

# Chesco News

W E D N E S D A Y , A U G U S T 1 2 , 2 0 0 9

## Free fans for Chester County seniors

As we dealt with our first real stretch of hot weather this year, The Department of Aging was able to distribute much-needed fans to many county seniors, thanks to a donation by PECO. Chester County received 100 fans, and promptly distributed them to many seniors in need of relief from the heat. Pictured below, helping to move the fans from the transport truck into a storage area at the GSC, are the Department of Aging's Doug Bernard (left) and Ashley Gillespie (right).



## Employee appreciation picnic dates set

To recognize the great service that Chester County employees provide throughout the year, the Commissioners will be hosting three picnics in September at the GSC, the Courthouse and Pocopson Home.

In keeping with the generosity displayed to local charities by county employees, the Commissioners will make a \$5,000 donation to the Chester County Food Bank, on behalf of and in appreciation of Chester County employees. Also, at this year's picnic, rather than *receiving* a small gift, we're asking you to *bring* a small gift—a food or toiletry item to add to the monetary donation being given to the Food Bank.



Pictured left, right, below and above right: County employees enjoying last year's picnics at the Courthouse, GSC and Pocopson Home.



As usual, burgers, hot dogs, salads, chips and fruit will abound. The picnics begin at 11:00 a.m. and the dates and locations are:



The GSC— Wednesday, Sept 16th  
The Courthouse—Tuesday, Sept 22nd  
Pocopson —Wednesday, Sept 23rd.

SUBMISSIONS FOR CHESCO NEWS SHOULD BE E-MAILED TO REBECCA BRAIN.

**Plaudits for the County...**

Chester County employees provide many services to the residents of the county, and beyond. And while it is often the case that we only hear from the disgruntled, it's reassuring to note that many good deeds do not go unnoticed.

Below are excerpts from letters and awards, received by different departments within Chester County, for the good work and commitment our employees deliver. The service we provide can make a difference.

**To the Commissioners:**

*"...I want to let you know my deep appreciation for the grant towards the 15.5 acre 'Marie' property. When I saw the good news on your website, it turned a cold, rainy Monday into the best day. For 13 years, I have been looking for a way to preserve the last vestige of my grandmother and grandfather Hall's farm and to keep as open space the land they loved. Your perception, planning and foresight over the years are most commendable..."*

**To the Register of Wills:**

*"...Thank you for sending the marriage certificate we asked for. It got here just fine, and we were able to get our work visas. Frankly I was not expecting such friendly and free service from a government office! You have single-handedly restored some confidence in our public servants!"*

**To the Treasurer's Office:**

***An award from the PA Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, in recognition of the outstanding performance in Dog License Sales Achievement, presented in appreciation of the hard work in Increasing dog license sales in Chester County—up 13 percent in 2008.***

**To the Department of Community Development:**

***A special "Un-sung Hero" award from the Brandywine Center in Coatesville, for directly impacting the "healing" of the Coatesville community after the winter arsons... Recognized for its outstanding generosity and the key role it played in unifying the spirit of the Coatesville community.***

**To Geographical Information Systems, from the US Department of Justice:**

*"On behalf of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, I would like to personally express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you...for your assistance during the Coatesville arson investigation. The Coatesville Arson Task Force worked tirelessly around the clock to investigate and solve these fires and to ensure that the safety and security of all those who live in Coatesville was restored. Your contribution to this effort was crucial to our success and your are to be commended..."*

**Springton Manor welcomes new residents**

Springton Manor Farm celebrated the start of summer in style this year with the birth of 12 piglets and a goat. The new additions to the collection of livestock have been a great attraction for farm visitors, and join many other family-based attractions and activities including a “catch and release” pond, the Indian Run Trail, the Butterfly House and family picnic area.



One of the twelve piglets born at Springton Manor Farm earlier this summer.

**Wellness activities in August**

The Chester County Wellness group is encouraging all of us to take our families and get out to the parks—Chester County Parks!

If you register for any of the participating programs through both the Wellness *and* the Parks event program, show your work ID badge to the ranger in charge of attendance at the program, and stay for the whole event, you can earn a puzzle piece.



Remaining participating programs include *Barren Buddies Adventures* at Nottingham County Park, *Sunset Kayak Tour* and *Ten Mile Hike* at Hibernia County Park, and an introduction clinic to Nordic Walking at Warwick County Park.

For more details, to register, and to take a look at all of the Wellness programs, click on the Wellness page on WebCC.

**Coming soon...  
Chester County “School of Government”**

What is the County’s responsibility when it comes to Open Space, transportation, your health and recreation, courts and justice, and emergency services? What are the County’s goals to provide the best services for its citizens?

Find out the answers to these questions, and more, at the Chester County *School of Government*. This free, seven-week course begins on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. A special Chester County employee session is scheduled every Tuesday, until November 10th, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Government Services Center. Watch the Home page of WebCC for more information and details

**Youth Center “pays it forward” to volunteers**

Earlier this summer, staff at the Chester County Youth Center set aside an afternoon to honor the many individuals and organizations that contribute to the Youth



Commissioner Farrell chats with Youth Center volunteers at the “Pay it forward” appreciation event in June.

Center and its residents. With Commissioners, the President Judge and many other department heads attending, Youth Center Director Gary Blair commended the volunteers for helping to create an environment that fosters social, emotional, intellectual and physical development for the youth who reside there. Gary and his staff also thanked members of the local community who have embraced the Center and helped in a number of ways to meet the needs of the Youth Center residents.

## **Strategic Planning Initiative update**



Chester County's Strategic Planning Initiative has a new look on the County website. It includes summaries of the six priorities areas identified by the Commissioners and the many goals developed within the priority areas.

To take a look at the new pages, go to [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org) and click on the *Strategic Planning Managing for Results* icon on the left side.

To date, seven county department business plans have been reviewed by senior staff, six departments' plans are currently being reviewed, and nine departments are preparing their business plans for approval.

## **Brenda Storti named Dispatcher of the Year**

Chester County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) dispatcher Brenda Storti has been awarded the title "Dispatcher of the Year" by the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC).

"Brenda has been with the Department of Emergency Services for nearly 25 years. But more important than her years of service is her contribution to EMS in Chester County," said DES Deputy Director for 9-1-1 Operations John Haynes. "As a telecommunicator, Brenda provides outstanding service to citizens and emergency service responders. As a trainer, she instills professionalism and service in her students."



PEHSC Dispatcher of the Year  
Brenda Storti

Brenda has been part of the DES mentoring team, which helps telecommunicators deal with the daily stress and issues of working in a 9-1-1 center, and is also active in the public education program.

## **Peggy Yokemick retires after 35+ years of service**

Chester County Court Administrator Peggy Yokemick was recently honored at an event marking her retirement.

Peggy started working at Chester County in the District Attorney's office over 35 years ago, then moved to Court Administration. For the past 12 years, she has presided over court administration, and during this time has represented Chester County as president of the Pennsylvania Association of Court Management and board secretary of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Court Management.



Peggy is pictured here at her retirement event, with (left to right) Judge Hall, Judge Nagle and Judge Riley.

## **North Coventry Park dedication**

The Chester County Commissioners recently presented a citation to North Coventry Parks & Recreation Board, at the official dedication of Coventry Woods. Coventry Woods is a new community park formerly known as Nueva Esperanza or Camp Fernbrook. The 500+ acre park was officially dedicated at the end of May.

Pictured here, receiving the citation from Commissioner Kathi Cozzone is Jay Erb, Chester County Parks & Recreation employee and chairman of the North Coventry Parks & Recreation Board.

