



A Community Resource: Avon Grove Library

"Libraries exist because people use us," said Joseph Sherwood, executive director of the Chester County Library System at the annual Chester County Library Local Officials' Breakfast. "We are doing a lot. We are adaptable and flexible."

Libraries have evolved into community centers with computers, internet access, books, periodicals, CDs and DVDs available for public use. They are called economic equalizers, as people who do not own personal computers or internet access can access these things at the library. For people with online access, libraries bring thousands of additional resources to you from anywhere. Libraries have evolved into welcoming places for social interaction and learning, offering classes, literacy and English-as-a-Second-Language programs, as well as enrichment lectures and classes.

"Libraries develop the culture of lifelong learning," says Mark Ungemach, Franklin Township resident and president of the Avon Grove Library's Board of Directors. "Avon Grove Library is a vibrant place where there's something for everyone from infants through senior citizens."

As one of 14 libraries in the Chester

County Library System (CCLS), Avon Grove Library receives about a third of its funding from Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, one third from grants, fund raising and other sources, and one third from its seven municipal members. Franklin Township supports about six percent of the budget.

Being a member of the CCLS opens the resources at all libraries in the system to library card holders at any of the libraries from an inter-library loan program to the diverse online opportunities to community programming. Any Franklin Township resident who has a free library card from Avon Grove Library has available to them all resources in all the libraries.

Mark, along with Joe Montgomery, are Franklin Township's two representatives on the Avon Grove Library Board of Directors. Joe has served for the last 10 years and last year was the organization's treasurer. Mark joined the Board in 2009.

"All the information you need is free at the library," said Avon Grove Library Manager Kim Ringler. Stop by, get your library card and you too can be a part of all the library has to offer.

In 2010 Avon Grove Library lent out 126,004 items, which was a 17 percent increase over the previous year (the highest in the county-wide system). The library offered over 700 children's programs in 2010 and estimated over 118,000 people walked through Avon Grove Library's doors. About seven percent of its circulation was to Franklin Township residents.

Avon Grove Library traces its beginnings to West Grove Public Library that was established in 1874. Sara Conard, is recognized



The Avon Grove Library and West Grove Borough Town Hall share a building on Rosehill Road.

as the area's first librarian. She organized a lending library for the community in 1893 at Joseph Pyle's store. Over the first half of the 20th century the library for the West Grove community had many ups and downs as it searched for ways to support itself. It wasn't until 1947 that the library became free for all residents. The most recent milestone in Avon Grove Library's evolution was its partnership with West Grove Borough to build a new community center. The Library moved into its current location in 2003 and has since managed to fill its shelves to overflowing once again.

A wide variety of special programming is planned throughout the year at Avon Grove Library. The information is posted at the library and also on their website. There are book clubs and social programs for adults, story hours for infants, preschool and school age children, and clubs for teens.

Recognizing the need to bring library services to some of the more remote regions of its service areas, such as Franklin, Avon Grove Library opened the London Britain Satellite Location at the London Britain Township Meeting Hall on Good Hope Road. It is open Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm with a Storytime at 11 am each week.

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At the annual Chester County Library Local Officials' Breakfast municipal supervisors received an update on how the library is serving the community. Among the attendees were (L to R) Chester County Commissioner Terence Farrell, FT Supervisor Nan Latimer, Avon Grove Library Manager Kim Ringler, Chester County Commissioner Ryan Costello, and FT Supervisor Norman Hughes.

The Importance of Regular Pumping

Part 4 of the Franklin Township On-Lot Sewage Management Program Public Education Series

All on-lot sewage systems require routine maintenance to keep working properly, protect the environment, and protect your bank account from preventable and expensive repairs.

The single most effective maintenance activity that can and should be performed on all on-lot sewage systems is the regular pumping of the treatment tank. This simple activity will remove the accumulated solids in the treatment tank, prevent solids from traveling out of the tank and damaging the drainfield, and allow the natural treatment processes in the tank to work as intended. Additional information regarding treatment tank pumping follows, to better explain why pumping your sewage system is usually a "win/win" situation for both the environment and your bank account.

How does regular tank pumping help?

