



Established 1725

London Britain Township Newsletter

Chester County, Pennsylvania

Fall 2010

Mason Dixon Greenway Continues to Grow

Two new conservation easements add critical links to the wildlife and recreation corridor

Over the past six months London Britain Township came two steps closer to

tershed Association's fight to keep the White Clay Creek from being dammed. Since the early 1960s she has been a strong and vocal supporter and steward of the area's natural resources serving on the board of the White Clay Watershed Committee and the Bi-State Advisory Council.

Jan's son Kurt and her daughter Karen Anderson with the help of many nephews and cousins have started Borderland Vineyard on the

Kalb Property, 2010



realizing its goal of creating the Mason Dixon Greenway through the township. The major emphasis of this decade-long process is to preserve a continuous bio-diverse natural corridor in which wildlife and plant life can thrive. A side benefit of the Mason Dixon Greenway is the establishment of recreational trails and public places for people to enjoy the area's natural resources that have been preserved along parts of the greenway.

Just over 66 acres (Fall Line Farm, Kalb property) on Indiantown Road (on left heading north from the intersection with London Tract Road) now has a conservation easement with the purchasing of development rights. This property was the last link in connecting the White Clay Creek Preserve to the conserved Wilkins Farm completing the natural corridor from west of Route 896 through the White Clay Creek.

The property, owned by the Kalb family since 1947, contains approximately 40 acres of mature woodlands with a tributary of the White Clay Creek running through the valley and the remaining acreage is open and in agricultural use.

Jan Kalb was a leader in the White Clay Wa-



Kalb Property, circa 1950

property's agricultural lands.

Funding to place this land in conservation protection was made possible through the Chester County Preservation Partnership Program, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Program, London Britain Township, the White Clay Watershed Management Committee (through the White Clay Creek Watershed Association) and the Kalb family. Natural Lands Trust holds the easement. Part of the agreement outlines the details for a public-access trail, which will eventually connect to a trail on the Wilkins property.

At the corner of Good Hope Road and London Tract Road 26 acres of the original Nivin farm is now placed in conservation. The property holds natural, agricultural and historic significance in the Township as part of Nivindel Farm (see related story on Page 5).

The property is adjacent to White Clay Creek Preserve's borders and includes trail



The Nivin Manor House

easements that could allow development of a trail into the Village of Landenberg following the railroad bed on the property.

A grant from Chester County and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation covered most of the cost of obtaining this easement. It will be held in trust with the London Britain Township Land Trust in perpetuity.

Update: Mason Dixon Greenway South

Site work started on the new passive recreation area at the Flint Hill Road site with the entrance and parking area taking shape. The hard-surface trail, part of a handicapped-

accessible looped walking trail, is roughed in with a layer of stone previewing what will become a delightful trail to the Woodland Walkway, which traverses into the woods. Along this trail a creek overlook is planned as well as two picnic tables and benches. The parking lot will also feature an interpretive garden. Still to be planted are 500+ trees and shrubs. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.



Site work begins at the Flint Hill site as the hard surface trail is etched into the ground.

2011 Budget Notice

The London Britain Township Board of Supervisors, at their regularly scheduled meeting on December 20, 2010 at 7 p.m. will hold a hearing on the proposed budget for 2011 before considering the budget for adoption. The meeting will be held at the Township Meeting Hall at 81 Good Hope Road, Landenberg, PA. The 2011 proposed budget is available for inspection at the Township Office at the same address during regular business hours Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

If you are a person with a disability and wish to attend the public meeting scheduled above and require an auxiliary aide, service or other accommodation to participate in the proceedings, please contact the township at 610-255-0388 to discuss how London Britain Township may best accommodate your needs.

New Solicitation and Speed Limit Ordinances

All individuals and companies that solicit in London Britain Township must be licensed to do so and must carry that license with them when in the Township as part of Ordinance 10-2 (Transient Merchants and Solicitors) passed at the Sept. 27 Board of Supervisors meeting.

