



*Established 1725*

# London Britain Township Newsletter

**Chester County, Pennsylvania**

**SPRING 2011**

## London Britain Township Census Results

Results of the 2010 Census are in. The United States of America grew by 9.7 percent in the last 10 years with 308.7 million people in the United States, up from 281.4 million people in 2000. Here's what the census revealed:

- London Britain Township now has 3,139 people, which is up 342 people or 12.2 percent from the 2000 census.
- Pennsylvania now has 12,702,379 people up 421,325 people or 3.4 percent from the 2000 census. Pennsylvania is the sixth most populated state in the Union.
- London Britain Township is ranked 876 in municipal population out of over 2650 Pennsylvania municipalities. This is up

from 950 in the 2000 census.

- Chester County continues to be the seventh largest county in Pennsylvania with 498,886 people. Its population increased 65,385 people, or 15.1 percent from the 2000 Census. It has 3.9 percent of the total share of population in the state.
- We live in the fifth most populated metro area: Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA/NJ/DE/MD. The 2010 census states 5,965,343 people now live in this area, an increase of 4.9 percent (278,196 people) since 2000.

Details and analysis of the 2010 U. S. Census are online at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). With maps, charts, and data galore clicking through the site is a great way to spend a rainy day. One important outcome of the census data is the redistricting of legislative seats at both the state and federal levels. This process will unfold over the next few months.

In April 2011, the Pennsylvania State Data Center issued: The State of the Commonwealth 2011. Based on the 2009 American Community Survey, it contains data on demographics and population, social characteristics, the elderly, education, and income and poverty about the citizens of Pennsylvania.

The press release announcing the report stated the following information:

- Households: In 2009, Pennsylvania had 4,916,869 households, 65.0 percent of

which are family households. Family households are defined as any group of people living in the same housing unit where at least two of the people are related to each other by birth, marriage or adoption. The average size of a Pennsylvania household in 2009 was 2.47.

- The Elderly: Pennsylvania has one of the largest elderly populations among the states, and it represents a large share of the state's population. In 2009, 15.4 percent of the total Pennsylvania population was 65 or older. Over one quarter of all Pennsylvania households included one or more persons 65 or older.
- Education: Pennsylvania's population has become better-educated overall since the last Decennial Census. The percent of Pennsylvanians 25 years of age or older with no high-school diploma fell from 18.1 percent in 2000 to only 12.1 percent in 2009. The number of Pennsylvanians 25 and over who earned a Bachelor's degree or higher rose from 22.4 percent in 2000 to 26.4 percent in 2009.
- Income and Poverty: The median income of all Pennsylvania households in 2009 was \$49,520. Nearly one-in-five households received retirement income in 2009. Pennsylvania had a smaller portion of its population in poverty than the national average: 12.5 percent compared to 14.3 percent nationwide.

### Message from the Board

We are fortunate to have a number of dedicated volunteers in London Britain Township. It is easy to take for granted the work of many folks who contribute their time and energy toward making our Township such a lovely and livable place. The following groups have members who are truly making a difference in the quality of all our lives here in London Britain:

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board

The Open Space and Trails Committee

The London Britain Township Land Trust

Members of West Grove and Avondale Fire and Ambulance Crews

Our SECCRA and Recycling Representatives

Our Avon Grove Library Representative and Satellite Librarian

Our Resident Roadside Clean-Up Volunteers

In addition to the groups listed, there are countless others who contribute over and above their duties, such as members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. It is hard to find the words to express our appreciation to these individuals for the countless hours they have given to us all. Perhaps we can simply say a heartfelt THANK YOU!

*With gratitude,  
Aileen Parrish, Chair*

### Update: Mason-Dixon Greenway South

Last fall and winter's weather wreaked havoc with progress on the Mason Dixon Greenway South project at the corner of Flint Hill and Strickersville roads.

Although the project was supposed to be completed by Dec. 31, 2010, the Township was granted extensions on the state and county grants that were funding a majority of the project.

Currently the contractors are working on completing the parking lot, the interpretive garden plantings inside the parking lot, installation of picnic tables, benches, kiosk in the parking lot area, working on laying the pavers for the woodland walkway, installation of benches, picnic table and outlook deck, mulching around the trees and installing the trail markers.

# Clean-Water Mandates Could Be Coming to a Town Near You

*Excerpted from "Townships Today," Fall 2010*

Pennsylvanians use 14.3 billion gallons of water every day, and return almost all of it—12.7 billion gallons—to the environment, the state Department of Environmental Protection reports.

And the truth is, your manicured yard, likely cultivated with fertilizers and pesticides, is having an adverse impact on local water supplies and those further downstream.

Why? Because much of the water entering Pennsylvania's six major watersheds—the Delaware, Erie, Genesee, Ohio, Potomac, and Susquehanna/Chesapeake basins—is contaminated with nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment.