The treatment tank treats the wastewater naturally by holding it in the tank long enough for solids and liquids to separate. The wastewater forms three layers inside the tank. Solids lighter than water (such as fats, oils, and greases) float to the top forming a layer of scum. Solids heavier than water settle at the bottom of the tank, forming a layer of sludge. This leaves a middle layer of partially clarified wastewater. The layers of sludge and scum remain in the septic tank where bacteria found naturally in the wastewater continue to break the solids down. The sludge and scum that cannot be broken down are retained in the tank and build up until it is pumped.

It is very important to remove these solids as they will eventually build up to the point that the tank no longer has enough liquid area to allow for adequate microbial activity or the settling out of solids and scum. Once this point is reached, suspended solids will pass through the tank to the drainfield, and the wastewater will not stay in the tank long enough for bacterial activity which helps break down some solids. Both of these consequences result in greater risk for groundwater contamination and premature failure of the drainfield. Since repairing or replacing a failing drainfield will cost significantly more money than regular treatment tank pumping,

having your tank pumped regularly will save you money in the long run, and at the same time help protect the environment.

How often should I have my tank pumped? The rate at which solids accumulate varies significantly based upon

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such things as how many people live in the house, whether or not a garbage disposal is used, and the size of the tank. The general guideline for determining when a pump-out should be conducted is whenever the solids and scum layers accumulate to 1/3 of the liquid depth of the tank. In lieu of constant monitoring of the depth of the solids, a maximum three year pumping interval has become the accepted standard in Pennsylvania, and is also the basis for Franklin Township's program. If you have a very large family, an undersized tank, or use a garbage disposal, the 3 year interval may need to be decreased to a more frequent schedule to avoid excessive solids build-up.

What else should I consider when having my system pumped?

All sewage pumpers/haulers in Chester County are required to be licensed by the Chester County Health Department. As a condition of maintaining this license, they are also required to enter a record for each sewage system they pump into an electronic database maintained by the County. Franklin Township may use this database to help track system pumping, generally eliminating the need for you to send receipts to the Township to provide proof of pump-out. Keep receipts for all pumping though – if your pumper does not enter this information in the County database, or if Franklin chooses to not use the County database, you are ultimately responsible and will need a receipt as documentation. Always make sure the pumper you hire is licensed by the County and records your system's pumping in the County database.

A list of licensed pumpers can be found on the County's web site at https://apps.chesco.org/reports/rwservlet?cchd&REPORT=WL_LWPS.rdf, or you may call the Health Department at (610) 344-6526 to obtain a copy.

There are several easy things a pumper can check while he's pumping your system which will help avoid problems in the future. Tank baffles should be inspected and, if necessary, repaired or replaced whenever a pump-out is conducted. The tank and tank lid should be checked for visible cracks or other structural defects, and repaired if needed. You should also ask your pumper to note the depth of your tank lid. Current regulations require that it be no more than 12 inches deep so that it's easy to get to for regular pumping. If yours is deeper than this, you may want to consider adding a "riser", or manhole extension, to save extra digging every three years. All these items require very little time or effort while the tank lid is opened and the tank is emptied out, and are required to be checked every time a tank is pumped out in Franklin Township

AG Library....(cont. from page 1)

Residents can use this location to obtain a free library card. They can order books and pick-up and return books at the satellite location. This location also stocks a small selection of books as well as some DVDs for lending.

Mark's dream for the future is to have a permanent library outpost somewhere in the village of Kemblesville. At this point it is only a dream, but good ideas start with a dream.

More information is available online at www.avongrovelibrary.org.

Avon Grove Library is located at 117 Rosehill Ave., West Grove, PA 19390. They can be reached by phone at 610-869-2004.

Avon Grove Library is open Monday, 10 am to 6pm; Tuesday thru Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday, 10 am to 4pm; Saturday, 9am to 4pm; and closed Sunday.

Open Space Update

Conservation Easement settled on Ford Farm

The 148-acre Ford Farm on Appleton Road is the most recent property to be preserved in Franklin Township. The property has a legally-binding conservation easement and will remain in perpetuity as open space and may once again be a working farm.

