

DID YOU KNOW?

When was the petition approved to divide Bradford Township in two, and where was it served?

The petition to divide Bradford Township into West Bradford Township and East Bradford Township was approved, "...this 30th day of November Anno Domini 1731."

It was served in the City of Chester, now in Delaware County, then the Chester County seat.

What was the total number of pupils enrolled in the Romansville Public School for the fall term of 1892?

Gertrude Cunningham had 12 male and 17 female students in her class between the ages of 7 and 17. Her monthly salary was \$35.

What did Henry L. Pratt, "an extensive dairyman," first use in West Bradford in January 1867?

The American Cow Milker – "a sure cure for aching hands and kicking cows." His testimonial noted, "Respected Friend, - After some misgiving I am prepared to acknowledge the American Milking Machine a complete success, having had it used in our dairy nearly two months. Our cows are milked in one-half the time that it required by hand. No doubt very easy for the animal. Please send me another machine."

What year were the two Route 322 bridges that cross the Brandywine Creek built?

The two bridges, which are at the Township boundaries, on Rt. 322 were built in 1929 by the Pennsylvania Highway Department.

Within the last 25 years the two bridges were rehabilitated and the decks were removed and replaced with open grate decking. That was done to remove weight from the bridges so that they did not have to be weight restricted.

West Bradford Township has a connection to the movie classic, "Casablanca." What is it?

Actor Claude Rains, who earned an Oscar Nomination for supporting actor when he portrayed Louis in the film, lived in West Bradford Township. Mr. Rains called Chester County his home and owned the Stock Grange Farm on Romansville Road from 1941 to 1958. Kennedy, Joseph S. "From film to farm: Claude Rains." The Philadelphia Inquirer. May 20, 2001.

When was the West Bradford Fire Company formed?

The fire company was officially formed in December 1953. The first firehouse was a rented garage in the alley on the south side of Marshallton. In 1961, the West Bradford Fire Company moved to its present location at 1305 W. Strasburg Road. In 1994 a sub-station was located in the western portion of the township at the West Bradford Township Campus. Visit the fire company's web site at www.wbfc.org for more information.

Where was the first shopping center in West Bradford Township?

According to a historical researcher, In the 1700's Marshallton was a bustling center with all kinds of shops and businesses. Among the types of shops were a seamstress, blacksmith, cabinetmaker, barber, tobacconist, hat maker, machinist and a cigar maker. With the village being on a drover's road between Lancaster and Philadelphia there were several inns in and near the village

What was the expenditure by the West Bradford Township School Board for education 60 years ago?

In May 1940 the school Board spent a total of \$1,724.86. That included teacher's salaries and payments to West Chester, Downingtown, Unionville, and Haverford for students to attend high school. There were six teachers: each earned approximately \$25.00 per week.

How many municipalities were once a part of West Bradford Township?

Two other townships were once a part of West Bradford; of course back then it was just Bradford Township. East Bradford and a portion of Pocopson Township were once part of West Bradford. The creation of East Bradford occurred in 1731 and a portion was included in the creation of Pocopson in 1849

When was the last militia training held in West Bradford Township, and what was the fine for not attending?

According to an article in the 1894 "Morning Republican", the last training was held in 1835 or 1836. If you were between the ages of 18 and 45, and did not attend, you were subject to a fine of 50 cents.

As the public by that time did not feel the need for this training it was not taken too seriously. The last participants were pelted with rotten eggs and left the training grounds. This ended the militia training in West Bradford.

What does this milk bottle have to do with West Bradford Township and why is it significant to this issue of the newsletter?

The Hedrick Dairy was located in West Bradford Township when local dairy farms bottled their milk for market. It is significant to this issue because the Broad Run Park was the site of Hedrick's Dairy.

What effect did the Lincoln Highway (Route 30) have on the development of West Bradford?

The Lincoln Highway, known as the Lincoln Pike, was a toll road for east and west travelers. The Strasburg Road generally parallels Lincoln Highway and was free, therefore many drivers used it instead of Lincoln Highway. The result was that Marshallton and Romansville grew with businesses to support the travelers on Strasburg Road.

On an old map of West Bradford there is a "fulling mill" on Broad Run Creek. (Fulling pronounced fool-ing.)