This mish-mash of pollutants, coming from such sources as lawn and garden chemicals, stormwater, livestock manure, dirt, and wastewater, is degrading streams and lakes in our township along with bodies of water much farther away, including the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary.

"Streams, lakes, and other bodies of water are affected by what happens in their watershed—the land areas that drain to them," DEP says on their website. "That means that each of us has a special responsibility to use our land and water in ways that do not harm aquatic life and other water users downstream."

## **Pennsylvania put on a 'pollution diet'**

Your individual actions are especially important now that the federal government has put increased pressure on municipalities in the Susquehanna/Chesapeake Bay Watershed, which feeds the Chesapeake Bay and covers the District of Columbia, and parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered officials in this region to clean up the bay or else. And it appears only a matter of time before the EPA turns its attention to other water basins, including those in Pennsylvania.

"The time for talking has indeed passed. We have to act, and we are settling for nothing less than real results," EPA administrator Lisa P. Jackson told attendees at a recent bay summit.

In her remarks, Jackson was alluding to the fact that efforts to save the Chesapeake Bay have stretched over decades, beginning in the 1970s with the passage of the Clean Water Act and continuing through today with bay states making plans and promises but never quite reaching their goals.

This has led the EPA, spurred to action by a White House executive order and legal settlement with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, to put the entire bay watershed on a strict "pollution diet" based on a baywide total maximum daily load (TMDL).

This budget of sorts, the largest and most complex ever developed, established binding state limits for three major bay pollutants: nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. The EPA is also targeting the sources of these pollutants: sewage treatment plants, fertilized lawns, farms, and stormwater runoff.

Since its release, the bay TMDL has been divided among the six bay state and D.C., which are now required to devise a clean-up plan that details how they intend to reduce contaminants through 2025.

The EPA will monitor the bay states' progress in reducing pollution through a series of two-year milestones. Those states that fail face a handful of consequences, from reduced funding to more federal oversight, particularly over stormwater systems and wastewater treatment plants.

## **Sharing the burden**

So what does this mean for Pennsylvania, our township and our residents?

Well, it means that as a state, we need to come up with programs and technologies that improve water quality in the bay waters and beyond. For us as a community, it means we need to pull together and realize that our actions on the ground affect the water we drink and play in here and hundreds of miles away.

Therefore, we are encouraging you to be



a part of the clean-water solution by taking the following steps suggested by the Chesapeake Bay Program:

**Reduce you nutrient input to the watershed.** Limit the amount of fertilizer spread on lawns and gardens. Plant native vegetation that requires less fertilizer and water. Leave grass clippings on lawns and gardens. Maintain your septic system. Start a compost pile, instead of using a garbage disposal.

**Reduce the use of toxic materials around your house and yard, including pesticides.** Use safer, non toxic alternatives for cleaning your house and controlling pests.

**Reduce erosion.** Plant strips of native vegetation along streams and shorelines. Divert runoff from paved surfaces to vegetated areas to promote absorption and reduce runoff.

**Save water.** Use water-saving devices in toilets and sinks. Turn off water when not in use. Wash cars in grassy areas to soak up soapy water. Use a rain gauge to monitor rainfall and water plants only if needed. Invest in a soaker hose or drip irrigation system to further conserve water.

**Get involved.** Join or start a watershed association to monitor local waters and encourage others to be clean-water advocates. Participate in watershed cleanup activities.

## Information Session on Conservation and Ag Easements

A London Britain Township Land Trust meeting, all invited to attend

London Britain Township Land Trust Board will hold a “get together” on Friday, June 3 at 7 pm at Nonantum Farm (47 Good Hope Road) on Conservation and Agricultural Easements.

The meeting will focus on the progress we have made in preserving land and open space in our township, and provide information on potential new easements and their financial and tax advantages to landowners.



Short presentations from representatives of Natural Lands Trust, Brandywine Conservancy, Southern Chester County Land Trust, and the River Coordinator for the White Clay Wild and Scenic River will be made followed by time for questions and individual discussions.

All Township residents are invited to attend. Come and join your neighbors for a fun and informative evening in the Barn at Nonantum Farm (with refreshments).

### 2011 Township Road Maintenance

Various sections of Flint Hill Road (from 1705 Flint Hill to Good Hope Road and Good Hope Road to Indiantown Road) and London Tract Road (from Broad Run Road to New Peltier and Glen Road to South Bank Road) are included in this year's road maintenance program.

Work will include the milling and patching of deteriorating sections of road. Estimated costs are \$27,000 for Flint Hill Road and \$72,100 for London Tract Road. The work is expected to be completed by July 30.

The Township's road crew will fix potholes and patch other sections of township roads as needed.

### Cell Tower Ordinance Passed

A hearing was advertised for and held on April 4, 2011 to inform the public, hear comment and possibly pass and enact the London Britain Township Cell Tower Zoning Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to adopt the Cell Tower Ordinance on April 4

This Ordinance was an Ordinance amending the LBT Zoning Ordinance of 1980, as amended, to permit and regulate communications antennas, towers and equipment buildings. If you would like more information on the Cell Tower Ordinance please contact the Township office.

