

The Borough Broadcaster

Spring Newsletter



Malvern Borough

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News from Malvern Borough Council

The winter of 2020-2021 has passed and now we turn the page to spring. We would like to commend the members of the Public Works Department for the outstanding job they did this winter during the snowstorms the area faced.

We are continuing to monitor the landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this situation, the Borough has continued to function and provide the services that have come to be expected. As vaccines become more readily available, it is our hope that we will soon learn what the "new normal" will entail. Any residents with questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine are encouraged to contact the Chester County Health Department.

While vaccines are becoming more accessible, all residents are urged to continue following the guidelines issued in order to combat the spread of COVID-19. This includes regularly washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, wearing a mask when in public, limiting non-essential travel, and staying home if you are sick. Borough Council and the various volunteer boards and committees will continue to hold virtual meetings. Information on how to participate virtually is updated regularly on the Borough website.

Borough Council would like to welcome new members to our volunteer boards and committees. Angela Riccetti and Andrew Johnson were recently appointed to serve on the Parks & Recreation Committee. Additionally, Daniel Kunze was recently appointed to serve on the Environmental Advisory Council. We would

like to thank them and all the other residents who serve on the Borough's volunteer boards and committees for their service to the community.

There are several projects on the horizon for 2021. We are hopeful to complete improvements to Quann Park, the costs of which are being offset by grants received from Chester County and the PA Department of Community & Economic Development. Several streets in the Borough are outlined to be paved in 2021, with the first set being sections of Ruthland Avenue and Green Street. Work is continuing on the update to the Borough's Comprehensive Plan. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and participated in this process. Finally, we are outlining various projects contained in the *Randolph Woods Nature Preserve Master Site Plan* and are hoping to secure grants to complete those projects.

Borough Council consists of Amy Finkbiner, Ph.D. (Council President), Jamie Grossman (Vice-President), Joe Bones, Marty Laney, John Meisel, Brendan Phillips, and Julie Raynor. Meetings of Borough Council are held at 7:30 pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month via Zoom. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. As always, if you have any questions about anything going on in town, please contact malvern@malvern.org or by calling 610-644-2602. Information is updated regularly on the Borough website at www.malvern.org and emergency notifications are sent through the ReadyNotify system.



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Malvern Planning Commission

The Malvern Planning Commission (MPC) is a 'review and recommend' body of seven Borough residents who process Subdivision and Land Use (SALDO) applications, Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) applications, monitor Zoning Ordinances, undertake Planning Initiatives, and provide comments on other Community Planning matters referred by Borough Council. The MPC's planning efforts are

supported by the Assistant Borough Manager, Borough Engineers, and the Planning Commission Solicitor, Kenneth Kynett, Esq. of the firm Petrikin Wellman Damico Brown & Petrosa.

Recent activity of the MPC has included a review of certain provisions of the Borough's Zoning and Subdivision & Land Development Ordinances. A full report on the Planning Commission's activity

for 2020 is available on the Borough's website.

The Malvern Planning Commission meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Public participation is welcomed and encouraged! The status of various SALDO applications and initiatives can be viewed on the Borough website under Boards and Commissions/ Planning Commission/ Case Log.

Storm Water Management

What You Can Do To Prevent Stormwater Pollution

We all have a responsibility in maintaining the health of the area's waterways. This includes the streams and rivers in our local watershed. Below are a few steps we can all take in order to ensure that our area waterways remain clean:

- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains—these outlets drain directly to lake, streams, rivers and wetlands.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.

- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals properly—not in storm sewers or drains.
- Cleanup spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- Wash your car on the grass or gravel driveway to minimize runoff.
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped, at a minimum every one to three years, so that it

operates properly.

- Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorus to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our lakes, streams and coastal waters.
- Limit paved surfaces. Impervious surfaces such as sidewalks, parking lots, roads, and driveways prevent water from percolating down into the ground, cause runoff to accumulate, and funnel into storm drains at high speeds. Use alternative surfaces such as gravel and porous pavement for improvement projects.