A fulling mill is:

- A) A place where leather is filled with a liquid for tanning.**
- B) A place where local government meetings are held.**
- C) A place where wool is thickened by the application of moisture, heat, friction and pressure.**

A fulling mill is a factory where cloth is fulled. The process as listed in answer "C" causes the fibers to felt. The process was known as fulling, which was pronounced, fool-en.

What did West Bradford and Moscow have in common? That's right, Moscow, as in the former Soviet Union.

After World War II, when development of high rise apartments was booming in the Soviet Union, black poplar trees were planted in huge numbers, particularly in Moscow. They were the fastest growing, most enduring shade trees at the time. The only problem is that after 15 plus years the female trees produce large amounts of seeds, which appear as fluff or down. This fluff, called pukh in Russian, creates a multitude of annoying problems.

When the Bradford Glen development was built, the developer planted a large number of the black poplars as street trees. A number of years later the same problems that Moscow endures were evident in Bradford Glen. At that time, the township, the homeowners association and the developer joined forces and removed approximately 630 of the offending trees and created a new street tree scape with a variety of more appropriate types of trees.

Who from our township has been inducted into the Aviation Hall of Memories at the Chester County Airport?

Mrs. Mildred Albertson was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Memories at the Chester County Air Show in the fall of 1997. Mrs. Albertson was honored for her many years as a radio correspondent to pilots, who often referred to her as their "guardian angel". Mrs. Albertson and her family have operated a farm on the Strasburg Road for a number of years. During that time she has been active in various organizations such as the PA Flying Farmers and the Aero Club of Chester County. Congratulations to Mrs. Albertson for receiving this honor.

Do you know what the pay rate was for an elementary school teacher in West Bradford Township in 1952?

Miss Anna Nields was the principal at the Marshallton Elementary School and was paid \$260.90 per month in 1952. In 1936 she received \$119.80 per month in the same position. She was fondly known by her students as Miss Anna. During the period of time that Miss Anna taught in Marshallton the township had its own school board to operate the elementary school and was not a part of the Downingtown Area School District.

How many covered bridges are there in West Bradford Township?

Only one, or perhaps one-half, as the Gibson Bridge on the east branch of the Brandywine Creek is half in West Bradford and half in East Bradford. Although the bridge is close to Route 322, the up ramp part of the bridge is owned by West Bradford Township and the road on the other side is owned by East Bradford. The bridge is owned by Chester County.

The Village of Romansville was previously known by a different name. What was that name? Hint, of three inns that existed in the mid 1800's one had the same name as the town.

The village of Romansville once was known as Kildee(r) Hill. The three inns were Worth's Sign of the Golden Eagle, Kildee Inn (also known as Starr Tavern and West Bradford Hotel), and Rohrer's Halfway House.

Jonathan Gause taught in West Bradford starting in 1807. He was known as a master teacher with a fine reputation. In 1832 he established a school for boys. What was the name of the place and where was the school located?

The place was Greenwood Dell. It was located on Camp Linden Road and eventually became Camp Linden; and is now a private residence. Mr. Gause taught at his school for ten years and then became principal of the Unionville Academy. Later he returned to Greenwood Dell and taught there until 1865, when he retired.

Why was the Marshallton Inn, originally owned by Abraham Martin, denied a license to operate a hotel and tavern in 1814?

Mr. Martin petitioned to operate a hotel and tavern citing an expenditure of \$1500.00 to prepare his buildings. Although his petition had 75 signers, 24 others filed a challenge that an additional public house was not needed and that a license would, "probably lead to mischief and disorder". The Center House, corner of Northbrook Road and Strasburg Road, held a license to operate a hotel and tavern at the time.

How much did the land for the Methodist graveyard in Romansville cost?

The land was conveyed to Richard Webster, Isaac Rollin and John King, ministers of the Gospel, in 1811 for the sum of 20 cents!

In 1919, a club was started in West Bradford Township. The initials of the club were U.R.I. What did the initials stand for and what was the purpose of the club?

U.R.I. was the United Road Improvement Club and was formed at the home of John W. Shofstall's Andara Farm. The U.R.I. Club was formed to improve the roads in West Bradford. By the year 1923, two of the members were finding fault with each other over road improvements and were sending letters to the editor of the newspaper to espouse their position. At that time, one was a supervisor and the other an elected auditor for the township.

The club formation was witnessed by a newspaper reporter who stated that he only wrote a short article because the rough roads caused him to lose his pencil.

How much did it cost to mail a letter from Marshallton to Thorndale in 1895?

