



Chester County PRESS

Hot issues in New Garden

By Keith Craig
Correspondent

On the coldest night of the year, Monday, February 5, the New Garden Township citizens sought to put their board of supervisors on the hot seat over road dedication in Hartefeld and the proposed PREIT mixed use development along Route 41. For good measure, the board approved fire and emergency services contracts and appointed two people to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

John Jaros, local attorney representing the Bellevue Holding Company which owns the subdivision at Hartefeld, inquired as to the status of the board's setting limits to road dedication for the subdivision.

The main road delaying full dedication is Pyles Mountain Lane, where the integrity of a culvert pipe under the road has delayed the township from taking dedication.

Board Chair Bob Perrotti told Jaros, "The township conclusion (regarding dedication) is that there is a barrier that exists across Pyles Mountain Road -- just past the pump station -- which the township will take dedication of. But the driveway at the pump station looks like it needs additional paving so a larger truck could turn and back out safely." Perrotti did not mention the culvert pipe.

Perrotti also expressed concerns that the pump station transformers on the driveway's right hand side were vulnerable to vehicle collision that would render the pump station inoperable, and subsequently create a "desperate" sewage situation.

Perrotti recommended that the board accept partial dedication of the road once Bellevue has addressed these safety issues.

The board considered granting a continuance of operation to MJ Mushroom, whose property was sold as part of the PREIT development and has been rezoned out of existence.

Cognizant of both MJ Mushroom's importance as a compost depot for local growers, as well as the ecological threats any compost facility presents to surrounding areas, the board discussed the ramifications of granting the continuance.

Township Manager Carmen Raddi termed the request "wise open" and advised the board that it could reject it outright, vary the conditions of the request, or send it to the zoning hearing board. He said that the company would like to continue operations until asked to leave by PREIT, or December 31, 2007, whichever comes first.

Perrotti argued "as long as they follow procedures of the NRCS with a documented

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Lower Oxford gives thumbs up to OASA

By Maggie Horgan
Staff Writer

After seven public hearings between September, 2006 and January, 2007, the Lower Oxford Township (LOT) Board of Supervisors approved the Oxford Area Sewer Authority (OASA)'s conditional use application for the implementation of spray irrigation fields in the township on Monday, February 5. The project has been proposed for construction on an

area of land in the township with Bethel Road, Roneys' Corner Road, Route 472 (Lancaster Pike), Route 1, Lower Hopewell and Hopewell Roads as its boundaries. Spray irrigation is a permissible use of the land in the township, if specific conditions are met. If the project pans out, it will be a huge step in moving toward meeting the requirements of the comprehensive Act 537 plan, the ultimate goal of which is to have an optimally functioning

sewer system in Oxford that will meet the sewage needs of the area for many years to come.

Attorney Winifred Sebastian, who oversaw all of the public hearings, presented the supervisors with suggested conditions under which to approve the OASA's application—if they opted to approve it—based on data gathered over the course of the hearings. Among the suggested conditions were items related to ensuring the safety,

efficiency, and economic practicality of the project. Sebastian reminded all in attendance that the comprehensive plan for the spray fields must meet the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP)'s approval before it is carried out.

In the absence of Chairman Art Astle, Supervisors Ron Kepler and Ken Hershey approved the application under all conditions suggested by Sebastian.

"This is a preliminary step," Sebastian emphasized. She went on to explain that the board has no ability to tell the OASA they must opt to construct a spray or drip irrigation system, rather they may only consider whether the OASA meets the standards of the ordinance that states that spray irrigation is permitted in the township.