Codes Enforcement Officer

Exterior Property Maintenance

In 2019, Malvern Borough adopted the **2015 International Property Maintenance Code**, published by the International Code Council. The purpose of this code is to ensure that existing Residential and Non Residential properties and structures are maintained in a "clean, safe and sanitary condition", and "structurally sound".

The Property Maintenance Code requires property owners to maintain the exterior of their property to include the grass not exceeding 10" in height, trash and rubbish not accumulating on the property, gutters and downspouts working properly and not allowing the dis-

charge of water to create a nuisance on neighboring properties, roof areas being water-tight, and all structures including sheds and fences to be in good repair and safe condition. Bushes, shrubs and flowers that are planted alongside your sidewalk must be kept trimmed back behind the sidewalk, for a height of at least ten feet

Additionally, all vehicles on the property must be currently registered and display current state inspection stickers.

To sum it up, the **International Property Maintenance Code** is intended to ensure that all properties where the code is in effect are kept in a safe condition

and structurally sound at all times. This could certainly help to reduce the instances of fires or other emergencies from occurring, thus aiding in saving lives and protecting property. And while all emergencies may not be able to be eliminated altogether, the code requires that those systems that are in place to give warning to the occupants provides the best chance to prevent people from becoming victims if they do occur.

Questions regarding the Property Maintenance Code may be directed to the Borough Code Official at Borough Hall

Malvern Shade Tree Commission

Early spring is an excellent time to prune trees. And, according to Malvern Borough's Shade Tree Commission Ordinance (48-5 C. (1.)), "Private owners shall be ultimately responsible for proper maintenance of shade trees situated on their property. In this regard, the Shade Tree Commission shall provide guidance, materials and/or recommend appropriate techniques upon request." To learn more, please reference the aforementioned STC Ordinance.

Landscape trees not only make homes and communities more beautiful, but they also improve our environment and can increase the value of a property up to 20%. Trees are truly assets that need to be enhanced and protected. Proper pruning is definitely a worthwhile investment!

If you are considering removing a street side tree, please call the Borough for a permit.

Why Should Trees Be Pruned?

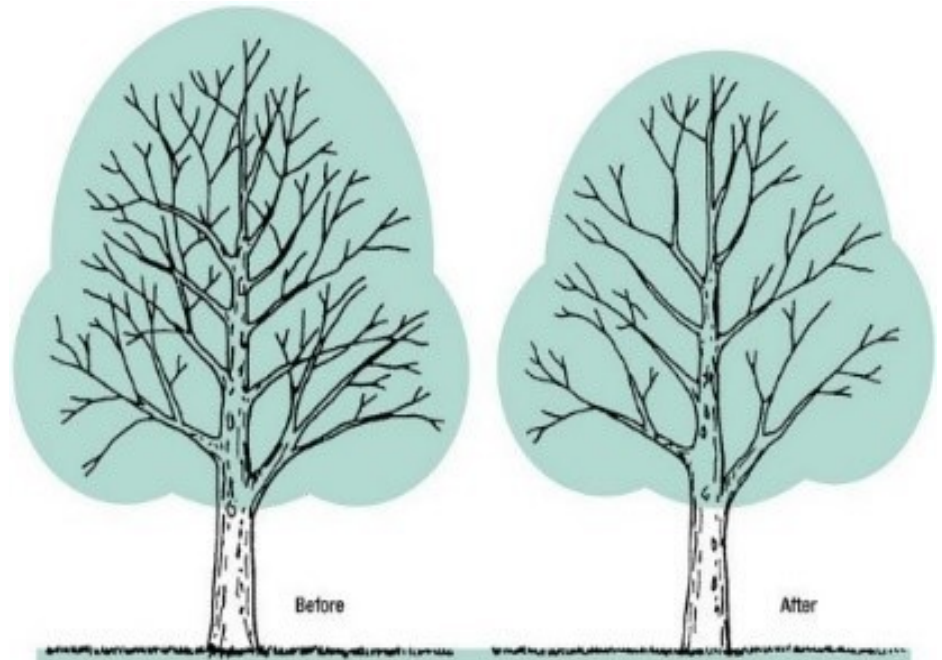
Proper pruning of landscape trees improves their structural strength, maintains their health, enhances their beauty, and increases their value as well as the value of your home. Pruning is advisable if:

- trees have crossing branches, weak branch unions, or

- other defects
- branches are dead, dying, decayed, or hazardous
- lower branches interfere with people or vehicles, or block visibility of signs
- branches are growing into buildings or utility wires
- limbs have been broken by storms

- trees have grown too large and might injure people or damage property

For more information on pruning, download this excellent article from Penn State University Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/pruning-landscape-trees>



Malvern Public Library

Our outside book sale will take place on Friday, April 30 from 11-4pm and Saturday, May 1 from 11-3pm. Rain dates are Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8. The event will take place on the side lawn so stop by and find your next great read!