An envelope that was mailed from the post office in Marshallton (there is not a post office in Marshallton today) to an address in Thorndale, contained a two cent stamp. The envelope, that is referenced was sent to William Stouff at the Thorndale Iron Works. He is believed to have been a Supervisor in West Bradford Township about that time.

When was the first band organized in West Bradford?

The first band was organized in 1844 by Milton Clayton. It was known as the Marshallton Cornet Band. The band had, at various times, between twelve and twenty members.

In the mid to late 1800's, a water line was placed to transport water from a reservoir on Sawmill Road into the Borough of Downingtown. What method was used to flow that water into Downingtown?

The water was delivered to Downingtown by siphon. The 10 inch water main extended from Sawmill Road, over the hill of what was the Y.M.C.A. Camps, now Brandywine Ridge development, across Route 322 and into Downingtown. The elevation of the reservoir is approximately 320 feet above sea level; the highest elevation of the pipe was 365 feet and Downingtown is approximately 240 feet. At the highest elevation, an air valve was used to evacuate the line. The water ran through the line for approximately 100 years; first as a supply to the borough and finally feeding the boilers at the Davey Paper Company. The line has now been shut down, abandoned, and mostly dismantled.

In 1873 a building in West Bradford was described as being three stories in height, 150 feet long and 54 feet deep. What building would that have been?

The Chester County Almshouse or Poorhouse. It was located on the south side of what is now Embreeville Center. The building, made of brick, at that time housed 252 adults and 64 children. Included in the number of adults were 19 insane, 21 idiotic, 3 blind and one deaf and dumb person. The building was torn down in the 1960's and is now the site of a baseball field operated by West Bradford Youth Association.

What is the "light-line?" And what connection does it have to West Bradford Township?

The "light-line" was a string of beacon lights that went from Cleveland to Philadelphia. It was established in the 1930's to guide airplanes used for mail delivery before the advent of various airplace guidance systems. The lights were spaced at 10 mile intervals and had red lights attached that would give the light number in morse code. The pilot would fly from light to light. If you read that it was "tower 28," you would be 280 miles from Cleveland. One of the towers was located on land off from Beacon Hill Road. That area has the highest elevation in the township. The light-line ceased operation early in the 1950's.

Bradford Township was divided into East and West Bradford in what year?

- a. 1694 b. 1705 c. 1731 d. 1845 e. 1925**

Bradford Township was divided in 1731 (answer c).

Humphrey Marshall was a well known?

- a. botanist b. artist c. general d. innkeeper e. principle**

Humphrey Marshall was a well-known botanist (answer a).

Indian Hannah was Chester County's last resident Lenape Indian. Her cabin was in?

- a. Marshallton b. Trimbleville c. Victoria d. Northbrook
e. Brandywine Greene**

Indian Hannah's cabin was located in Northbrook (answer d).

The site of the crossing of the Brandywine by British Troops in 1777 was at?

- a. Marshallton
- b. Trimbleville
- c. Northbrook
- d. Embreeville
- e. King George Crossing

The site of the crossing was at Trimbleville (answer b)

Between 1700-1750 which industry was an important cottage industry in the Marshallton area?

- a. cigar maker
- b. shoemaker
- c. blacksmith
- d. tinsmith
- e. all of these

All four industries were important in the Marshallton area (answer e).

Which famous actor lived at Stock Grange in the 1940's?

- a. Cary Grant
- b. Ray Schneider
- c. Claude Raines
- d. Stuart Grainger
- e. Edward G. Robinson

Claude Raines lived at Stock Grange in the 1940's (answer c).

Whose plane landed in West Bradford during a foggy night in 1928?

- a. Wilbur Wright
- b. Will Rogers
- c. The Red Baron
- d. Charles Lindbergh
- e. Amelia Erhardt

Charles Lindbergh's plane landed in West Bradford in 1928 (answer d).

Nathan Simms is buried in the Bradford Cemetery in Marshallton. Who was Nathan Simms?

- a. A Revolutionary War General who died in the Battle of the Brandywine.
- b. Pennsylvania's first Supreme Court Justice.
- c. A slave boy who helped John Wilkes Booth escape and told the Union soldiers where he went, thus aiding in his capture.
- d. Played short stop for the Philadelphia Phillies between 1910-1927 and made the first unassisted triple play in Phillies history.
- e. Served as a member of the Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence.

