

Kennett TOWNSHIP

TO: Kennett Township Board of Supervisors
FROM: Eden Ratliff, Township Manager
SUBJECT: March 2022 Department Head Report

1. Kennett Township Police Awards Ceremony

At the last Board of Supervisors meeting, KTPD Chief Matt Gordon led an awards ceremony honoring six local first responders. First, Gordon presented a Commendation for Heroism to Kennett Square Police Officer Mark Todd, Longwood Fire Company Sergeant Brandon Fuller, and Kennett Township Public Works Foreman PJ Groff (who is a trained fire fighter in his home municipality). These three men helped save a woman's life after she was involved in a car accident that resulted in her SUV sinking in the Red Clay Creek last November.



(left to right) Kennett Township Police Chief Matt Gordon, Kennett Square Police Officer Mark Todd, Longwood Fire Company Sergeant Brandon Fuller, and Kennett Township Public Works Foreman PJ Groff - Commendation for Heroism. The second photo is the Victim of the car crash hugging Officer Todd.

Police Officer Chris Parrish. Officer Parrish was unable to attend due to the recent birth of his child, so Kennett Square Lieutenant Kenneth Rongaus accepted the award on his behalf. Their life saving and negotiation actions following a shooting in November led to this Commendation for Bravery.



(left to right) Supervisor Geoffrey Gamble, Esq., Kennett Square Police Department Lieutenant Kenneth Rongaus (who accepted the award for Kennett Square Police Officer Chris Parrish who was home with his newborn baby), Kennett Township Manager Eden Ratliff, Kennett Township Corporal Jeff Call, Vice Chair Scudder Stevens, Kennett Township Police Chief Matt Gordon – Commendation for Bravery. (left to right) Supervisor Geoffrey Gamble, Esq., Kennett Township Manager Eden Ratliff, Kennett Township Detective Miguel Juarez, Vice Chair Scudder Stevens, Kennett Township Police Chief Matt Gordon – 2021 Officer of the Year.

The third award of the night was presented to newly promoted Detective Juarez. He was named the 2021 Officer of the Year award. Besides his duties as a detective, Detective Juarez filled many shifts on patrol to fill the gaps where needed, assisted many outside agencies with his Spanish speaking abilities, modernized the KTPD police fleet services, and helped tremendously with administrative duties as the Chief’s Executive Assistant was out on maternity leave. There were many more things Chief Gordon spoke about that made Detective Juarez the obvious choice for this prestigious award.

2. PennDOT MFT 5 Points Roundabout

We are excited to move forward with our Five Points Roundabout project that is being funded largely by a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from PennDOT. This will not be a quick process, but rest assured that the Board is taking their time to ensure this is executed in the most cost-effective way. Once PennDOT receives the signed MFT Reimbursement Agreement that Resolution 2022-8 authorizes Chairman Leff to sign, it will take about four weeks to go through the necessary offices of PennDOT, after which we will be assigned an effective date. We will have three years to execute this grant from that effective date and will keep you informed to the process.

3. Spar Hill

At the end of February, there was a meeting at Spar Hill with Scott Miles of H. A. Thompson Co. – the Township’s liability insurance company. In addition to myself and Miles, Public Works Foreman PJ Groff and our Finance & HR Specialist Dina McIlvaine also participated. The purpose of the meeting was to find ways to safely bar access to the dangerous structures on the property, which will enable us to remove the “No Trespassing” signs at the entrance. We are still actively pursuing how to best utilize this property but want to take steps to make it more accessible now, especially with spring right around the corner.

The Historic Commission is pursuing a study some of the structures on the property to determine if they can be preserved and to what extent. A formal proposal for that study is

expected in April. The results of the study will inform a forthcoming recommendation on historic preservation of the farm if merited.

4. COVID Update

Chester County is experiencing a decreasing number of positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations and as a result Kennett Township will be ending its mask mandate for staff and visitors. Those experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive are encouraged to follow the appropriate guidelines as set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Respectfully Submitted.

Eden R. Ratliff
Township Manager