The property had an approved subdivision plan, which allowed for the building of 100 new homes on the site. These homes will never be built on this site.

The property's development rights were purchased in a partnership with the Ches-

ter County Preservation Partnership program, the Natural Lands Trust, and a small percentage of funds from the Franklin Township open space fund.

"We are enormously proud to once again partner with Franklin Township to preserve a significant piece of the community's heritage," noted Molly Morrison, president of Natural Lands Trust. "The Township has saved more than 1,600 acres to date and been a real leader in protecting their quality of life."

History Corner

Life on the Ford Farm

Grace (Bryan) Ford was born in Landenberg in September 1921 as the oldest of six children. She lived her entire life in the Kennett/Avon Grove area with the exception of the years she spent at West Chester University learning to be a teacher. For 29 years she taught first, second and/or third grade, first at North Bank School then at Kemblesville Elementary School when it opened.

On September 20, 1949 Grace married Andy Ford and they established their home at the Ford Farm on Appleton Road.

Over her lifetime Grace kept a diary, which she typed into a memoir called, "Life has been Good to Me." Details of life on their dairy farm are scattered throughout. A few excerpts are below:

1949 (after her marriage): I learned to do all kinds of things. I helped Andy milk most of the time. My help consisted of changing the straps on the cows and carrying and dumping the milk...Periodically I went with Andy in the middle of the night to get brewery grains in Wilmington. They smelled terrible but the cows seemed to like them....

1960: The men got really busy the spring of 1960-- putting in a milking parlor. It cost a fortune even with their doing most of the work. It wasn't as difficult as I thought it would be to get the cows adjusted. As soon as they discovered there was feed in there they cooperated. The first time they just had the cows walk through. The next time they walked through with the machinery all running. The third time they actually milked the cows. That was on June 8, 1960 and Andy was really tickled.

One chapter of her memoir is called "The Cows and I." Here's a few of her experiences:

In my diary I note that in April 1959 we chased cows home from Vannoys in a pouring rain. In August 1960 Andy, Tom and I chased a heifer up and down the road. She could not see the lane. In July 1964 we had some really wild heifers. They were always leaping fences and we would have to round them up.

In July 1977 Lois and Jim Smith were here for supper and ended up helping us chase cows. Some guys working on the silo had left a gate open. Later that same evening we had to chase Mackie's bull. That happened several times after that. In fact several bulls from Mackies visited our cows. For a long time we didn't even know how they got into our field. When a bull would come up with the cows at night we'd yell "Go home, Bull!" He would turn around and go back out the meadow. We thought they had to be jumping the fence. Then one day someone caught one on his knees crawling in the creek under the fence. That sex drive is a powerful thing.

In February 1980 we chased cows in the rain, about 25 of them headed for Kemblesville. On June 4, 1980 I helped Andy drive cows out of the cornfield and fix the fence. On Sunday, October 25, 1981 we had just gotten cozy when there was a knock at the door and the telephone rang, both with the same message, "Your bull just walked out the lane."

At 6 a.m. on June 28, 1985 a bunch of young heifers got out. Andy yelled for help so I ran out in my pajamas. We rounded up 7 in the garden and 6 over in Thomas' field. One came home on her own. We were still missing one. Two weeks later on a Sunday morning Lakes, our neighbor, called to say there was a black heifer down by the cornfield. Andy, Daryl, and I went down in the jeep, but one of the Lake boys was the real hero. He grabbed the heifer by the tail as she ran by him and hung on. We brought her home in the jeep.

Township Directory

Board of Supervisors

Nan Latimer, Chair
Norman Hughes, Vice Chair
Eric Brindle, Member
Paul Overton, Member
Bill Skalish, Member

Administration

Jeffrey Eastburn, ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP MANAGER
Joan McVaugh, TREASURER
Sharon Norris, SECRETARY
Eileen Rembecki, SECRETARY (PART-TIME)
Duane Brady, BUILDING INSPECTOR AND ZONING OFFICER

Contact Information

In person:

20 Municipal Lane
Kemblesville, Pa. 19347
Office Hours: M-F, 8 am-4 pm
By Phone: 610-255-5212
By Fax: 610-255-0659

By Mail:

P. O. Box 118
Kemblesville, PA 19347
Email: info@franklintownship.us
On the web: www.franklintownship.us

Township Meetings

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE.

