 or via email at tjones@kennettsquarepolice.org.

Automatic Protection Device / Audible Alarm Monitoring (per calendar year)

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New Alarm Registration Fee- \$30
Yearly Renewal Fee- \$10 per customer, per alarm

False Alarm Fees

Police – APD / Audible – per calendar year

1st Offense- Warning
2nd Offense- \$25
3rd Offense- \$50
4th Offense- \$75
5th and any Subsequent Offense- \$100

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 16th**. 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.

On Tuesday May 9th from 6:30pm-8:30pm, the public is invited to discuss and provide feedback toward the development of Chester County's Public Transportation Plan Update and the county-wide Trails Master Plan during an outreach event. The event will take place at the West Whiteland Township Building (101 Commerce Drive, Exton) **and** via Zoom. Individuals can click here to [Register to attend in-person](#) and click here to [Register to attend virtually](#).

The new Kennett Library & Resource Center is scheduled to open to the public at the end of June. The new library will house an outdoor mural facing Willow Street. The library envisions the mural as a vibrant panorama celebrating Kennett and its surrounding community's history. The library invites feedback from the community as to what should be depicted on the mural. Here is the link for the [survey in English](#) and the [link in Spanish](#). **The survey will close on May 31st**.

The Kennett Area Park Authority (KAPA) is pleased to announce that Mark Volpe has started working full-time in Anson B. Nixon Park as the new Facilities Manager. Mark is a resident of the Borough and serves on the Borough's Shade Tree Commission. Mark has a

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background in horticulture and parks and recreation that includes event management, greenhouse management, soil science, landscape design, and more.

The Fund for Women and Girls recently announced Loretta Perna as the 12th winner of its Kitchen Table Award. Loretta is the Program Director for the Walk in Knowledge program and has worked tirelessly for two decades to motivate, equip, and transition high school students to post-secondary education and adulthood. Loretta provides extra support to students at Kennett High School; enabling them to perform their best academically, become more involved in their school and community, and prepare for their futures. The Borough thanks and congratulates Loretta on this deserving honor.

The Kennett Flash Rooftop Concert Series **begins Friday, June 2nd at 7:00pm** (doors open at 6:00pm) with a musical act from Solar Federation. All concerts for the summer series will begin at 7:00pm 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).

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 Run will take place on Saturday, May 6th**. More information about the event can be found at <https://www.kennettrun.com/>. 2023 will mark the 34th year of the Kennett Run. All profits from the event will be invested in key institutions throughout Southern Chester County which enhance the quality of life for residents in our community.

The Kennett Beautification Committee, which includes members of local garden clubs including Spade and Trowel, Seedlings, and Four Seasons, consists of volunteers that plant flowers and beautify the Borough every year. You can support the Kennett Beautification Committee through their plant sale which will be held at Pratt's Greenhouse, 634 Hillendale Road, Avondale, on **Saturday, May 6th, from 8:00am–4:00pm and Sunday, May 7th, from 10:00am–3:00pm**. Pratt's offers a wide selection of beautiful plants and proceeds from this sale help fund the spring and summer plantings.

On Sunday, May 7th from 11:00am-2:00pm, Kennett Library is hosting a plant sale with Northbrook Natives. More information about the plant sale can be found at <https://ccls.libcal.com/event/10616560>.

On Tuesday, May 16th from 4:00pm-5:00pm, kids are welcome to participate in FrancoFun! in which they will learn to sing in French. This event is organized by the Kennett Library but will be held in the United Way of Southern Chester County's Conference Room at 106 W. State Street. More information about the event can be found at <https://ccls.libcal.com/event/9532700>.

The first seasonal "Third Thursday" on State Street is scheduled for **Thursday, May 18th 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)

On Thursday, May 18th from 5:00pm-7:00pm, Mighty Writers is celebrating its one-year anniversary. The public is welcome to join the celebration which will take place at 121 Willow Street, Toughkenamon. Drinks, appetizers, and information about free programming that is available to local kids will be provided. Anyone interested in attending can RSVP to Molly Hampson at mhampson@mightywriters.org. More information about Mighty Writers and the programs it offers can be found at <https://mightywriters.org/>.

On Friday, May 26th from 3:00pm-6:00pm, Kennett Library is hosting "Our Beautiful Earth: It Starts With Seeds". The event on May 26th will feature Julia Steiner from Brandywine Conservancy and Museum of Art. More information about the event can be found at <https://ccls.libcal.com/event/10424464>.

The Kennett Square Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for **Monday, May 29th and will begin at 10:00am at Kennett High School**. Road closures of the parade route will begin at 8:00am with corresponding parking prohibitions. The parade is produced by Kennett Collaborative. For more information, or to be participant or sponsor of the parade, please visit <https://www.kennettmemorialdayparade.com/>.

Tickets are on sale for Kennett Summerfest which will be held **on Sunday, June 11th**. Kennett Summerfest celebrates exceptional local wineries and distilleries and brings together wine, cheese, and live music in a sophisticated festival atmosphere. The Kennett Blooms:

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Floral Flash will also be open to the public during the second weekend in June, featuring temporary floral installations throughout Kennett Square. Tickets and additional information is available at: <https://www.kennettsummerfest.com>.

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.