KEEP MEDIA GREEN

The Green Crier

DEFENDING OPEN SPACE & THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Spring 2021 | Volume 2, Number 1

Buy the Land at 6th Street & Centennial Avenue

SAVE THE CENTENNIAL WOODS

Towering high into the sky over a quiet neighborhood in northwest Media, there stands a majestic grandmother oak tree living in an acre of woods situated between 6th Street and Centennial Avenue. A professional arborist has estimated that the old oak tree is over 100 years old.

It's striking to realize that Grandmother Oak was alive during the 1918 pandemic, for the duration of World War One and World War Two, during the Cold War and the turmoil of the 1960's, throughout the final decades of the 20th Century, on September 11, 2001, and has survived the first two decades of the 21st Century.

But Grandmother Oak may not live through the end of 2021 if B&G Properties, LLC has its way and if our Borough Council refuses to take action to preserve the grandmother oak tree living among dozens of other mature trees in the Centennial Woods.

This past January, Keep Media Green learned that B&G Properties, LCC had submitted a development plan to build four luxury houses on the property located at 115 W. 6th Street in Media.

What's at stake? The 1.1 acre of open space stretching between W. 6th Street and Centennial Avenue is home to one of the last significant stands of woods remaining in Media. With at least 10 species of mature trees and significant canopy cover, the Centennial Woods are a valuable wildlife habitat, contribute to critical storm water management, and play a vital role in cooling the temperature of the surrounding neighborhood, thereby countering the life-threatening impact of climate change. Of special significance are the several mature oak trees on the land. Oak trees are a high-value native species that typically support over 600 bird, mammal, and insect species.

The residents of Media need to know: THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE to the destruction of Grandmother Oak and the whole of the Centennial Woods.

In February, Keep Media Green and a cohort of neighbors living near the woods asked Borough Council to purchase the property and establish a nature and wildlife preserve at the site. When B&G Properties responded by offering to sell the land to the Borough, a win-win solution seemed possible. Alas, Brian Hall, President of Borough Council, dashed those hopes at the March 18th Council meeting when he announced that the Council had decided to reject the developer's offer. (See sidebar – Are the Centennial Woods Worth $1.5 Million?)

On May 4, 2021, the Media Planning Commission reviewed the development plan submitted by B&G Properties to build four luxury homes, to chainsaw down 56 trees, and to seek a half dozen land development waivers that would make it cheaper and easier for them to carry out their plan that would result in environmental destruction.

Michael Fiorentino, Esq., the attorney representing Keep Media Green and several neighbors living near the Centennial Woods, challenged the developer's assertion that 56 trees had to be removed and argued against the requested waiver to pay the Borough a fee in lieu of complying with the ordinance requiring onsite tree replacement for any trees they do cut down. He also urged the Commission members to delay any final decision before the development plan was complete.

The Planning Commission members asked the developer to come back before them in June with a comprehensive plan for saving more mature trees and with a more robust tree replacement plan.

The Commission's decision to delay their final recommendations for Borough Council bought some time. It's still NOT TOO LATE for Borough Council to accept the developer's offer to sell the property to the Borough, to preserve the woods, to establish a nature and wildlife preserve, and to let Grandmother Oak live for another century of human and natural history.

Are the Centennial Woods Worth $1.5 Million?

B&G Properties has offered to sell the 1.1 acre of woods and the 1948 Colonial Revival house at 115 W. 6th Street to the Borough for $1.5 million.

Borough Council has refused to consider purchasing the land in order to save the Centennial Woods because it's "too expensive."

Borough Council has also refused to:

- Appraise the value of the property;
- Assess the condition and the cost of restoration of the house and calculate its resale value as a separate, subdivided parcel (while preserving the woods);
- Apply for available open space acquisition grants from the County and State that could recoup hundreds of thousands of dollars;
- Negotiate with B&G Properties for a better deal.

Consider the fact that the Borough is willing to spend over $1.5 million for:

- New police cars, radios, security cameras, and Tasers ($189,000);
- New garage to keep five service vehicles out of the rain ($400,000);
- Directional signage ($957,000) – as if we couldn't find State Street!

What is one of the last significant stands of woods in Media worth?

Keep Media Green believes that the Centennial Woods are at least worth the investment of time and effort by Borough officials to seriously evaluate all of the financing options available.