The next step will be for OASA to refine the preliminary

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SECCRA Power launched Environmentally friendlier energy production

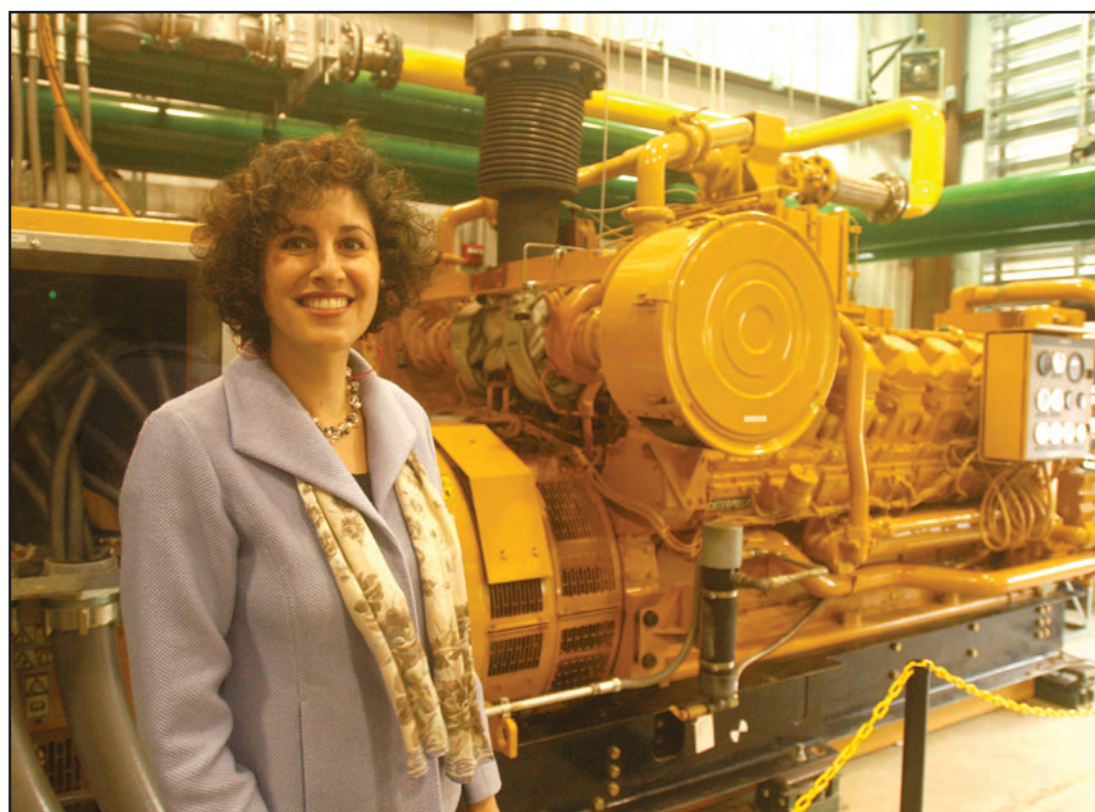


Photo by e. Coburn

Yellow equipment makes green power. Rachel Goldstein, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Manager for the Landfill Methane Outreach Program, commended SECCRA for their new power station, which converts the decomposing waste byproduct methane (the predominant component in landfill gas) into electricity, at last week's dedication ceremony for the completed project. The large yellow piece of equipment is the generator that converts the landfill gases to electricity.

By Maggie Horgan
Staff Writer

Thanks to the future-minded experts at Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) in collaboration with input and support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pennsylvania Energy Development Agency (PEDA), recycling in our community has just advanced ahead by a huge step.

SECCRA General Manager William G. Stullken welcomed visitors, including officials from local, state, and federal government offices, to the grand opening dedication ceremony for the refuse authority's new electricity-generating station, called "SECCRA Power," on Tuesday, January 30, at the SECCRA landfill location in London Grove Township. Commending the work of the many specialists involved in this huge accomplishment from the affiliations mentioned above, Stullken said the project represents a tremendous commitment

to forward thinking on part of all of its hands-on, and financial, contributors.

Central to the concept of SECCRA Power is the unique capacity the finished product has to use landfill gas—mostly methane, a decomposed waste byproduct—to produce environmentally sensible, or, "green" energy. Stullken explained that over the last several weeks, the power station has been up and running on a trial-and-error basis, in order to ensure that it is functioning correctly. All parameters indicating optimal operation capabilities were evident, and all attending the ceremony were handed earplugs to don for protection, as a demonstration of the SECCRA Power station apparatus ensued.