In brief, the Ordinance makes it unlawful for any unlicensed person to engage in selling, purchasing or soliciting the sale or purchase of food, printed matter, services, goods, wares or merchandise of any description, or in soliciting contributions, gifts or pledges of money or any other thing of value, by visitation to private homes or residences, business establishments, or on public streets or highways within the legal boundaries of the Township of London Britain.

Residents are advised to ask to see the license before talking to anyone who knocks at your door. Solicitors may not enter properties posted with a "No Solicitations" sign. They may only engage in business between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. or sunset (whichever comes first).

Charitable, religious, and philanthropic organizations (school, church, Boy Scout and Girl Scout fund raisers) are not required to pay a fee, but must register with the Township.

Speed Limit Ordinance

The Speed Limit Ordinance addresses safety issues on Township roads by establishing a maximum speed of 35 mph for the entire length of Good Hope Road and Chambers Rock Road. Signs are posted and should be obeyed.

With the passing of this ordinance the State Police will be patrolling these roads more frequently and issuing speeding tickets.

A copy of the ordinances are available for review at the Township Office.



Waste Disposal and Recycling: Things You Should Know

Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) is the municipal authority responsible for the landfill serving 24 municipalities in southern Chester County, including London Britain Township. All trash and recyclable waste for this region's approximately 90,000 residents is transported to this site.

Gail Bobbish, our Township's Recycling Coordinator tracks and reports waste disposal and recycling efforts for LBT. For 2009 the total residential recycled waste taken to SECCRA for London Britain residents was 144.73

tons. This amount was slightly higher than the previous year. LBT received a state Recycling Performance Grant in the amount of \$1357 for the effort.

On Trash Pick-up Day

Please secure all trash in bundles or a container with a secure lid so that the trash stays on the property until it is properly picked up by the trash hauler. The wind blows papers out of recycling bins and cans if not properly

weighed down. Lids on trash cans keep birds and animals from ripping open bags and spreading trash around.

What do I do with?

From A to Z the "What do I do with?" link on SECCRA's website describes how to properly recycle all sorts of things at the landfill including electronics, clothing, yard waste, appliances, Freon/refrigerant appliances, used motor oil and used antifreeze. Some fees are involved in using these services, others are free; details are listed on the website.

Single Stream Recycling

SECCRA began using a single stream recycling process to separate various recycling materials for various markets at a central processing facility. It is no longer necessary to separate paper, plastic, and metal at the pick-up location. All recyclable materials may be mixed.

Tip: Use either paper bags or see-through plastic bags to hold shredded papers and all recyclable materials. Processors will not open bags they cannot see into and the bag will be thrown into the landfill.

Hazardous Waste Reminder

Do not place any product with the following words into the trash for collection to the landfill:

CAUTION EXPLOSIVE TOXIC REACTIVE
DANGER COMBUSTIBLE FLAMMABLE POISONOUS
WARNING HAZARDOUS

These should be safely stored then disposed of properly at a Hazardous Waste Collection Site. The Chester County Solid Waste Authority holds collection days throughout the year. Check online at www.chestercountyswa.org or call 610-273-3771 for more information on the proper disposal of hazardous waste.

Tip: Latex paint is not hazardous. Open the can and allow the paint to harden, then throw out with the trash.

More information about SECCRA and recycling is available at www.seccra.org. Further information about what can and can't be recycled as well as more information on hazardous waste recycling is available from the Chester County Solid Waste Authority's website at www.chestercountyswa.org. In early 2011 Hazardous Waste Collection Days in Chester County will be posted at these websites.



The History of Nivindel Farm



Septimus Evans Nivin and his sisters Evelyn and Sophia had inherited 354 of the original 1,000 acres from his mother who was the great-granddaughter of John Evans, Jr.