Storytimes are every Tuesday at 10:30am and Music with Miss Jill is every Friday at 10am, both are on Zoom. Be sure to register for each to receive the Zoom link.

Our online book club held on the third Tuesday of every month at 9:30am. Each month the selected book is on reserve and ready for pick up. Be sure to regis-

ter online to receive the Zoom link.

Malvern Library is getting ready for our annual Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and adults! The programs will remain online this year. Be sure to check our website for more details as they become available.

We are offering Surprise Book Bundles. I Feel Lucky Bundles for adults will include up to three books chosen by our librarians. Just tell us your preferred genres and we will let you know when your bundle is ready for pick up. Tweens and young adults can receive up to five books of their preferred genres. Go to our website <https://malvern-library.org> for more

information.

Our annual Give-a-thon is happening! We encourage all of our patrons to give to Malvern Library to ensure the continued success of our programs and services. We appreciate all of our supporters, and thank them for their yearly patronage.

Don't forget you can stop in without an appointment for browsing only Mondays & Tuesdays from 4-8pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 4-6:30pm, and Saturdays from 9-4pm. Masks are required for entry. Curbside pickup appointments are available Monday – Friday.

Malvern Historical Commission

The Historical Commission hopes that everyone in town has had a peaceful and healthy spring. As more folks get vaccinated for COVID-19, the chances improve that we can enjoy a summer that is close to normal. So far, however, we have no word on whether there will be a Memorial Day Parade, or other summer activities.

At present, the Commission continues to meet remotely, via Zoom. We have been meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:30 p.m.; however, our April meeting has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.** Members of the public are invited to attend our virtual meetings. If the necessary telephone number and/or codes to attend the Zoom meeting are not available on the Borough's website, please call Borough Hall at (610) 644-2602 and ask for information on how to join our meet-

ing. Also, please feel free to volunteer to help out with the Commission's activities, to ask questions about the history of your property or about Borough history, or just to find out more about what's going on with regard to historical preservation in the Borough.

In the last Broadcaster, we announced a new feature for the Commission's Facebook page. We posted a question, both here and on our Facebook page, for Malvern residents to answer, either by e-mail or by commenting on our Facebook page. The person whose answer got the most likes is to receive a copy of Nancy B. Schmitt's book, *Malvern Items*.

Our first such question appeared on the Facebook page on March 1, 2021. The first winner of a copy of *Malvern Items* was Tom Logue. Tom, please message us through Facebook Messenger, or e-mail us at the Commission's e-mail address shown below, to coordinate when and how you would like

to be awarded your copy.

The second question, which will appear on our Facebook page on Monday, May 3, 2021, is:

During your school days, what was your favorite after-school activity or pastime?

Whichever comment receives the most likes by Sunday, May 9th at noon will be our next winner; and that winner will be announced on our Facebook page later that day. If you post a comment answering this question, remember to tag your friends to "like" your comment. As always, we look forward to your answers and comments.

Please feel free to send us requests and proposed future questions by e-mail at malvernborohistory@malvern.org or message us through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/malvernborohistory/> Don't forget to LIKE our Facebook page *and* FOLLOW our Instagram account, [@malvernborohistory](https://www.instagram.com/malvernborohistory).

Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund

Spring Paranormal Tour

We will hold our popular Spring Paranormal Tour on May 15th, 2021. The night tour (from 7 to 11 pm) will be led by PBPF and experienced paranormal investigators following all Covid-19 safety measures. This is a private tour & the Paoli Battlefield Historical Park will be CLOSED during the tour to all other visitors. All attendees will be required to wear masks. Fee per person is \$40 if paid before 5/1/2021 and \$45 if paid later. Go to <https://pbpfinc.org/tour> to get details on events, news, history & make your reservations on our website. RememberPaoli.org, Friend us on our Facebook Page (Paoli Battlefield Historical Park), follow us on Twitter (@PaoliBattle), and sign up for our digital newsletter on our website.