Other speakers that afternoon included Richard Cairns, Chairman of SECCRA Board of Directors, and Rachel Goldstein, from the U.S. EPA, who serves as Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LOMA) regional manager for this area. Scott Mengle,

Administrative Supervisor for SECCRA, was on hand to thank those who helped with the power station project, and to answer questions.

The new power station, Cairns explained, will regularly produce almost one megawatt of electricity, which is approximately the amount necessary to provide energy to 500 residences. The electricity will be sold on the PJM power grid, which is the regional transmission organization (RTO) responsible for overseeing the electricity market for this part of the country. PJM is a federal organization based in Valley Forge, Pa.

Cairns emphasized the fact that besides putting the methane gas to its best use by converting it to energy, the new power station will also be protecting the environment by decreasing emissions of greenhouse gas, because the gas will not be burnt off into the atmosphere as often happens in landfills. He added that it has been projected that the power station will be capable of producing electricity with the landfill gas here for as long as the landfill is up and running, plus for about fifteen years beyond that. What's more, it has been determined that the power station will decrease the amount of coal needed annually by 2A

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Kennett Square Borough hangs out Help Wanted signs

By Barbara E. Hoffman
Correspondent

Stephen Kelly resigned his seat on the borough council, effective February 15. The board has 30 days to fill the vacancy. Parties interested in filling out the unexpired term may apply by sending a letter and resume to Borough Manager, David Fiorenza, by February 20. Councilmen Joseph Makowski and Emidio Falini have also indicated that they will not seek re-election when their term expires this year. This will leave a total of four seats open on the council.

While the council is looking for candidates interested in their volunteer positions, other committees are also beating the bushes for persons to fill vacant seats. The Architectural Review Board has one, three-year term vacancy; the Historical Commission has three five-year term vacancies; the Planning Commission has one four-year term vacancy; the Shade Tree Commission has one three-year term vacancy; and the Zoning Hearing Board has one alternate three-year term vacancy. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the inner workings of the community by serving on the council or one of the aforementioned committees should contact Karen at Borough Hall, 610-444-6020, ext 108, for further information.

Dan Maffei, representing the Historical Commission, unveiled plans for a fountain in front of the old Kennett Café building. The proposed fountain would be a replica of an old stone fountain that existed many years ago in the same spot. At that time, the fountain served as drinking water for people and horses. A re-creation of the fountain in granite would cost about \$90,000, but a re-creation in cast stone would be somewhere around \$35,000. It is expected that grant monies will be available to cover a large portion of the expense.

Volunteer clean-up help was offered by Laura Seiple, working with PA Clean Ways. Seiple was disturbed by the trash littering the branch of Red Clay Creek by Scarlett Road and South Street. Although the Brandywine Valley Association cleans up once a year, Seiple offered to "adopt" the borough and coordinate volunteers to provide more frequent clean-ups. Seiple has gathered volunteers from the Kennett High School Earth Club and local churches. The council gave their official sanction to the project and offered to assist with publicity and disposal options. If you would like to be involved in the clean-up

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Farrell cruising to GOP endorsement

By Uncle Irvin

At the conclusion of all the "dog and pony show" endorsement meetings in Chester County, Oxford area resident Terrance Farrell, currently Recorder of Deeds, is the only candidate who has enough votes for Commissioner endorsement, Uncle Irvin has learned.

Incumbent Carol Aichele and Treasurer Alan Randzin each have failed to receive enough votes to be endorsed.

The GOP County Convention is to be held Tuesday evening, February 13.

County Democrats have recruited four candidates for County Commissioner and at least one for each new office, and plan to contest the open judge election.

The Democratic Convention is Tuesday evening, February 20.

The 2007 General Election is looking like a "watershed election" that will mark the end of the one-party system in Chester County.

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Checking out the news...



Photo by Carla Lucas
Jacob Mahala of Den 5, Pack 100, DelMarVa Boy Scout Council, tries out the editor's chair on a recent visit to the office of the Chester County Press. He learned about journalism for an activity from one of his Cub Scout badges. Jacob's grandmother, Bunny Keene brought him in. His father, USAF Staff Sergeant David Mahala, formerly of Nottingham and graduate of Oxford High School, is stationed at Dover, Delaware.

SECCRA...

Continued from page 1A



Photos (2) by Ed Coburn

SECCRA General Manager William G. Stullken addressed visitors to the dedication ceremony on January 30, at which time he introduced the SECCRA Power station, which converts landfill gas to electricity.



Rachel Goldstein, Manager of the Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program, stands with Scott Mengle, Administrative Supervisor for SECCRA, as visitors at the dedication ceremony for SECCRA's new power station were provided with information about the benefits that will result from the completed project.

Second Annual Town

Meeting set for Oxford Borough

On Thursday, February 15, at 7 p.m., Oxford Borough will hold its second annual town meeting at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 6 Pine Street. According to Oxford Mayor Geoffrey Henry, the first Town Meeting was held in January 2006 and focused on police and public safety issues and neighborhood watch programs. Mr. Henry said that topics for discussion for the meeting this month will include the proposed Broad Street Bridge closing to vehicular traffic, making Western Terrace a one-way street, and a review of police activity for 2006. All community members are encouraged to attend. For more information, please call 610-932-2500, ext. 3500.

landfill by about 1200 tons.

SECCRA is grateful to the PEDAs, from whom it received a \$500,000 grant for this upgrade project. That helped tremendously to offset the \$2.3 million the SECCRA

nonprofit municipal authority invested into the power station construction and the new system's implementation. Cairns explained that in order to complete the power station, a gas-collection system was installed in the landfill, as were a landfill-gas operating generator, a system for monitoring electronically, and a power line grid connection. Cairns noted that the electricity that will be sold through this new method will probably allow SECCRA to break even on their investment in the project within seven years. Revenue generated from that point on will be utilized to keep waste disposal costs as low as possible for customers of SECCRA. Cairns added that SECCRA is also thankful to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for supporting the application for the PEDAs grant for SECCRA, which helped move the financial aspects of the project along smoothly.

Goldstein extended special thanks to SECCRA on behalf of the EPA and LOMA and congratulated the authority on opening the power station. She said that since LOMA began in 1994, positive reduction in greenhouse gas emissions has become increasingly evident thanks to efforts such as this one. She encouraged SECCRA to continue implementing strategies with the interest of environmental protection in mind.

Since 1968, SECCRA has been providing environmentally conscious waste disposal and recycling services in our community, and today serves 24 municipalities. With its first landfill having been constructed on the property that is now Anson B. Nixon Park in Kennett Square, its more recent landfill, at 219 Street Road in London Grove Township, has been operating for two decades. SECCRA has about 90,000 customers today. Environmental protection has always been of utmost importance to the staff and board members of SECCRA. To learn more about SECCRA, please call 610-869-2452, or visit www.seccra.org.

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Opinion

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Mega-wow!

By Carla Lucas
Editor

A megawatt of electricity, enough power to meet the electrical needs of 500 residences, all from capturing the gases created at the SECCRA (Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority) landfill everyday.

From the trash we choose to throw away each week, which in turn causes greenhouse gases to be released into the atmosphere, now an investment in technology allows those gases to be converted to useful energy. Not only will our area's landfill generate electricity, but it will generate new income for the customers it serves, while at the same time helping to reduce the greenhouse gases from the site.

Wow!...Mega-wow!

Alternate energy is the "word" for 2007. Solar power, wind power, fuel cells, hybrid cars, ethanol, and biodiesel technologies have been around for years, but now elected officials at all levels are bringing this discussion to the forefront. Within the past two weeks, President Bush visited the region to highlight new research in alternative energy sources happening locally, and Governor Rendell introduced his new alternative energy initiative (see letter, right) to encourage the growth and use of alternative energy technologies in Pennsylvania.

As these technologies develop, we should all consider when, where, and how we could change our habits and thinking to support these industries. Keeping abreast of all the technology, and committing to understanding their use is as important as the invention of the technology. If no one knows what's available, how can anyone choose to use it?

Conservation of all resources is one of the most important of all alternative energy initiatives. Turn out the light when leaving a room, turn the heat down a degree or two in the winter, and turn up the thermostat for the air-conditioning in the summer. Try to use less gasoline by combining trips and choose cars that are fuel-efficient. One thing we can all do immediately is change the lightbulbs in our homes to the new energy-efficient bulbs.

Hundreds of years from now, when scholars study the early 21st century, they may pinpoint the year 2007 as the year that the people of the United States finally began to understand the importance of energy conservation and what alternative energy sources could do for the environment and the economy.

Will they conclude that we as a nation embraced these technologies and improved the environment in which we lived?

More power to SECCRA, a leader in our community in alternate energy sources. May the rest of us follow in their footsteps and find new sources of energy and conserve the energy we take for granted.

Correction

The publisher of "A Horse to Remember" from the January 26 Chester County Press is Raven Publishing, Inc., www.ravenpublishing.net, not Raven Publishing Company at www.ravenpushlising.com.

Chester County Press

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Letters to the Editor



Reflections on Barbaro from one of his caregivers

Dear fans of Barbaro:

Although I have communicated with you indirectly throughout the year, I am writing to you now to share some of my thoughts and emotions at the end of Barbaro's journey through life. First, I would like to thank all who energized and galvanized our will to see this journey through - your frequent messages and notes were very appreciated and a constant reminder of just how many people were touched by Barbaro, the warrior horse.

So, what of Barbaro? Please be reassured that throughout his hospitalization, and indeed his life, Barbaro remained in charge - his eye did not dim nor did his spirit waver until the last. Most of you have come to know him intimately through your research but for me the best thing about him was he was first and foremost a horse, an equine hero to be sure, but always a horse with all that is so special of our equine friends. He was kind and talented as a two year old, he became increasingly confident as his fan base increased, and prior to the Preakness I believe there could be no happier horse. . . nor human support team.

Following Barbaro's tragic misstep, we staggered with him, but like he, brushed ourselves off and carried on with the challenging task in front of us



Barbaro grazing at the Fair Hill barn prior to the Preakness race with his rider Peter Brette, assistant trainer to Michael Matz.

- to bring Barbaro back into our lives healthy and happy. New members joined the team, Dr. Richardson becoming the visible "leader" with many behind the scenes caregivers. Despite the odds, Barbaro improved steadily, our hopes rekindled, our fears diminished and Barbaro remained constant - day by day inspecting his kingdom and his servants with little patience for the slow or weak of heart.

The critical week in July became the fork in the road - he took the path less traveled and still managed to look challenge in the eye and gather momentum towards his future.

In early January I took my children to see him, for I was sure

that our next visit would be in a grassy paddock at the farm of his choice. He stood on that sunny afternoon, silhouetted against his large window with a panoramic view of nearby pastures, gazing intently at the lucky equines on the horizon, no doubt plotting what contortions and gyrations he would enjoy when he joined them in the not too distant future - that is the memory I hold in my mind's eye. His inner peace and ever present confidence that all would be right in his world, his shiny healthy coat, his well muscled and conformed body, even his wonderfully naked legs with no wraps, casts or bandages - just his badges of courage - the healed but deformed right hind

limb and the lightly padded hind foot . . . he was a portrait of health. True, he had lost his perfect body and the innocence of youth but now he stood as a battle seasoned wise warrior.

This is how I remember him, and although my heart weeps for his loss I know that he is now cavorting and challenging his cloud mates to those races that he was destined to win. I will see that bright spark in the eye of the racehorses I meet in years to come, and I will wonder if he is mischievously playing with me, challenging me to search for that intangible quality of "champion" amongst future generations.

Certainly I am forever indebted to Barbaro for his gift of courage and grace, which he bestowed upon us all from the moment he burst upon the racing scene in 2005. What a ride it has been "through sickness and health."

Barbaro fans hail from around the world with diverse cultural and economic backgrounds but together we have found common ground and realize that heroes come in many shapes, sizes and species - hail to the hero Barbaro!

Kathleen M. Anderson, DVM
Equine Veterinary Care, PC
Fair Hill Training Center

FROM HARRISBURG

A Declaration of Energy Independence

Creating new jobs, curbing demand for foreign oil

I announced a bold proposal to save Pennsylvania consumers \$10 billion in energy costs over the next decade, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and further grow our economy.