What's left of the Wilmington and Western's milk stop at Nivindel Farm.

and Western Railroad made its first run to Landenberg. About one-half mile of the track ran through Septimus Nivin's farm. There was even a milk stop on site, which picked up products from the creamery for markets in Wilmington and Philadelphia. About 200-300 yards of the Newark to Pomeroy Railroad also crossed Nivin's property (slightly north and east of the Wilmington and Western line) on its separate route to Landenberg. By 1940 the trains to Landenberg had ceased and the tracks were removed.

Septimus was heavily involved in community service and local business. He was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in

At the bend in the White Clay Creek where Good Hope Road branches off from London Tract Road and just across the Broad Run Bridge stands Nivindel Farm.

This historic property traces its roots to the purchase of 1,000 acres from William Penn's Stenning Manor to John Evans (former Pennsylvania governor and unknown relationship to the Evanses of LBT) in 1715. In 1734 John Evans, Jr., owner of 400 acres along the White Clay Creek near Yeatman's Mill, purchased the 1,000 acres. By 1876

Septimus Nivin is most closely associated with life at this bend in the creek. He was born (1842) and raised on this farm. As a life-long bachelor, he farmed this land and neighboring farms. He raised a "fine herd of Jersey cattle," and operated a creamery on the property.

On October 19, 1872 the Wilmington

1891. Other organizations he served included:

- Chester County Auditor and Constable
- School Director for London Britain Township (before joining Avon Grove School District)
- Director and treasurer of School Board (30 yrs)
- Director and later president of First National Bank of West Chester (42 yrs.)
- Trustee and treasurer New London Presbyterian Church (39 yrs.)
- Trustee and treasurer London Tract Baptist Church (27 yrs.)
- Treasurer Pennsylvania State Grange (22 yrs.)
- President New London Detective Service (40 yrs.)
- 32nd degree Mason

After Nivin's death on December 22, 1927

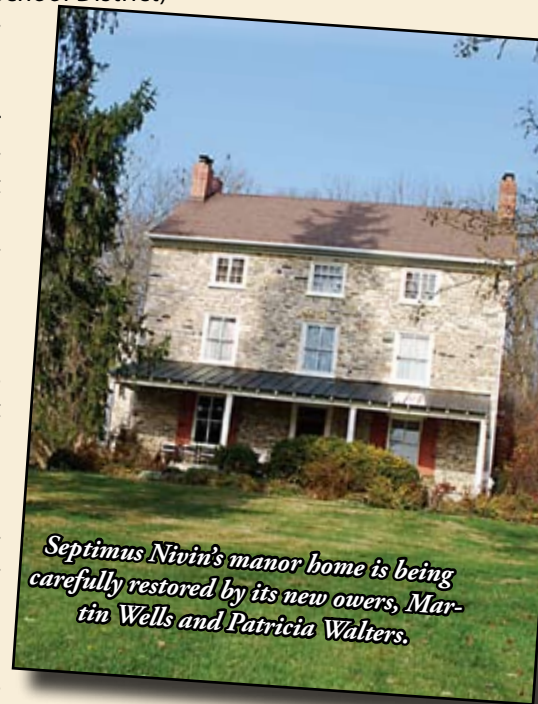
his sisters sold the 354 acres to Van Allen and Edith (Thatcher) Harris, of Philadelphia. They called the property Salisbury Farm

and leased the fields to George Wilkinson to farm. In 1944 Edith sold Salisbury Farm to George Wilkinson, who along with his son Leon Wilkinson increased their dairy herd.

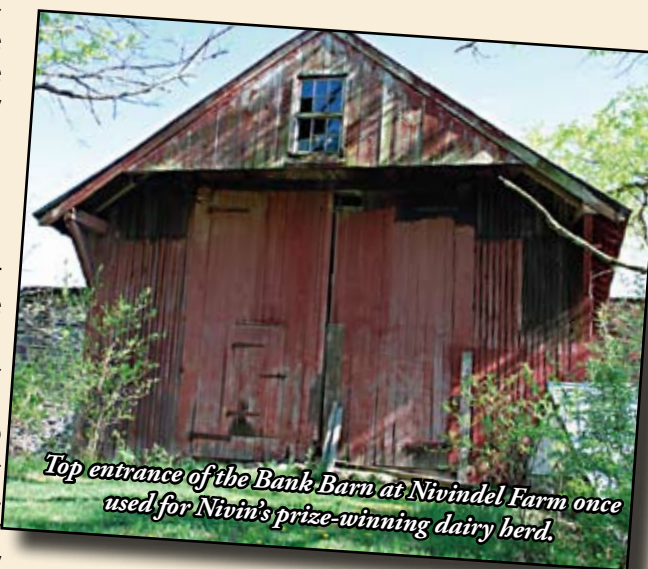
In honor of Septimus Nivin's long service to the community George renamed the farm Nivindel Farm, the name it keeps today. Septimus Nivin is buried in the London Tract Meeting House cemetery on Sharpless Road.

Today, Nivin's original property is subdivided into various properties.

Source: research and writings collected by Martin Wells on the Niviness farm and family.



Septimus Nivin's manor home is being carefully restored by its new owners, Martin Wells and Patricia Walters.



Top entrance of the Bank Barn at Nivindel Farm once used for Nivin's prize-winning dairy herd.

On-Lot Sewage Pumping Receipts Due

Reminder letters were sent earlier this fall to all property owners with on-lot sewage systems that are due for pumping this year. The timing information below is used to determine which properties must be pumped and when. Questions about this issue should be directed to the Township Secretary at 610-255-0388.

Timing for Pumping

- every 3 years for septic systems,
- every year for cesspool systems,
- appropriate periodic (yearly contract required) pumping/retaining tank

RAIN BARREL SALE



It's not too early to get ready for spring showers... RE-SERVE your rain barrel today for pick up in February/March 2011 from the Chester County

Conservation District.

Rain barrels collect the water from downspouts to use in the garden during periods of dry weather. They decrease the amount of stormwater runoff and reduce demand for treated or pumped water.

The rain barrels are 40 gallon capacity, of neutral color, made from a durable resin material with a simulated wood grain appearance and feature a flat back for close placement against your house.

To reserve a rain barrel call Tammy at (610) 925-4920 ext. 100. Estimated Cost: \$100 each (price subject to market conditions) You will be contacted when your rain barrel is in stock and ready for pick up at the Chester County Conservation District, Willowdale Town Center, 688 Unionville Road, Suite 200, Kennett Square, PA 19348 Payment will be due at time of pick up.

Township Office Hours

London Britain Township's office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

London Britain Township's Zoning Officer, Dave Gargula, has additional office hours by appointment. Please call him at 302-218-7173 to arrange a convenient time to meet.

West Grove Fire Company Station No. 33 Update

Work is expected to begin shortly on an approximately 150-foot retaining wall needed to level the site for the building. The final site work should be finished before the end of the year. If all goes according to plan the substation will be ready by spring.

The new 60-foot x 80-foot WGFC Substation No. 33 will have two drive-thru bays capable of storing up to four emergency vehicles plus office space. WGFC recently ordered a new engine with



delivery expected in March. This will enable one fire truck from their fleet to be housed at the new substation.

The combined cost for the fire truck and new building is \$1.5 million. WGFC continues to raise funds to cover this cost of providing the new service for our community. Donations to WGFC are always appreciated and are tax-deductible. Donations can be sent to P. O. Box 201, West Grove, PA 19390.

More information is available online at www.wgfc.org

2010 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE

The 2010 Budget included funds for infrastructure improvements in the Township. The following projects were completed:

- At Nichol Park the new entrance for the West Grove Fire Company Substation was completed to the point of the top coat of asphalt, which will be done in the spring. The stormwater retention pond for the Fire Station/future park improvements was also complete.
- Two additional garage bays were added to the Township's maintenance building.
- Portions of the follow roads were renovated in 2010 as part of the Township's ongoing road maintenance program: Flint Hill Road, south of Route 896, Strickersville Road, and North Bank Road.

