

Chesco News

T U E S D A Y , J U N E 1 7 , 2 0 0 8

New District Court for Honey Brook

When ground was broken in December 2007, there were few who could picture the new magisterial district court offices that would stand there in the Summer of 2008. On Wednesday, June 11th, the wait was over when Honey Brook District Court 15-3-06 officially opened. The opening event marked the success of a project that is great news for the residents of Honey Brook, the borough's American Legion (which owns the land and the building) and Chester County — especially the staff of District Court 15-3-06.

All three Chester County Commissioners, President Judge Paula Francisco Ott, and Honey Brook District Judge Michael Cabry took part in the official opening. Special recognition was also given to Randy Price of Facilities Management who managed the project, and Paul Andriole, director of Veterans Affairs, who brought the American Legion and the County together to plan the new building.



Out with the old...

The former courtroom at Honey Brook District Court

...In with the new

The present courtroom at Honey Brook, complete with sun tunnel lighting.



New Executive Director of Chester County Library System



Chester County welcomes a new Executive Director for its Library System. John Venditta, a native of Downingtown and formerly the Associate Director of the Western Maryland Public Libraries, has an extensive background in the workings of library systems.

With degrees in computer management and information systems, music education and a Master's of Library Science, John said he is excited to come back to Chester County. He has worked with libraries to implement digital services and has used technology as a "tool for communication" with patrons and other libraries.



Not only is the new district court a welcome addition, it is also a great example of a building developed within the County's environmental guidelines: The foundation includes eco-friendly binders and compounds; the materials came from local natural resources; the roof contains recycled roofing felt and 50-year green certified shingles; the rain gutters use recycled aluminum content; and sun tunnels were installed, providing daylight for all interior rooms. Landscaping was designed using low maintenance and low watering plants and shrubs. It is hoped that the building will soon be awarded LEED and Energy Star Certification.

Staying Healthy—latest offerings from the Wellness committee

Fiscal Fitness Friday:

The Debt Reduction Diet

Your body isn't the only thing you need to worry about keeping healthy. Why not cut down on that extra weight on your shoulders caused by financial issues and check out the **Fiscal Fitness Friday** seminar on "The Debt Reduction Diet." Discussion points will include ways to control spending, avoiding the credit card crunch, the relationship between stress and money, and examining your needs versus your wants. The seminar is from 1:00 – 2:00 PM on Friday, June 20 in the Domestic Relations Office, but space is limited to only 40 employees, so visit the Wellness website for registration and program details.



Skin Scope Screening

With the summer here and beautiful weather beckoning, make sure to play it safe while soaking up the sun's rays. You may not think you're at risk, but sun damage starts on the lower layers of the skin, and the initial damage is impossible to see with the naked eye. Between 2:00 and 5:00 PM on Thursday, June 26, the

Health Department's Skin Scope Analyzer will be located at the Chester County Youth Center. This analyzer determines the levels of sun damage on faces. No registration is required for this event, but scans will be given on a first come-first served basis.



MITCH's Market Street Gym

Looking to get that body in bathing suit condition? You're in luck. Corporate memberships with MITCH's Market Street Gym are now available to County employees, offering \$100 off enrollment, discounts, trial memberships for free group fitness, and the eZFit program. Look on the Wellness website for more information under "Fitness Center & Health Club Partnerships."

Town Tours & Village Walks

The beautiful, crisp air of a summer evening stroll is virtually unrivaled. Go out and enjoy the history-rich environs of Chester County, and bring the family along for one or more Town Tours and Village Walks. Sponsored by the Board of Commissioners, the Conference and Visitors Bureau, the Historic Preservation Network, and the Parks and Recreation Department, the series of walks takes place every Thursday evening from June



12 to August 21, excluding July 3. It's a great way to learn about Chester County and a perfect opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise. For more information, pick up a Chester County Town Tours & Village Walks brochure, or e-mail Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, Chester County Parks & Recreation, at kmarshall@chesco.org.

Wellness Program 1st anniversary brings Great Pumpkin reward to County employees

This past May marked the first anniversary of the Chester County Wellness Program. To help celebrate, the Great Pumpkin Health Food Store in West Chester offered gift cards to all County employees who were first-time participants in the Wellness program during May. The following County employees took the plunge into Wellness activities during May 2008, and have acquired valuable health information, a puzzle piece *and* a Great Pumpkin gift card:

Sherri Baer—Domestic Relations
Wendy Baigis—Adult Probation
Jay Gregg—Springton Manor
Megan Nilan—Public Defenders Office
Jackie Ratay—Domestic Relations
Kelly Ann Shedleski—District Court 15-1-01
Kevin Smith—DCIS
Nancy Warwick—CYF
Sharon Washington—Domestic Relations

Safety Zone

Here is another seasonal message from the Chester County Safety Committee:

Coping with the heat of Summer

With the heat and humidity of Summer on the rise, our bodies have to work extra hard to maintain a safe, normal temperature. Here are some tips to help prevent heat-related illness.