A REVOLUTIONARY LECTURE SERIES

We continue our popular ZOOM series on the 2nd Monday of each Month. These interactive

events provide a Q&A period after the lecture. **We do request a donation to help support the Paoli Battlefield Historical Park in order to participate in a lecture.** Go to RememberPaoli.org to register for the lecture to get access codes and please click on the Donate button!

- May 10th, 2021 at 7pm - PBPF Online Lecture: Learn about the extraordinary life of James Monroe: soldier, senator, diplomat, and the last Founding Father to hold the Presidency, a man who helped transform thirteen colonies into a vibrant and mighty republic. Presented by Tim McGrath, author of *James Monroe, A Life*.
- June 14th, 2021 at 7pm - PBPF Online Lecture: Join us when award-winning author Stephen Fried talks about his book *Benjamin Rush: Revolution, Madness & the Visionary Doctor Who Became a Founding Father*.
- July 12th, 2021 at 7 pm - PBPF

Lecture: Washington's Headquarters along the Neshaminy – The August Encampment of 1777 is presented by Historical Reenactor, Lecturer and Tour Guide Michael Jesberger.

BATTLEFIELD WALKING TOURS

PBPF President Jim Christ has augmented his popular Battle of Paoli lectures with actual walking tours of the most pristine Revolutionary War Battlefield in urban/suburban America. Jim and other PBPF tour guides will lead these tours using public Covid-19 safety measures. Fee per person is \$20 and the tour size averages around 20. Tours get sold out quickly. For more information and to Register: <https://pbpfinc.org/walking-tour>. The tours run from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and will meet at Malvern Arts building next to the church and across the street from the Borough Building. Currently registration is open for Saturday, May 8th. We have more dates that will be announced for May and June.

Environmental Advisory Council

Composting

Do you look forward to warmer temperatures each spring in anticipation of growing your own fresh produce? The Pennsylvania climate allows growth of many different vegetables and herbs – some hearty vegetables even can survive some of the colder days here (think brussels sprouts!). If planting a vegetable garden is something you've already done or would like to start doing, there are many options of how to get started. Starting your own from seedlings can be challenging – buying vegetables from a local greenhouse or nursery may be the best option for beginners. One thing that can be applied to all levels of gardening is the creation of your own nutrient-rich soil, at a relatively low cost. One advantage to this method is that you know exactly what your soil is comprised of, as you'll be using this to grow your

own food. Using your own food waste and yard scraps, you can make free soil out of what would've otherwise been placed into the garbage! There are many advantages to this method and it is easily done given the proper tools. These days, finding the information on composting methods is at your fingertips, making it easier than it's ever been. In the process, you'll be reducing the amount of waste in your garbage can and helping the earth by ultimately allowing less waste to go to the landfill. On top of that, you'll be reducing the amount of ozone depleting carbon that's produced in landfills from food scraps. Damage to the ozone is irreparable, and can lead to spikes in skin cancer, cataracts, and genetic and immune damage in humans. By using compost as soil, you will be growing healthy, hearty food in the process! While a municipal composting pro-

gram is not available in all areas, starting your own system in your backyard requires just a few tools (an indoor bin and an outdoor space or bin) and can really have an immediate impact. As an added bonus, you'll notice you're using less trash bags and putting your trash out to the curb less often. Having a garden is also a great way to spend time outdoors and with your family. Growing your own food is very rewarding and will also save you money on groceries. Keep in mind if you don't have a yard, you can also compost indoors with the right tools and setup – you can plant potted vegetables and herbs indoors and keep them in a window or on a balcony. If you're looking for a great resource, checkout Martha Stewart's page on composting at www.marthastewart.com. Happy Spring and Happy Composting! By Tiffany Brouillet, EAC member.