Nathan Simms was a slave boy who helped John Wilkes Booth escape, and told the Union soldiers where he went, thus aiding in his capture (answer c).

Which event was the major reason for the growth of Romansville and Marshallton during the 1790's?

- a. Construction of Fort Bradford.
- b. The opening of Bradford School.
- c. Construction of Strasburg Road.
- d. Trade with the Lenni-Lenape Indians
- e. Betsy Ross opened a flag shop in Romansville.

The construction of Strasburg Road was the major reason for the growth of Romansville and Marshallton during the 1790's (answer c).

Romansville developed around a shop owned by John Romans. This shop was?

- a. candle shop b. blacksmith shop c. newspaper shop
- d. cigar shop e. flower shop

John Romans owned a blacksmith shop (answer b).

How many of West Bradford's "boys" were lost in World War II?

There were eight of our "boys" lost in World War II. Considering the population of west Bradford in 1940 was 776, the number was quite significant. A monument to these heroes was erected at the school in Marshallton during the 50's and when the school closed, it was moved to the Bradford Cemetery. A ceremony is held in their memory on the Sunday before Memorial Day each year. This ceremony has been held on Sunday because in years past, the high school band and veterans groups were busy in the "bigger" towns on Memorial Day.

Our Honor Roll – World War II

E. Roy Eshleman, Jr., Oscar Eshleman, Robert P. Guiler, Chester F. Harple, Charles A. Henk, Horace J. Keller, William H. McAllister and Ralph Wilson

Who assigns street numbers?

Street numbers are assigned by the municipality. A lot of people think that the post office assigns the numbers, but they do not. Under state law, the authority to set street numbers has been given to the municipalities. West Bradford Township's numbering system follows a pattern that was established in 1968 with the numbers emanating from the center of West Chester.

What is the highest elevation above sea level in West Bradford Township?

The highest elevation above sea level in West Bradford Township is 594 feet. The location is near the intersection of Glenside Road and Beacon Hill Road. The lowest elevation is 200 feet and its location is along the west branch of the Brandywine Creek near Northbrook Road and the village of Northbrook.

What is the largest bird that can often be seen in West Bradford Township?

The Great Blue Heron can often be seen along the streams, ponds and wetlands of West Bradford Township. The Great Blue Heron has an average length from beak tip to the tip of its tail of 38 inches with a wingspan that averages 6 feet. The Heron is usually seen walking slowly through wet areas or standing with its head hunched on its shoulders as it prepares to feed on frogs, mice and the like.

A close second in size are Turkey Vultures and the Canada Goose.

Do you know the location of what was probably the first grist mill in Chester County?

*Abraham Marshall, father of Humphrey, purchased a tract of about 1200 acres in 1704. That tract extended from Marshallton to Locust Grove, in Pocopson Township, and included what is now Trimbleville. At Trimbleville (intersection of Northbrook Road and Broad Run Road) he built what is believed to be the first grist mill in Chester County. His son, Humphrey Marshall built additions to both the mill and the house. That house became known as the Trimble Mansion
(From a newspaper article of Aug. 8, 1884.)*

What foreign army marched through a portion of West Bradford Township on its way to battle?

On September 11, 1777, part of the British Army, commanded by Howe and Cornwallis, crossed the Brandywine Creek (west branch) at Trimble's Ford near Camp Linden Road. They then proceeded east on Camp Linden Road (and through East Bradford by way of Connelstown) to complete a flanking movement of General George Washington's Army.

This occurred during the Battle of the Brandywine. The British then engaged the Americans near the Birmingham Meeting House and dealt a severe blow to the American forces.

Why did the concern that someone “might steal apples in his orchard” become the main argument used by a land owner to thwart a proposal that would have made a major change in Marshallton history?

According to a newspaper article published in 1884, in 1786 there was talk of making Marshallton, because of its centrality, the county seat. The village is nearly the center point of the county. The “center house” standing in the fork of Strasburg Road and Northbrook Road is supposed to be the exact center. A commission appointed by the assembly to select a site for the location of a court house, prison, etc.; selected and staked out a plot of ground at the Village of Marshallton. The residents of Marshallton objected because locating county buildings there “would apt to draw men and boys to the neighborhood who would not scruple to steal apples, and other fruit, from the trees of the residents and commit other depredations of equally as objectionable a character...”

The property on which the county buildings were to be located was owned by a farmer who avoided all arguments and pecuniary offers by saying that, “It would attract boys in the neighborhood who might steal the apples in his orchard.”