New Trail Corridor Agreements in Place

London Britain Township has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Franklin Township and New Garden Township to align trails within the townships to form a larger trail corridor.

The memorandum states, "Such cross-border trail corridors connect trail networks that have already been proposed within the limits of each township, thus creating a larger recreation network that could enhance the health, economy and quality-of-life of the townships' residents."

All three townships are actively pursuing new trails within their townships. Moving forward as trails are planned and built the townships will seeks ways to connect the individual township trails to those in their neighboring communities.

A MESSAGE FROM LT. BROWN OF THE AVONDALE STATE POLICE BARRACKS

Lt. Tracy Brown, commander of the Avondale Barracks PA State Police, visited a recent LBT Board of Supervisor's meeting. He wanted the community to know that he and the State Troopers are partners in our community and invites the public to contact him or talk to any Trooper on patrol with concerns or comments.

Issues of concern in the area are continued thefts of items from motor vehicles and homes, as well as identify theft. He encouraged everyone to remove items of value from your vehicle or at least put them out of view, even in your own driveway. Keep your vehicles and house locked. Use your home security systems. Also shred all personal documents before putting into the trash or recycle. Call the state police if you see unusual activity in your neighborhood.

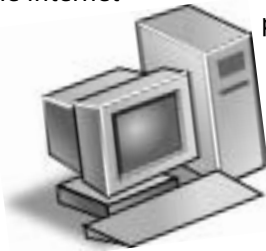
To reach Lt. Brown or the Avondale Barracks, call 610-268-2022 for all non-emergency issues and with questions of concern or comment. Call 911 for all emergencies, accidents, or when you need immediate assistance.

Computer Classes at Local Senior Centers

Now more than ever, millions of people around the world are using the Internet and computers every day. Still, many older adults are trying to make sense of this "new age" technology as they try to keep up with younger, more technologically savvy, generations.

Local area senior centers offer access to computers and the Internet, as well as a variety of computer classes at different levels to meet the needs of older adults and help them to stay up-to-date with today's technology.

Various computer classes are available for free or at a low cost to older adults at all six Chester County senior centers.



Some of the classes offered include: Learning How to Use Your Computer, Surfing the Internet, Internet Safety, Computer Maintenance Tips, and Electronic Mail. These programs vary by center, but are all led by professionals who are experienced in the needs of older adults.

Senior Centers closest to LBT are Kennett Area Senior Center (610-444-4819), and Oxford Area Senior Center (610-932-5244).

For more information about computer classes for older adults call the centers directly or go to online to www.chestercountyseniors.org and click on the center near where you live.

CC Library System: A Value to the County

The Chester County Library System has launched a community advocacy initiative. The goal of this initiative is to raise awareness of the value of public libraries to Chester County citizens. Public libraries in Chester County are an essential resource for education, community building, and economic development.



Claudia Hellebush, President/CEO, United Way of Chester County says, "United Way believes that everyone deserves the opportunity to have a good life: a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, good health and a safety net to catch you when times are rough. The library is a great equalizer, providing education materials, computer access, daily news and access to any and all information necessary to having a good life."

In an effort to encourage communities to move public libraries into their sphere of priorities and commit to sustainable and adequate funding, CCLS is seeking community members interested in becoming library advocates. The strategy is simple – "each one reach one." You can learn more about becoming a library advocate at www.ccls.org/advocacy.

The demand for public libraries today is large, diverse and dynamic. The impor-

tance of libraries to the well-being of community members is clear. CCLS is ready to continue its legacy of service to the community and meet the challenges of today and tomorrow by continually improving the diversity and quality of its services.

You can learn more about the services of the system libraries at www.ccls.org.

London Britain's Satellite Library

The London Britain Satellite Library is part of the Chester County Library System and offered through the Avon Grove Library. Located at the London Britain Township Building, (81 Good Hope Road) the LBT Satellite Library is open Wednesdays from 6-8pm and Saturdays from 10am-2pm.