Board & Commission Vacancies

- **Zoning Hearing Board:** There is currently one (1) vacancy on this Board for an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board. This position carries a three (3) year term. The individual appointed will complete a term that expires on January 1, 2024. Alternate members attend all meetings of the Zoning Hearing Board; however, they do not vote unless a voting member is absent

or can otherwise not participate in the hearing.

- **Parks & Recreation Committee:** There are currently three (3) vacancy on this Committee. These positions carry a five (5) year term. The individual appointed will complete terms that expire on January 1, 2025 and January 1, 2026.

Malvern residents who are interested in serving the Community on these committees may apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the Borough Manager at:

Borough of Malvern
1 E. First Avenue, Suite 3
Malvern, Pa. 19355
Voice: 610-644-2602
E-mail: malvern@malvern.org

Malvern Farmers Market

Market season is upon us! The Malvern Farmers Market officially opens for the season on May 1st! Join us every Saturday in Burke Park from 9am - 12 noon. We are dedicated to providing the community with local, farm fresh, and nutritious food every week at the market. We offer COVID-safe shopping with both day-of sales and pre-orders available. Masks and social distancing are required for all shoppers and producers. Head to

our www.growingrootspartners.com/malvern to see the line-up of producers at market each week, or come by for day-of sales to shop.

As always, you will find plenty of good farms, good food, and good people at the Malvern Farmers Market! See you soon!

GROWING ROOTS



Malvern Parks & Recreation Committee

Here we are- 13 months into the pandemic-- and we are still learning to pivot how we do our thing! Some of you are probably wondering where Parks and Rec has been. We have been right here- adapting, adjusting and altering how we interact with our Malvern Borough neighbors. It has been a challenge, but our Parks and Rec team has taken on this challenge full force!

Malvern Borough has been adhering very strictly to the Commonwealth of PA guidelines for safety and health protection. The most recent amendment to the Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health for Mitigation and Enforcement, effective April 4, 2021, sets out a clear path for continued safety: "All businesses are strongly encouraged to conduct their operations in whole or in part remotely through individual teleworking of their employees in the jurisdiction or jurisdictions in which they do business. Businesses choosing to conduct in-person business operations, must comply with this Order, including

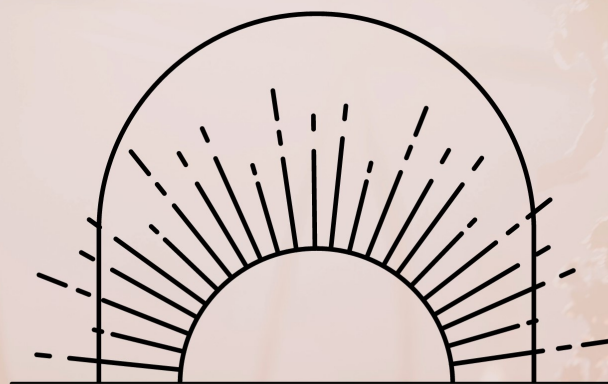
any subsequent amendments, and all guidance issued by the Wolf Administration, the Department, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." Outdoor gatherings are limited to 50% of the maximum occupancy. In order to be compliant, Malvern Borough has suspended in-person gatherings until the first quarter of 2022, but this is subject to change based on COVID-19 guidelines. Our public spaces are laid out in a manner that it is not suited to manage occupancy limits for events. Our neighboring Chester County townships are adhering to the same guidelines, having announced their cancellations.

The Parks and Rec committee has had to significantly adjust our events. We made the shift-- like every family and business in America- and the world for that matter. We have proudly sponsored a new array of events over the last year and have no plans to slow down!

Malvern Rocks will be returning this Spring. We will continue to create virtual Get Out and Exercise and Malvern Munchies videos with Angela. Look out for Crafts to GO,

featuring different art projects to take and make. Watch for upcoming information about our first craft in May!!! This summer will also see the return of Yoga in the Park with our amazing teacher Linda. Our holiday Food Drive was so well received that we will be hosting another. Have you noticed the changes to Burke Park's Gazebo? Besides receiving a much needed "face-lift" with some repairs and renovations, be sure to take notice of the seasonal decorations. Keep an eye out for the spring décor, we are thinking flowers! Don't shy away when we announce the date for Story Walk, an amazing interactive event. Be sure to visit our very own Little Free Library located in Burke Park. Bring a book or take a book.