There is some thought that other political influences may have changed the location, but the story as told above was frequently heard through the years.

Did you know that the name given to a famous aviator’s plane became the name of a road in West Bradford Township? What is its name and why was it named that?

Lone Eagle Road was named after the plane being flown by the famous aviator, Charles A. Lindbergh. Lone Eagle Road is located in the western position of the township and connects Chestnut Lane to Strasburg Road, crossing over Romansville Road.

In March 1928, Charles Lindbergh was flying the twin of the plane “Spirit of St. Louis”, known as the “Lone Eagle,” from Curtis Field, New York to Washington and became enshrouded in dense fog. He landed in a muddy field on the farm of Emmer R. Way, and spent the night at the home of Charles Elkington and his wife. The “Spirit of St. Louis” was the plane used for the first solo transatlantic flight.

He was accompanied on this flight by his attorney, Harry Breckenridge. A large crowd gathered to watch Colonel Lindbergh depart the next day.

Thus, the road became known as Lone Eagle Road.

Did you know that there are flowers that bloom every February in West Bradford? Do you know the location and what the flowers are?

The flowers are in the arboretum started by Humphrey Marshall, in front of his home in Marshallton. That is on Route 162 opposite the intersection with Northbrook Road.

The area above the stone wall, known as the grove, is profusely covered with aconite (yellow flowers) and scattered with snowdrops (white flowers) that bloom in mid to late February. Typically, these flowers are blooming during snow storms and present wonderful photo opportunities whether or not there is snow.

More about the flowers:

ACONITE - Flowering plant of the genus ACONITUM, family RANUNCULACEAE. The aconites, also called, monkhood, friar's cap, and wolfsbane, are ornamental perennials whose roots provide aconitine, an alkaloid useful in medicine; in ancient times, it was used as an arrow poison.

SNOWDROP – Common name for white-flowered Eurasian plants comprising the genus Glanthus of the family AMARYLLIDACEAE, about 10 species of spring blooming, bulbous herbs. The common snowdrops are cultivated as an ornamental for their nodding, sometimes fragrant flowers. (Source: Encyclopedia Britannica)

Which toll road caused the development of Marshallton and Romansville during the Township's early years?

Answer

"Kings Highway" now known as Lancaster Avenue or Route 30 was the Nation's first toll road. Strasburg Road became a state road in 1793 and was improved. It was a free road and therefore became the road of choice for many travelers.

How the Civil War veterans marched in the Marshallton Memorial Day Parade during the early 1920's?

Answer

Being in their 70's, 80's and 90's, they were pushed in wheelbarrows by the veterans of World War I.

What two prominent structures or places in West Bradford Township are named after renowned botanists who lived here?

Answer

*The village of Marshallton is named after Humphry Marshall (1722-1801). Mr. Marshall was an internationally acclaimed botanist and author of *Arbustum Americanum*, the first accounting of forest trees and shrubs native to North America.*

The Bordley house – now the Tattersall Golf Course clubhouse – was the home of one of Pennsylvania’s leading 18th Century agriculturalists – Judge John Beale Bordley (1728-1804). On his over 500-acre farm, he conducted experiments in crop rotation and maintaining soil fertility.

The following Pennsylvania State Symbols

- 1. State Animal?**
- 2. State Flower?**
- 3. State Dog?**
- 4. State Tree?**
- 5. State Bird?**

Answer

- 1. Whitetail deer*
- 2. Mountain Laurel*
- 3. Great Dane*
- 4. Hemlock*
- 5. Ruffed Grouse*

What year the West Chester Street Railway opened its Downingtown Branch between West Chester and Downingtown?

Answer

The branch opened in 1902. It was originally planned to go through Marshallton, but instead was constructed on the east side of the Brandywine in East Bradford Township.

What renowned person served as a Supervisor in West Bradford Township?

Answer

We have had a number of notable Supervisors, but the famous botanist Humphrey Marshall was the most renowned. He served as a Township Supervisor in 1761. At that time, there was only one Supervisor and that person was appointed rather than elected. Shortly after that time the process was changed to appoint two Supervisors. Records are scarce on the actual duties of a Supervisor at that time.

Where the last wooden silo in West Bradford was located?

Answer

The last wooden silo, made from cedar, was located on the Dilworth Farm near Old Shadyside Road. Because of its wooden plank construction, as the silo leaned the roof always stayed perpendicular to the ground until it finally collapsed.

In the fall of 1944 a taxicab visited Marshallton three times in one day. Why was this event significant?

Answer

In the 1940's West Bradford was a very rural area and was not regularly serviced by taxicabs. It was very unusual for a taxi to go to Marshallton from West Chester during that time. The taxicab came three times in one day to deliver telegrams from the U.S. War Department to the parents of servicemen. The War Department did not want this type of news delivered by telephone so they hired taxi cabs to deliver telegrams. The parents of William McAllister and Horace Keller received the news that their sons had been killed in the war and the parents of Cheston Hall received the news that he had been shot down and taken prisoner.

From a conversation between Jack M. Hines and Mr. Cheston Hall.

Do you know how many distinctive brick patterns there are in the sidewalks of Marshallton?

Answer

There are eight different brick patterns currently being used in Marshallton's sidewalks.

Do you know what type of machine the "Spirit of Marshallton" was and who operated it?

Answer

Clifford Young (1893-1931) was the first aviator to live in the Township. The "Spirit of Marshallton" was his rebuilt World War I plane. He was described as having assembled three planes in his spare time, in a shop on the farm where neighbors were welcome to bring "anything that needs repair." "A good flying field is located next to the barn..."

In the early 1800's, a business in the Township was known as an exporter of what type of fine domestic equipment?

Answer

John Sugar had a spinning wheel "factory" near the current day intersection of Hall Road and Downingtown Pike. His clients included many notable West Bradford residents and some from Downingtown and West Chester.

During World War II, where in West Bradford Township did three German prisoners of war spend their confinement?

Answer...

The Centerview Dairy Farm, now known as Broad Run Park. The Hetrick family ran one of the few commercial dairies in the area. The three prisoners worked at the farm, generally helping with the crops and taking their meals with the family. Only one of the Germans spoke English and they stayed without any guards.

**That there is a pig launcher and a pig receiver in West Bradford Township?
Where is it and how is it used?**

Answer

The Columbia Gas compressor station has a launcher and a receiver. The "pig" is a device that is used in the gas pipeline for maintenance and in some pipelines to separate different products that are carried in the pipe. The "pig" device has to be inserted and removed from the pipeline, hence the launcher and the receiver.

There was once a racetrack in West Bradford. Do you know what was raced and where it was located?

Answer

The racetrack was a quarter mile midget car track and was located on the south side of Strasburg Road between Rt. 162 and Broad Run Road. The small cars were powered by lawn mower engines and operated by youths who aspired to be racecar drivers. The track was in operation in the early 1960's. The site is now a field without any visible remains of the dirt track.

Where some local residents got their ice during the summers in the 1800's?

Answer

A portion of the floodplain of the Broad Run was dammed between Shadyside Road and Chestnut Lane during the winters. The ice was then broken up and stored in an ice house on the George Pyle property. The ice was packed under wood shavings to insulate it and keep it from melting until it was used.

In 1882, two West Bradford Township Supervisors were found guilty of maintaining a public nuisance. What was the nuisance?

Answer

Supervisors Cheyney Martin and James Leslie were found guilty by a jury of allowing a "hole in the public road" to continue. Daily Local News, November 4, 1882

What locally famous bridge was pictured here in 1880 and where was it located in the Township?

Answer

Cope's Bridge still stands on Strasburg Road (Route 162) between Marshallton and Copesville. It served as a main route between Lancaster and Philadelphia for many years. It is actually located in East Bradford Township a few hundred feet from the Township boundary.

Gibson's Covered Bridge is located on the East Branch of the Brandywine between East and West Bradford Townships next to Route 322. It is listed on the National Register of historic places.

What was the name of last hurricane to damage the bridge and when did it occur?

Answer

The remnants of Hurricane Floyd swept through the region on September 16, 1999. The hurricane deposited between 8-12" of rain over the area and the East Branch of the Brandywine reached its highest flood level ever. The covered bridge was severely damaged and had to be rebuilt from the ground up with a strengthened steel core.

How does a traffic light detect that a car has pulled up?

You are driving on a quiet roadway, and when you approach, the red light turns green. Were you lucky, or did someone or something know you were there?

ANSWER

Cameras, lasers, and rubber hoses filled with air are among the technologies for detecting cars, but the most common is called an inductive loop. An inductive loop is a coil of wire embedded in the road's surface. To install the loop, asphalt is laid, and then workers come back and cut a groove in the asphalt with a saw. The wire is laid in the groove and sealed with a rubbery compound, which remains slightly visible.