My Energy Independence Strategy will increase Pennsylvania's clean energy production capacity and help to reduce our reliance on oil and gas that comes from places like the Persian Gulf. It will also continue our investments in the production of alternative fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel.

With this far-reaching proposal, consumers will be able to use rebates and grants from an Energy Independence Fund and buy energy-efficient appliances and solar powered systems for their homes.

Consumers will be able to save

up to \$73 each year once this fund is working, and they will only have to pay 43 cents a month to help fund the \$850 million program. They will also have the opportunity to conserve energy and save more money through smart metering, or using less electricity during times of peak use.

The fund will also provide start-up capital to promote the development of alternative energy technologies and support public infrastructure improvements to prepare communities for specific, energy-related, economic development projects.

Additionally, my Energy Independence Strategy will:

- Enable large energy consumers to enter into longer-term contracts with stable, cheaper prices with their electricity

provider, or through "microgrids" to generate their own power

- Require that we grow and use one billion gallons of clean and renewable fuels to offset our dependence on foreign fuels

- Make \$100 million available to encourage clean energy companies to start and grow in Pennsylvania; and

- Target up to \$500 million in state funds for energy-related economic development projects like solar manufacturing, advanced coal technologies, biofuels and energy conservation.

We've worked hard to position Pennsylvania as a leader in attracting jobs and investment in the clean energy sector. Our forward-thinking policies have spurred hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars of new investment and

produced thousands of new, family-sustaining jobs. The new policies I am proposing will further expand our competitive edge in this exciting field.

What will be this generation's enduring legacy? Will our children essentially be held captive to foreign economic interests or will they enjoy the new freedoms and security that can be realized through energy independence? For Pennsylvania, our choice is clear. Let's act now.

Sincerely,
Edward G. Rendell
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Reprinted with permission from The PA Governor's newsletter, February 2, 2007

Ross will serve on four house committees

Rep. Chris Ross (R-Chester) will serve on the House Environmental Resources and Energy, Commerce, Local Government, and Health and Human Services committees this session.

During the previous session, the Environmental Resources and Energy Management Committee focused on legislation to help find a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for Pennsylvania.

Ross said he would reintroduce a resolution from last session, which addresses the issues of global climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. "There is a growing scientific consensus about the increasing level of global temperatures and the potential effects these increases may have on the environment," Ross said in a memo to colleagues seeking support for his resolution.

He is also reintroducing a bill that would direct the Department

of Environmental Protection to take competitive bids for the collection, transportation and recycling of electronic devices, such as televisions and computer monitors. The costs of the program would be paid by the manufacturers and apportioned based on their previous year's market share.

The House Commerce Committee, where Ross will serve as Republican chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and Banking, considers legislation that affects Pennsylvania companies and regulates financial institutions. He is looking forward to introducing legislation that is the product of the Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee and Task Force on the Consumer Credit Code, both of which he chairs. The advisory committee and task force created a statutory

framework for the Consumer Credit Code, which will contain, among other things, codified versions of the Motor Vehicle Sales Finance Act and the Goods and Services Installment Sales Act. The Code, which sets rules for the financing of automobiles and installment sales for goods and services, represents a comprehensive reorganization and modernization of the two acts, which were first enacted in 1947 and 1966.

In the upcoming session, the House Health and Human Services Committee is expected to focus on legislation which will address the dual problems of rising health care cost affordability and accessibility. The panel will also consider laws that ban smoking in public places.

The House Local Government Committee reviews bills dealing with the municipal codes by

which local governments operate. "I hope to find new ways for local governments to respond to the continued growth we are experiencing in Chester County," Ross said. Census statistics indicate that Chester County's population grew by 9.3 percent from 2000 through 2005 while the increase in the rest of the state has been only 1.2 percent.

Ross has represented the 158th Legislative District since 1997 and maintains a district office at 692 Unionville Rd. in the Willowdale Town Center in Kennett Square. The district includes the boroughs of Avondale and Kennett Square and the townships of Caln (1, 2, 3), East Bradford (North), East Marlborough, Kennett, London Britain, New Garden, Newlin, Pennsbury, West Bradford and West Marlborough.