



For Immediate Release: January 13, 2023

Borough of Kennett Square News, Updates & Upcoming Events

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

Residents have recently asked questions about the Borough’s 2023 budget: specifically, regarding the tax increase. To address the referenced inquiries, the Borough has prepared the following overview.

The 2023 Borough General Fund budget totals \$5.1 million. The prior tax rate (2022), which includes County, Borough, and School District taxes was 43.7 mills. For reference, the breakdown of how property taxes were allocated in 2022 is as follows:

School District- 32.43 mills
Borough- 6.75 mills
County- 4.55 mills

It was reported that Borough residents will see an over 50% increase in their property taxes in 2023. Many residents have expressed concern as they are under the misconception that their entire property tax obligation is increasing by over 50%. It is important the public recognizes the Borough makes up a small portion of a resident’s overall property taxes. As such, the Borough’s 2023 budget increases a resident’s overall property tax bill by approximately 8%. For the average homeowner this equates to an increase of \$496.11 for 2023.

Over the past decade, the Borough’s tax rate remained relatively flat. As a result, the Borough has been unable to make necessary capital investments in its infrastructure. For example, from 2018-2022, capital investments made up only 1% of the Borough’s overall budget. The 2023 budget represents a major shift as capital investments make up approximately 8.5% of the overall budget. These investments include improvements and upgrades to streets, alleys, sewers, fire hydrants, sidewalks, connectivity to parks, etc.

When factoring in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the administrative costs for all departments in the 2023 budget was reduced compared to 2022. As such, most of the tax increase is going towards infrastructure improvements.

The Borough has had recent success securing grant funding. While the 2023 Borough General Fund budget is \$5.1 million, the Borough has secured an additional \$4.5 million in grant

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revenue. The Borough is significantly improving its infrastructure at the least possible cost to residents.

On December 15th (2022), the Chester County Board of Commissioners awarded a \$500,000 grant from the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to upgrade the Borough's water treatment facility. The grant is a major development and first step in closing the funding gap to ensure this project comes to fruition. The Borough thanks County Commissioners Marian Moskowitz, Josh Maxwell and Michelle Kichline for their continued advocacy and support. The Borough also recognizes Chester County administration and staff for their assistance and partnership.

On Wednesday, January 11th, a workshop was held at the Borough Council's regular meeting to discuss the conceptual design of the Birch Street Revitalization Project. In addition to enhancing vehicular and pedestrian safety and accessibility, the proposed design also improves stormwater infrastructure. Borough personnel met with project stakeholders on numerous occasions over the last several months and revised the conceptual design seven times to incorporate feedback from residents and businesses. The Council voted to move forward with the design, though a final vote on the project was not made. Due to funding and support from project partners, including the Chester County Community Revitalization Program (CRP), the State's Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) and Square Roots Collective, the Borough is leveraging a \$210,000 investment to implement this multi-million-dollar project. The presentation and conceptual design can be viewed on the Borough's website.

The Borough's Public Works Department will be collecting Christmas trees until January 31st. Residents should place their trees curbside for collection and remove all decorations.

Automated garage entry and exit access arms have been installed in the Borough parking garage on E. Linden Street and are scheduled to be implemented for use by mid-February. The new parking rates will be as follows:

- First Hour: \$2 (\$1 discount for first hour until March 31, 2023)
- Each Additional Hour: \$1
- Special Event Parking: \$20 per day
- Parking Permits \$800 per year (20% discount for residents, business owners, and employees on State Street between Willow and Center Streets).

Patrons can pay by credit card or cash at the gate or via a smartphone. Questions about parking rates and permits can be directed to 610-444-0501 or npuoci@kennettsquarepolice.org.

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The Borough recently received its 2021 audit (the audit was issued later than usual due to a delay from the State in providing the Borough pertinent information regarding pension costs). The audit was conducted by a private, outside accounting firm. The audit showed the Borough incorporated proper fiscal and oversight policies, controls and processes as the audit was “clean” with no findings. In addition, the Borough achieved a modest surplus in 2021 of approximately \$350,000 (general fund).

Upcoming Events

The KSQ Farmers Market is now a year-round program. Local vegetables, meats, mushrooms, and cheeses can be purchased throughout the winter season. **The Market is open every Friday from 3:00pm-5:00pm 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 www.KSQFarmersMarket.com.

Kennett Library will be celebrating the tenth year of the [Longwood Community Read](#) with a look at how food connects people—especially for special moments—and how food connects to the world of plants and gardening.

In addition, the Library’s [International Book Group](#) and [Life On Earth Book Group](#) will feature *Black Food: Stories, Art, and Recipes from Across the African Diaspora*, (edited and curated by Bryant Terry) for its March read. These referenced books will be available for pick up at the library and all are welcome to join in the discussions.

On Monday, January 16th, from 10:00am-3:00pm, the Martin Luther King CommUNITY of the Greater Kennett Area will hold its 22nd Annual MLK Day Celebration. This event will be hosted by Lincoln University (1570 Baltimore Pike, Lincoln University, PA) in its Wellness Center. The theme of the event is “Bridging the Gap to Build a Beloved Community”. Registration and tickets for MLK Day are available at www.mlkcommunity.org or by calling 215-820-1164. The cost for the public is \$30 and \$10 for students with an ID. More information about the event can be found in the accompanying press release and flyer.

On January 20th at 10:00am, Mayor Fetick and Members of the Borough Council will join Randy Currie to celebrate Currie Hair, Skin & Nails’ 20th Anniversary. Currie Hair, Skin & Nails is located at 121 East State Street. More information can be found on their website (www.curriedayspa.com), Instagram (curriehair) and Facebook page. Customers can also contact Currie Hair, Skin & Nails by calling 610-444-1644 or via e-mail, Kennettmanagement@curriedayspa.com. Members of the public and media are welcome to attend. The Borough congratulates Currie Hair, Skin & Nails on this momentous occasion.

On Saturday, February 25th, from 12:30-4:00pm, Kennett Collaborative is hosting its annual Kennett Winterfest with 60+ breweries, food trucks, and live music at 600 S. Broad

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Street. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.kennettwinterfest.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.