- ⇒ Wear light-coloured and loose-fitting clothing. Dark colors will attract and hold in more heat.
- ⇒ Make sure to give yourself a break from the sweltering heat. The hottest, and most dangerous hours of the day are between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm, so try to find somewhere with air conditioning like the mall or a library to spend this time if you do not have air conditioning at home.

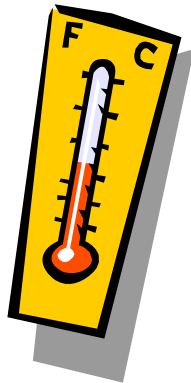


⇒ **STAY HYDRATED!** Make sure to drink lots of non-alcoholic, non-carbonated beverages like water and 100% juices.

⇒ Avoid foods that are high in protein.

These foods actually increase metabolic heat, which leads to water loss in your body. Try to eat more salads, fruits, and vegetables.

- ⇒ Do not leave children or pets in a closed vehicle for any amount of time. Temperatures inside vehicles can reach between 140 and 190 degrees within 30 minutes on hot days.



If you feel that you or someone you are with is suffering from a heat-related illness, seek medical attention.

People at the Greatest Risk of Heat-Related Illness Include:

- Infants and children up to 4 years of age
- People who:
 - Are 65+ years of age
 - Are overweight
 - Overexert during work or exercise
 - Are ill or on certain medications

Dress Down Day Update

In the past two months, Friday Dress Down Days have generated a great deal of support and money. The Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Foundation received \$960 and we contributed \$1,039 to Habitat for Humanity in Chester County. Thank you!

The June Dress Down Day – Friday, June 20 – will benefit the Chester County Foster Parents Association – an organization that aims to “support foster parents in achieving safety, permanence, and well-being for the children and youth in their care.”

With 42 children currently in Chester County’s Foster Care network and families frequently adopting the children they foster, there is always a need for new foster parents. Any assistance, whether it be monetary or volunteering to foster children, is welcomed and greatly appreciated.



Help these families give their children a bright and happy life; dress casually for work, and donate at least three dollars to the Foster Parents Association.



Congratulations to John Orcutt who was recently honored at the Chester County Parks & Recreation 50th Anniversary staff event. John was recognized by Commissioner Terence Farrell (right) and Parks Director John Mikowychok (left) for more than 37 years of service at Nottingham County Park.

A Friend in Need...

When the unexpected happens, and you cannot work for a prolonged period of time it can seem as though it will be impossible to make ends meet. Thanks to the County's Sick Time Donation policy, such does not have to be the case. Chester County employees who have accumulated more than 30 days of sick leave have the option of donating some of their sick time to other employees in need. And many employees are kind enough to make donations.

Dawn Breeden, from the Department of Emergency Services, broke her right ankle in late February 2008 and underwent surgery. She was out of work for two months, and could only return to work for ½ day each month after that. Dawn received a great deal of accrued sick time donated from County employees, and she is truly grateful to all who helped.

If you want to learn more about the County's *Caring Co-worker Policy*, visit the Human Resources page of WebCC — <http://webcc.chesco.org/sicktime>.

Carpool

Why not lessen the financial burden of rising gas prices and, at the same time, get to know your co-County employees better and carpool? The Chester County WebCC homepage has a link to the Employee Bulletin Board in which a new topic has been opened regarding carpooling. Take a look, post your information, and see if anyone in your area wants to share a ride to work.



Treasurer Alan Randzin Appointed VP Finance for Boy Scout Council

Chester County Treasurer Alan Randzin has been named Vice President Finance of the Executive Committee for the Chester County Council Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Randzin also recently participated in the 4th Annual Pennsylvania Public Employee Retirement Systems program, where he served as a moderator for the Actuarial Roles and Relationships portion of the forum.

Gardening at the GSC

In a tribute to all individuals who are promoting and practicing the principles of Self Determination and Recovery, a new "Recovery, Self Determination, Early Intervention Garden" was planted at the Chester County Government Services Center. The garden will be maintained by Mental Health/Mental Retardation. Thanks go to Tracey Mammarelli and Erica Colbert in MH/MR and the team in facilities management for putting this all together.



Above left to right: Tony James, Craig Huskins, Kristen White, Erica Colbert, Rafael Romero, Commissioner Kathi Cozzone and Florence Irwin pose with the newly planted Recovery Garden.



Clockwise from left: Richard Geiger, Joyce Bobbit, Commissioner Kathi Cozzone, Gerri Mento, Pat Montgomery, John Montgomery, Tracey Mammarelli and Todd Davis with the Self-Determination garden.



Todd Davis puts some finishing touches on the garden, as Commissioner Cozzone, Gary Entrekin, and Geri Mento supervise.