Most importantly- Our parks are still open for visitors: Burke Park, Quann Park, Herzak Park, Rubino Park and Randolph Woods. Shoot some hoops, enjoy the playgrounds, read a book, have a picnic and enjoy our trails and creeks and spring greenery!



WEDNESDAY MORNING YOGA

6 AM

BURKE PARK

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
@MALVERNBOROUGHSPARKS TO REGISTER

Community Announcements

Online Payments

Did you know that Malvern Borough accepts online credit card payments?

You can make payments for real estate taxes, quarterly sewer bills, building and other permits, and applicable items with the Malvern Police Department. The Borough outsources this service to MuniPay, which is specifically designed for government use. All information entered is secure. Links to pay online are available on the left side menu of the Malvern Borough website, with specific links for sewer, tax, code enforcement, and police payments. Clicking the respective links will send you to a third-party payment website specifically designed for Malvern Borough.

Please be advised that there is a 3% service charge for paying by credit card. Please contact the Malvern Borough administrative offices with any questions.

The following credit cards are accepted:



Bulk Trash Reminder

This is a reminder about the changes to bulk trash collection in Malvern Borough. With the new service from A.J. Blosenski, Inc., residents who receive trash and recycling collection under the Borough's contract may have **one (1) bulk item collected each week**. Please be advised that bulk items will **only be collected on Fridays**. Due to this change, the special collection days that previously occurred will no longer be scheduled.

Sewer Rate Increase

At the December 15, 2020 meeting, Borough Council approved the 2021 budget. The 2021 budget included an increase to a portion of the Borough's sewer rate. Starting with the first quarter billing of 2021, the variable sewer rate will increase from \$4.00/1,000 gallons over 5,000 gallons/quarter to \$6.00/1,000 gallons over 5,000 gallons/quarter. The base rate of \$95.60 for the first 5,000 gallons of usage was not increased.

A Friendly Reminder to Pet Owners

Just a friendly reminder to be courteous and respectful of your neighbors by picking up after your pets. Dog waste is more than just a smelly and unsightly mess. It's also a breeding ground for bacteria and parasites, all of which are commonly

found in dog feces and are easily transferable upon contact.

Borough Code, Chapter 68-6 specifically sites that dog owners are to clean up after their pets on any sidewalk, pathway, play area, park or any place where people

congregate, or on any private property. Any one observed violating this section of the Code could face fines and associated court fees if found guilty. Although this may not be a pleasant chore, it is the responsibility of a pet owner.

Community Visioning Workshop

Malvern Borough will host a Community Planning Open House on Monday, May 10, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Paoli Battlefield (rain date – May 12, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm). This open house is an opportunity for you to help shape the overarching goals and priorities for Malvern Borough over the next 10 years as part of the Comprehensive Plan Revision currently underway. The event will be done in an open-house format where people are encouraged to stop by any time

between 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm to view the material. All attendees are asked to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, including the wearing of masks and maintaining social distancing during the event. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Borough will make any maps or other documents available on the Borough website for public review for any individuals who may not be comfortable attending this event, but still wish to participate. Information on how to provide input to

the Brandywine Conservancy outside of the open house will be made available on the Borough website.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent community survey. The input received is excellent and will be extremely helpful in formulating the final plan document.

Please see the back page for a flyer. Questions? Please contact the Borough Administrative offices at 610-644-2602.

Please see the back page for informational flyer.

THE MALVERN BOROUGH INVITES YOU TO OUR

COMMUNITY PLANNING OPEN HOUSE

May 10, 2021

5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Paoli Battlefield

Your Input Matters!

This event is being conducted as an open house. All are encouraged to attend any time between 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM.

This Open House is an opportunity to shape the overarching goals and priorities for Malvern Borough over the next 10 years as part of the Comprehensive Plan Revision currently underway. What one thing would you change? Where would you invest more tax dollars? Answer these and other important questions!

All attendees must adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, including the wearing of masks and maintaining social distancing during the event.

RAIN DATE – MAY 12, 2021 FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE.