



For Immediate Release: October 5, 2023

## **Borough of Kennett Square Monthly E-Newsletter (October)**

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](#).

At the October 4 meeting, Borough Council took several actions including the following (among others):

- Issued a proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (personnel from the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County received the proclamation)
- Approved a letter of support for the Brandywine Greenway Grant Program
- Approved a grant application for the purchase and installation of an audio/security camera system for the Police Department and Borough Hall
- Appointed Jr. Councilmember Juan Tafolla to the Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs (ACOLA)
- Appointed Lenda Carrillo to the Library Board

Residents who are unable to attend Borough Council meetings in-person but would like to see the meetings virtually can do so at this [link](#). 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) except when a holiday falls on the first Monday of the month. The next Borough Council meetings will be November 6 and 8.

Residents can sign-up for Borough notifications such as road closures, water/sewer issues, flooding, winter emergencies, etc. through Chester County’s Ready ChesCo system at <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612335/login>.

On October 4, the proposed 2024 budget was presented to the public. The 2024 proposed includes strict spending controls to provide a flat millage rate and no additional fees for general government, code enforcement, finance, streets, water, sewer, capital, and parking

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services. The budget includes a contractually obligated 7% increase for trash services, as well as a 1.15 mill (+71.86%) increase for Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), as required by our local providers. A breakdown of the proposed budget is as follows:

	2023	2024	Change (%)
General	6.90 mills	6.90 mills	0.00 mills (0%)
Capital	1.75 mills	1.75 mills	0.00 mills (0%)
<u>Fire/EMS</u>	<u>1.60 mills</u>	<u>2.75 mills</u>	<u>+1.15 mills (+71.86%)</u>
Total	10.25 mills	11.40 mills	+1.15 mills (+11.22%)

As referenced in the strategic plan “Roadmap” document from the community strategic planning sessions earlier this year, the biggest fiscal risk facing the Borough is the uncertainty of Fire and EMS costs. From 2018-2020, the Borough’s annual contribution to the Kennett Fire and Emergency Services Regional Commission (Commission) was \$254,631. This cost increased to \$457,957 in 2023 (80% increase). The proposed 2024 budget dedicates \$751,738 to Fire and EMS which is nearly triple the amount from 2020 (195% increase). The growing Fire & EMS expenditure is the cause for the Borough’s proposed 2024 tax increase. It is the position of the Borough that significant and perpetual increases are not sustainable and negatively impact residents. Borough officials and administration have held the line on the spending it controls and are actively engaged with the Commission in the hopes of coming to an amicable agreement for a sustainable, long-term partnership. The Borough seeks to provide the best (and most efficient) Fire and EMS service for Borough residents.

All budget related documents can be viewed by the Borough’s website. The budget message can be found [here](#), and the power point presentation of the proposed budget can be found [here](#). The “line by line” proposed budget can be found [here](#). The Council seeks public feedback about the proposed budget. The Borough is hosting a “Budget Informational” on **Monday, November 6 at 5:30pm** (at Borough Hall). Residents will be able to meet with all Borough departments and ask any questions they may have. Residents can also share their thoughts about the budget (or any other Borough matter) via the “Contact the Mayor & Council Form” which can be found [here](#). The Council is scheduled to vote on the budget at its meeting on December 6.

The Borough secured a \$350,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant from Chester County to repave Willow Street and make Americans with Disability Act (ADA)-related improvements. These improvements include ADA connectivity and upgrading the entrance way to the new Kennett Library.

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The Borough thanks Chester County Commissioners Marian Moskowitz, Josh Maxwell, Michelle Kichline, County Administrator Robert Kagel, and his staff, for their continued support. The Borough has overseen a significant investment in Borough infrastructure this year including the completed paving of the following streets:

- Southview (500 block)
- Marshall (100-200 blocks)
- Sycamore Alley
- Walls Alley
- West South Street (area of sewer main replacement only)
- Center Street (300 block)
- Oak Ave (600 block)
- Willow Street (E. Linden to Juniper)

Keystone Collections Group is the employment tax collector for the Borough. If an employee who works in the Borough (resident or non-resident) has any questions regarding the Earned Income Tax, they can call Keystone at 866-539-1100. If an employer based in the Borough has any questions regarding the Earned Income Tax or would like to register/set up an account, they can contact Keystone's employer unit at 866-328-0558.

PA CareerLink (Chester County) is a "one-stop" program to connect job seekers and employers in our community. PA CareerLink provides services to customers, employers, and job seekers. PA CareerLink is hosting a Multi-Employer Hiring Event on **Thursday, October 19 from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm** at its office, 479 Thomas Jones Way, Suite 500 in Exton. More information about PA CareerLink including its workshops and calendar of events can be found [here](#).

Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC) is a resource in our community to promote maternal and children's health. MCHC has locations in West Chester, Coatesville, and Landenberg. More information about MCHC, and the services it provides can be found [here](#). In addition, MCHC is hiring and has several open positions. More information about the open positions can be found [here](#).

The Chester County Department of Health is organizing flu vaccine clinics throughout the County for residents. A clinic will be available on **Thursday, October 12 from 3:00pm-6:45pm at Unionville High School (740 Unionville Road, Kennett Square)**. Registration is required and can be done [here](#). More details can be found in this [flyer](#).

The Chester County Water Resources Authority (CCWRA) is hosting a public meeting to garner feedback from residents regarding the Chester County Watershed 2045 Document.

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The meeting is taking place on **Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00pm at the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus (137 Modena Rd, Coatesville)**. The plan is scheduled to be submitted to the County Commissioners in December. Once approved by the Commissioners, the plan will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR). More information, including the draft documents can be found [here](#).

### Upcoming Events

The KSQ Farmers Market is a year-round program by Kennett Collaborative. Local vegetables, meats, mushrooms, and cheeses can be purchased **EVERY Friday from 3:00pm-6:00pm at The Creamery (401 Birch Street)**. You can sign up to receive their newsletter, with all the latest vendor and product updates and pre-ordering options [here](#).

Kennett Brewfest will be held **Saturday October 7 from 1:30pm-5:00pm** at 600 S. Broad Street. Brewfest is a fundraiser for Kennett Collaborative's community programming. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Kennett Collaborative's last "Third Thursday" on State Street for 2023 is **Thursday, October 19 starting at 5:30pm-9:00pm**. Parking prohibition starts at 4:00pm and the following streets will be closed to traffic from 5:00pm-10:00pm. **Parking in the Borough garage is free for all Third Thursdays this year, per a resolution passed by Borough Council.**

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

**On Sunday October 22**, The Clover Market will be held at 600 S. Broad Street from 10:00am-4:00pm. The event will include crafts, antiques, and food vendors, among other attractions. More information about The Clover Market can be found [here](#).

**On Thursday October 26 from 6:00pm-9:00pm**, a benefit concert will be held to help those affected by the Oxford Fire. The concert is being organized by the United Way of Southern Chester County. More information about the concert can be found [here](#).

**On Sunday October 29**, Kennett Collaborative and KARMA (Kennett Square Merchants) are organizing the KSQ Candy Trail from 2:00pm-5:00pm. More information about the event can be found [here](#).

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The 2023 Mushroom Cap Half Marathon will take place on **Saturday November 4** at 8:00am. More information about the race can be found [here](#). The list of roads that will be closed (and times of road closures) for the race can be found [here](#).

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

For any questions or concerns, you can contact the Borough during normal business hours at 610-444-6020 (please call 877-648-3081 after business hours) or via email at [help@kennettsq.org](mailto:help@kennettsq.org).