Services include:

- Sign up for library card (free to all Chester County residents)
- A selection of books (adult and children) and DVDs are available for selection during stated hours.
- Access the entire collection of the 18 libraries in the CCLS from home and place a request for wanted books, CDs, DVDs, videos, and magazines to be delivered to the LBT Satellite Library for pick-up.

Township Directory

Board of Supervisors

David Owens - *Chairman*
Aileen Parrish - *Vice Chairman*
Glenn Frederick - *Member*

Staff

Carolyn Matalon - *Secretary and Parks Manager*
Dave Gargula - *Zoning Officer*
Joe Ferguson - *Roadmaster*
Dan Tracey, Steven Henry, & Steve Dudkewitz - *Road Crew*
Pat Walsh, Walsh Eng.- *Township Engineer*
Janie Schnelle - *Tax Collector*
Annette Stejskal - *Treasurer*

Contact Info

Office/Meeting Hall/Garage:

81 Good Hope Rd.
Landenberg PA 19350

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 215,
Kemblesville PA 19347

Phone: 610-255-0388

Fax: 610-255-3542

Website:

www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov

Email:

carolyn.londonbritaintwp@comcast.net

Township Meetings

All meetings are held at the LBT Meeting Hall on Good Hope Road, 7 p.m.

Agendas are posted on the Township website by noon on the day of the meeting

Board of Supervisors

Second and fourth Mondays of the month (except December, plus call or check website for other dates and/or cancelled meetings)

Planning Commission

Each Tuesday following a Board of Supervisors' meeting

This newsletter is published by the London Britain Township Board of Supervisors, and produced by Secretary Carolyn Matalon and Lucas Communications and Publications.

LBT Botanical Survey Results

In 2009 a Botanical Survey of London Britain Township was completed by Janet Ebert and Jack Holt. They divided the Township into 25 sections and walked the roadsides, public lands, and private properties of willing landowners recording all plant species observed.

The Survey's executive summary states "London Britain Township still possesses considerable botanical richness, with at least 563 species of native plants, including 29 listed by the state as of special concern, including rare, threatened, or endangered. No species of federal concern were identified. Many species once recorded as common are now apparently rare. Twenty-three Exceptional Natural Areas were identified, many of which are located in the White Clay Creek State Preserve, including several different kinds of woods, scrub-shrublands, wetlands, and meadows. However, this richness is threatened by habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and encroachment from land development (mostly residential, but potentially some commercial), and habitat degradation mostly due to an overabundance of deer and numerous aggressive invasive alien plant species."

Among the largest families of plant species in the township are:

- 89- Aster family (58 natives, 31 aliens)
- 88- Grass family (47 natives, 41 aliens)
- 73- Sedge family (72 natives, 1 alien)
- 38- Bean family (14 natives, 24 aliens)
- 35- Rose family (21 natives, 14 aliens)
- 28 Mint family (16 natives, 12 aliens)

In total, 33.3 percent of all plant species in the Township are alien plant species.

Among the Survey's recommendations for the future are protecting habitat loss, developing a deer-management program, education programs for residents on dealing with invasive plant species, further education on the Township's plant diversity, and proper management and stewardship of the Exceptional Natural Areas within the Township.

The Supervisors plan to follow through on the study's recommendation for plant diversity education, please check the website frequently in early 2011 for a detailed announcement.

INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL DAYS



The London Britain Township Land Trust holds Invasive Species Removal Days in the fall and winter for the properties it manages as open space.

Volunteers are always welcome. Not only do you help remove invasive

species on our publicly owned lands, but it's a great opportunity to learn proper techniques for removing invasive species on your property.

As these days are weather-dependent, please contact the Township Office (see directory) to be placed on a contact list for future events.

*Photo Above: Carl Kreibel and Tom Zimmerman remove invasive vines from new trees in the Mason Dixon Greenway.
Photo right: Sally Cheyne works to save a tree by removing the invasive vines.*



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London Britain Township
P. O. Box 215
Kembsville, PA 19347