### West Grove Fire Company/ LBT Station Update

West Grove Fire Company continues to work through the process of building London Britain Township Station 32 near Nichol Park, on Route 896.

Since the last update the retaining wall necessary to level the lot was installed.

Currently WGFC is negotiating the financing to build the station. Once obtained, final permit approvals from the Township are all that remains before the contractors can start actual construction.

WGFC recently accepted delivery of a new 2011 Pierce Arrow XT Pumper. This new fire truck gives the fire company



the ability to keep both a fire truck and an ambulance at the LBT station, which should result in faster arrival times to emergency scenes in this Southern portion of their coverage area.

London Britain Township residents interested in becoming volunteer firefighters at this station are encouraged to contact the Fire Company.

Details about West Grove Fire Company and the construction project are available online at [www.wgfc.org](http://www.wgfc.org).

WGFC Stats: Jan. March 2011	
EMS Incidents	Fire Incidents
◆ Total: 488	◆ Total: 123
◆ LBT: 32	◆ LBT: 8

## Township Directory

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Aileen Parrish - Chairman  
Glenn Frederick - Vice Chairman  
David Owens - Member

### STAFF

Carolyn Matalon - Secretary and Parks Manager  
Dave Gargula - Zoning Officer  
Joe Ferguson - Roadmaster  
Dan Tracey, Steven Henry, and Steve Dudkewitz - Road Crew  
Pat Walsh, Walsh Engineering - Township Engineer  
Janie Schnelle - Tax Collector  
Annette Stejskal - Treasurer

### CONTACT INFO

Office/Meeting Hall/Garage:  
81 Good Hope Rd., Landenberg PA 19350

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 215, Kemblesville PA 19347

Phone: 610-255-0388  
Fax: 610-255-3542

### WEBSITE

[www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov](http://www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov)

### EMAIL

[carolyn.londonbritaintwp@comcast.net](mailto:carolyn.londonbritaintwp@comcast.net)

## Township Meetings

All meetings are held at the LBT Meeting Hall on Good Hope Road, 7 p.m.

Agendas are posted on the Township website by noon on the day of the meeting

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Second and fourth Mondays of the month (except December, plus call or check website for other dates and/or canceled meetings)

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Each Tuesday following a Board of Supervisors' meeting

*This newsletter is published by the London Britain Township Board of Supervisors, and produced by Secretary Carolyn Matalon and Lucas Communications and Publications.*

# The Evans House and Mill

Along Sharpless Road, in White Clay Creek State Preserve, is one of the oldest houses in London Britain Township. The original stone section (center of house) is believed to have been built between 1700 and 1705 by John Evans, formerly of New Castle County.



*Across the street from the house is the original millrace, which at one time allowed the water of the mill pond to flow to the mill.*

John Evans and his family arrived in Philadelphia from Wales in the 1690s. He purchased 400 acres of land at the headwaters of the White Clay Creek, which he intended to settle. By 1715 an active plantation was operating at the site, including a mill.

John Evans had a son John Evans, Jr. in 1700. John Evans Jr. married Jane Howell and settled at the Evan's plantation in 1722.

John Evans, Jr. was one of the signers of the petition to organize London Britain Township in 1725. In 1734 John Evans, Jr. purchased 1,000 adjoining acres of land,

which was originally part of William Penn's land grant in New Garden Township. Located on the eastern side of the township, these lands became part of London Britain Township.

John Evans Jr. had six children, when on his death in 1738 his holdings were divided between the four sons. John Evans III received the homestead with 500 acres and a grist mill. His brother Evan received 400 acres with fulling mills and center yards, and brothers George and Peter split the remaining 600 acres.

John Evans III was appointed Third Judge of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth in 1777. He married Mary Jones and had many children, all but one, Mary, died before him. He died in 1783 and his daughter shortly thereafter. John Evans, Jr.'s lands—719 acres—were divided between his brothers Evan, George, and Peter.

It is believed the brick section of house was added by Evan Evans in the mid to late 1700s as the Evans settlement continued to flourish. The kitchen dormer was added sometime in the early 1800s.

The mill was used over the years as a grist mill and saw mill. The last mill on the site was torn down in the 1950s.

According to Bill Morton, Park Superintendent at White Clay Creek Preserve there was an intention to use the house



*Evans House, 2010, with the roof noticeably in need of repair.*

as the park office when the lands became the state preserve over 25 years ago. This never materialized.

The house was inhabited until the late 1990s when one of the major hurricanes flooded the valley.

Now uninhabitable, with windows boarded, the house is deteriorating rapidly. Morton says there are no state funds available to repair the failing roof. He expects that within 10 years all that will be left is the stone and brick shell.



*Evans House late 1990s when still occupied.*

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