

The Scoop on Kemblesville Construction

Along Route 896 between the Kemblesville "elbow" and Route 841 are three construction projects. The former Kemblesville Elementary School is receiving a major renovation; the Kemblesville United Methodist Church is completing an addition; and the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is just starting on its expansion project. Curious about what is involved with each of these projects? The details are below.

Former KES property

The Avon Grove Charter School purchased the former Kemblesville Elementary School from Avon Grove School District. It has embarked on an ambitious construction schedule to complete a major renovation for the start of the 2008-09 school year.

The building was completely gutted with asbestos removal and mold remediation a priority. All rooms will remain the same size and the entire building will be ADA compliant when complete. The roof and the kitchen are being replaced. New modular classrooms are replacing the older modulars in the middle of the building. The stage is being refurbished.

As of June, the project is on schedule and over 55 percent complete. In September, the school will house Avon Grove Charter School's approximately 475 kindergarten through second grade students.

According to Avon Grove Charter School's spokesperson Donna Archer, "We are excited for our families and looking forward to building a relationship with the community and the Township."

The name of the school is still undecided. Avon Grove Charter School is in the process of asking its school community to submit suggestions. The student body will

vote on a name in the near future.

Kemblesville United Methodist Church

Construction is moving right along on a 10,000 sq. ft. addition to Kemblesville United Methodist Church. The project features a 4,500 sq. ft. multipurpose room and 5,500 sq. ft. divided into nine meeting rooms.

KUMC's pastor, Dave Bergstrom, said the reason for the expansion was the church was growing and needed more space. The new space will allow more room for scouting and community programs, as well as provide rooms dedicated to the church's day school. He is excited that the church will be able to accommodate more community groups at the same time with this new addition.

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

At the beginning of the construction process, with site development and foundation work being completed now, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church expects to finish its 16,000 sq. ft. expansion within the next 18 months.

The project features a 3,600 sq. ft. Fellowship Hall, new nursery area, a two-story classroom section, expanded offices, and renovated entry. The expansion will also allow the Landenberg Christian Academy, which leases space from the church, to continue its expansion, too.

Pastor Mark VanGilst said there were a lot of things the church would like to do but was not able to because of space limitations. The expansion will allow the church to do more for the community. He said the church is happy to be part of the Township. The grounds are being used for community activities and events are going on all the time.

New WGFC Substation Coming Soon

West Grove Fire Company (WGFC) is planning to build a substation on Route 896 at Nichol Park, near Flint Hill Road. Although not officially within Franklin Township's borders, the new substation could positively affect the response time to emergencies for Franklin Township residents.

One benefit of a closer fire station is that this may lower premiums for homeowner's insurance policies.



The new fire station is progressing through the planning stages with London Britain Township. It is hoped that ground breaking will occur later this year.

Residents interested in joining the West Grove Fire Company as volunteers are encouraged to learn more at their website: www.wgfc.org. When the new station is complete, it is hoped that residents from this area will be willing to volunteer when a station is much closer to home.

News and Notes

SWIMMING POOLS: Any swimming pool over 24-inches in depth requires a permit. Franklin Township recently enacted Resolution No. 2007-07, which permits erection of prefabricated swimming pools greater than 24-inches deep for a \$30.00 permit fee. The permit is valid for two years, after which the permit will be renewed and the pool reinspected. These pools must be surrounded by a minimal 4-foot fence barrier.

MOWING: Grass, noxious plants, weeds and vegetation shall be maintained regularly. This does not apply to agricultural uses or wetland and woodland areas. Property owners with excessive vegetative growth may be subject to fines up to \$500.00. Call the Township Office for more details.

TRIM SHRUBS AND BUSHES: Residents should not plant flowers, trees, and shrubs in the right-of-way (up to 15 feet from the edge of the road) along roads. Taller plants and shrubs in the right-of-way can cause sight line and safety issues. If your property has plants and shrubs within the right-of-way, please keep them trimmed back for the safety of others.

COVER TRASH CONTAINERS: Please keep lids on trash containers to keep the contents protected from the wind and animals. When placing recycling at the curb side, make sure papers are weighed down or covered to keep papers from blowing out.

RECYCLING: Not sure what to recycle or when and where to take your household hazardous waste? Check out the Chester County Solid Waste Authority's website at www.chestercountyswa.org.

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you interested in preserving the history of Franklin Township or developing a trail network through the Township? The Franklin Township Historical Commission and the Trails Committee are both seeking volunteers.

The Historical Commission works to research, collect, document, and share the history of the Township, as well as report on the condition of the historic landscape throughout the Township. The meetings are held the third Tuesday of odd months at 7 pm.

The Trails Committee, which works closely with the Open Space Committee to identify and implement recreational trails, meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Both meetings are held at the Township building and are open to the public.