Supervisors' Work Session-

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Supervisors' Board Meeting-

3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Planning Commission-

1st Thursday of the month, 7pm

Historical Architectural Review Board and Historic Commission-

1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm

Open Space Committee-

2nd Tuesday, Jan.-May, Aug. & Nov. 7pm

Real Estate Tax Collector:

Berkheimer Associates
610-599-3143

Earned Income Tax Collectors:

Keystone Collections Group
144 Wallace Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
610-269-4402 (Customer Service)
888-328-0558 (Employer Hotline)
www.keystonecollects.com

Want more info?

The Township's website is continuously updated!

www.franklintownship.us

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**Inside the Fall 2011
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Franklin Township Newsletter**

Learn about

- the Avon Grove Library
- Importance of Regular Septic Pumping
- Life on a FT Farm

**Franklin Township
P. O. Box 118
Kemblesville, PA 19347**

WGFC Station 32 Update

After years of planning, the “brick and mortar” of the new West Grove Fire Company (WGFC) Station 32 is rising on Route 896 near Nichol Park. According to WGFC Chief Robert Weer, they are hoping to enclose the building before cold weather sets in and have the building completed by March or April 2012. When finished, the substation will house a fire engine with dual purpose rescue gear and an ambulance.

Weer says response times to accidents and properties in the southern part of their service area (much of Franklin Township) could be cut in half with the opening of this new substation.

Station 32 will be staffed 100 percent by volunteers. “WGFC is providing the building and trucks,” said Weer, “but it is up to the people to staff it.” There are a few qualified and experienced fire fighters from the area to start the station and the hope is that more people in this area will volunteer to become fire fighters with the station closer to where they live.

This process is similar to WGFC’s successful experience with Station 12 (on Route 896 in New London), which has resulted in additional volunteers and response times that made a difference in extinguishing fires.

Contact the WGFC for more information on becoming a fire fighter by calling 610-869-9326 or by email: info@wgfc.org.

Sign-up for Electronic Newsletters

Next year to save printing and postage costs Franklin Township will only print and mail two newsletters. The third newsletter will only be posted on the Township website and e mailed to residents who send us their email address and request to be added to the electronic newsletter mailing.

To receive all your Township information electronically, please send an email to: communications@franklintownship.us with “Electronic Newsletter” in the subject line. Include your name and address in the body of the email.

Your address will be removed from the mailing list and placed on the email list to receive future newsletters by email only.

About the Franklin Deer Management Association

The Franklin Deer Management Association’s remaining 2011-12 Hunting Season is as follows:

- **Archery:** December 26 to January 28, 2012
- **Firearms:** November 28 to December 10 (Banffshire and Franklin Preserve only) Preserves will be closed to the public during this season.

Approved members of the Franklin Deer Management Association may be hunting in Franklin Township’s preserves from dawn to 10 am and 2 pm until dusk (not on Sundays) during this season.

Safety zones are marked in each preserve as follows:

- White ribbon/paint markers are for archery. The zone is 50 yards from any occupied residence, camp, industrial, or commercial building, farm house or farm building.
- Orange ribbon/paint markers are for archery. The zone is 150 yards from any occupied residence, camp, industrial, or commercial building, farm house or farm building.
- The white and orange ribbons are also 25 yards from the road marking that as a safety zone, too.

Only FDMA members are permitted to hunt in the Township’s preserves. If a member of the FDMA is hunting in a preserve, information will be posted at the trail head in each preserve.

When participating in outdoor activities in the fall it is always a good idea to: wear orange/bright colors and stay on marked trails.

More information about the Franklin Deer Management Association is available on their website, easily accessed from the Franklin Township website (click on the Franklin Deer Management Association link, Public Notice 2011).

Direct questions about hunting in Franklin Township’s preserves to the FDMA through the Township Office.

Winter weather is coming! Please give the snowplows a break and remove all cars from the street before a storm. Other requests and tips are on the Township website.