It's the 21st Century; we need 21st Century thinking, values, and budgeting.

Next Steps in the Decision-Making Process

Media Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 @ 7:30 PM
Media Borough Council Workshop Meeting
Thursday, June 3, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Media Council Legislative Meeting
Thursday, June 17, 2021 @ 7:30 PM

Visit keepmediagreen.org for meeting details

ACTION *to surround the Centennial Woods with LOVE.*

On April 17, 2021, over 100 green-clad, face-masked residents of all ages formed a human chain on a one-quarter-mile-long green ribbon to “Surround the Centennial Woods with Love.”

Deb Ciamacca, a Media homeowner who was the 2020 Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 168th district, spoke at the closing rally at Borough Hall. She called on Media residents to continue to participate in local democracy to save the Centennial Woods and other green spaces in Media.

We delivered the books and a home-made wall hanging decorated with photographs of the Centennial Woods and many wildlife residents of Media to a locked door at the 4th Street entrance to the Borough’s offices.

Cathy Spahr, a long-time Delaware County environmentalist, then shared her story of purchasing hundreds of copies of Doctor Seuss’s classic children’s conservation book, The Lorax.

After Cathy’s son, Julien, read the closing passage of the book, Robin Lasersohn, Co-Chair of Keep Media Green, announced that we had copies of The Lorax for all seven members of Borough Council, the Mayor, and B&G Properties (the developer).

Starting on West 6th Street at the property line of the 1.1 acre parcel of woods, the green line stretched E to Olive Street, then turned N to West 7th Street, extended W to Centennial Avenue, and ended at the S end of the property line on Centennial Avenue at the complete opposite end of the 1.1 acre woodland. It was an orderly, respectful, and nonviolent Action.

After surrounding the property, we processed to Borough Hall at 301 N. Jackson Street.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EARTH DAY
RESTORE OUR EARTH

Clean&Green Volunteers Celebrate Earth Day

On Saturday, April 24th, well over 100 volunteers, including dozens of Penncrest High School students and Media Elementary School families, spread out across Media to clean up and green up our town!

At Houtman Park, Donna Cusano of Terra Donna Gardens, led a team in removing invasive vines from trees and other invasive plants from park grounds as did Janet Riddle at Phillip Green Park, and Tu Packard, Keep Media Green Canopy Committee Co-Chair, at Jaisohn Park.

Our sibling organization, Friends of Glen Providence Park, hosted several volunteer teams at Media's largest park, where folks planted flowers to decorate the outdoor stage, weeded saplings planted last year, removed lots of invasive garlic mustard, and scoured the trails and stream for litter. Thank you to Friends of Glen Providence Park President, Stephanie Gaboriault, and Board member, Marcia Tate, who also operates Garden Influence.

In recognition of the Delaware County Parks Department's care and attention to Glen Providence Park, which is the green gem of Media Borough, and because of the large number of volunteers who signed up for the event, Keep Media Green partnered with the County Parks Department in a special tree planting event at Catania Park in Ridley Park and sent a crew to tackle litter throughout the 120-acre Rose Tree Park just outside of Media Borough. Finally, dozens of volunteers fanned out across town to clean up trash and litter along streets and shopping centers.

Thank you to all who participated, and thank you, Mother Earth!

FRIENDS OF GLEN PROVIDENCE PARK

Shingle Mill Trail

Donated in 1935 as a Bird Sanctuary & Arboretum, 33-acre Glen Providence Park has 2 miles of trails through woods and along Broomall's Run, just 2 ½ blocks from downtown Media!

Spring Cleanups

Visit Glen Providence for nature therapy or join us for free & family-friendly monthly events, including nature walks, citizen science projects, volunteer cleanups & tree plantings, and summer concerts!

Friends of Glen Providence Park was founded on July 14, 2011 - it's our 10th Anniversary year!

Arts in the Park

We are an all-volunteer 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission *"to preserve and enhance the natural and historic resource of Delaware County's oldest park."* We organized in response to the threat to the north end of the park by the Third Street Project, and we continue to advocate to minimize damage to the park's wetlands, wildlife and plants.

We are grateful for Keep Media Green's work to protect all of Media Borough's open spaces!

www.glenprovidencepark.org • Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!

Inspiration from a neighbor!