*A traffic light sensor constantly tests the inductance of the loop in the road, and when the inductance rises, it knows there is a car waiting and will trip a change in the signal. So, whether your green light is because you tripped the inductive loop, or you have good timing, you may just be in luck!
(Reprinted with permission from McMahan Associates, the Township's Traffic Engineering firm.)*

What rock was discovered in West Bradford for first time anywhere in the world? It was known for, “being prone to display their perfect cleavage at inconvenient moments.”

ANSWER

Chesterlite was first discovered in the limestone quarry of the Chester County Home (now Embreeville Center) around 1850. “In the limestone are numerous gash-like crevices which are lined with crystals of chesterlite, calcite, dolomite and clear to milky quartz.”

- Journal of the Mineralogical Society of America, The Poorhouse Quarry, Chester County, PA, Hugh E. McKinstry, circa 1920

Do you know where “Dogtown” was located in the Township and how it got its name?

Answer

The area around Wawaset and Cann Roads was called “Dogtown” in the mid Twentieth Century. It was so named because of the number of dogs that people kept.

Where Bradford Township (now comprising East and West Bradford Township) got its name from?

Answer

It was believed to be named either after a village in Yorkshire or the town of Bradford-on-Avon in Wiltshire, England.

How many U.S. Presidents have visited West Bradford Township over the past 100 years?

Answer

One President – twice in the same venue. President George W. Bush visited West Bradford Township on October 22, 2002 for a political rally in advance of the mid-term congressional elections and on October 24, 2004 for a political rally in advance of the presidential election. Both times, he addressed a crowd of about 3,000 in attendance at the United Sports Training Center.

How many Community Parks the Township has and how many it is projected to need in the future?

Answer

West Bradford Township currently owns the land for 3 Community Parks – Broad Run Park, Shadyside Park, and Leids Park. Broad Run was our first Community Park to open in 1999 and Shadyside Park opened in 2006. The master planning for Leids Park is expected to begin in the next few years.

Our Comprehensive Plan estimates that the Township will need 68 acres of Community Parkland at the Township's build-out. We currently have 150 acres, so our Community Parkland needs have been satisfied.

What smelly operation took place near Sugars Bridge Road for much of the 19th Century?

Answer

Chamber's Tannery was established in the early 1800's and stood for many years near Sugar's Bridge and ran by water power from a nearby creek. One employee, John A. Kraile, was the subject of an 1864 newspaper article that extolled his virtues as a good worker. "Beamsman" Kraile could skin eighty-two sides in eight hours. A tannery is where animal hides are turned into leather goods.

What National Register Site is only half located in West Bradford Township and what other municipality do we share it with?

Answer

Gibson's Covered Bridge, along Downingtown Pike, is located half in West Bradford Township and half in East Bradford Township. Owned by the County of Chester; it was built in 1872 at a cost of \$2,600. It was last restored after being extensively damaged by Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

Where was the Shannon airfield located in the Township and what is its current use?

Answer

The Shannon airfield (a.k.a. Downingtown Airport) was opened around 1954 and closed in the 1990's. It was located along Marshallton Road near its intersection with Poorhouse Road. The site is now known as the United Sports Training Center.

What strange event happened one day near Embreeville around 1930 that changed the complexion of the food world forever?

Answer

"During the early years of mushroom production, mushrooms were all brown. According to an unattributed legend, a mushroom grower in Embreeville was harvesting his crops when he came upon a clump of pure white mushrooms. To this day, all white mushrooms come from the spores of that original clump."

~ from the Daily Local News, 2/8/2010, Santucci has covered many miles with mushrooms.

What was the total estimated population of the United States at the time of the first Census in 1790?

Answer

The total U.S. population in 1790 was 3,929,000 people. That is about the current population of the city of Los Angeles, California. The current total U.S. population is just over 308 million people. But the best ones come from West Bradford, Pennsylvania! At the time of the first Census, the Township had 725 residents.

Where Downingtown Borough got its water supplies from in the late 1800's and early 1900's?

Answer

From West Bradford of course! The Borough's first public water supply was from a still existing, pond on Sawmill Road using siphon air pressure beginning in the 1890's. The Borough's second water supply was from a dam pond on Poorhouse Road this site later became the water treatment facility for the Borough.