How often do you get inspiration from a neighboring borough? That happened during a Zoom seminar on West Chester's urban forest. The presenters talked about its benefits, the results of their street tree survey, and West Chester's goals for the urban forest. What they said could be applied to Media borough.

Our two boroughs share much in common. Among them, stately courthouses, good eats, walkable neighborhoods, and not least, magnificent heritage trees. In one respect, however, West Chester Borough is well ahead of Media. It has (i) assembled and made public an inventory of its street trees, including heritage trees, and (ii) produced a rough estimate of the benefits and monetary value of its canopy tree infrastructure.

The West Chester surveyors collected data on the scientific and common names of street trees, nearest address, size at maturity, tree condition, date planted, and so on. They counted 2,823 trees comprising 111 different tree species, and 1,074 empty wells where new trees can be planted. 62 percent of the trees will be large at maturity, 21 percent medium, and 17 percent small. The manifold benefits of trees were enumerated. They protect us from the extremes of sun, wind, and rain. By shading homes and streets, they cool a town, break up heat islands, and release water vapor into the air through their leaves. The larger the tree, the greater the cooling effect, and also the greater its contribution to air quality. Hence, it's a more efficient use of resources to keep mature trees healthy than to plant new trees.

Tree leaves filter the air by removing dust and other particulates; during photosynthesis they absorb carbon dioxide; they also absorb other air pollutants and release oxygen. That's a big help because asthma afflicts 1 out of 12 children in the U.S.

Trees also intercept water, store some of it, and reduce stormwater runoff. The importance of controlling stormwater runoff is reflected in the size of the budget items dedicated to that purpose. Media Borough's annual capital budget contains the following investments in stormwater improvements:

Ridge & Olive Streets: $638,000

South Ave & Jefferson Street: $262,000

Inlet replacements/MS4: $225,000

The benefits we get from the urban forest include:

- **lower energy and water bills**
- **water filtering and cooling**
- **stormwater management and flood mitigation**
- **pollination**
- **habitat and biological diversity**
- **carbon sequestration**
- **soil formation and erosion control**

Using the U.S. Forest Service iTree Street Software, the West Chester researchers estimated the annual benefits in 2018 provided by the borough's street trees at $342,174 ($121.17 per tree), compared to that year's tree budget of $167,010. Bottom line, the borough got $2.05 of benefits for every $1 invested. Not a bad return, but still a significant underestimate of the actual gain because it doesn't include the value of stored carbon, as well as improvements in health and habitat outcomes. It also doesn't include the cost of building additional water treatment facilities that would have been needed had the trees not been there to help out.

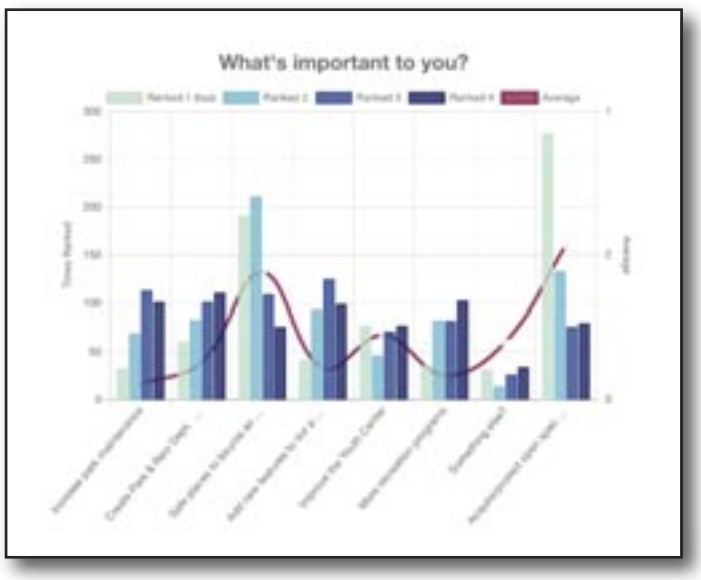
West Chester plans to expand its tree canopy coverage to at least 40%, create greenspace corridors integrated into the built environment, and identify locations to implement the 'Miyawaki' method of forest restoration. Laudable goals, and ones that Media should share.

The People's Choices: Invest in Green Space, No Dam, Pedestrian-Bicycle Parkway at Third Street

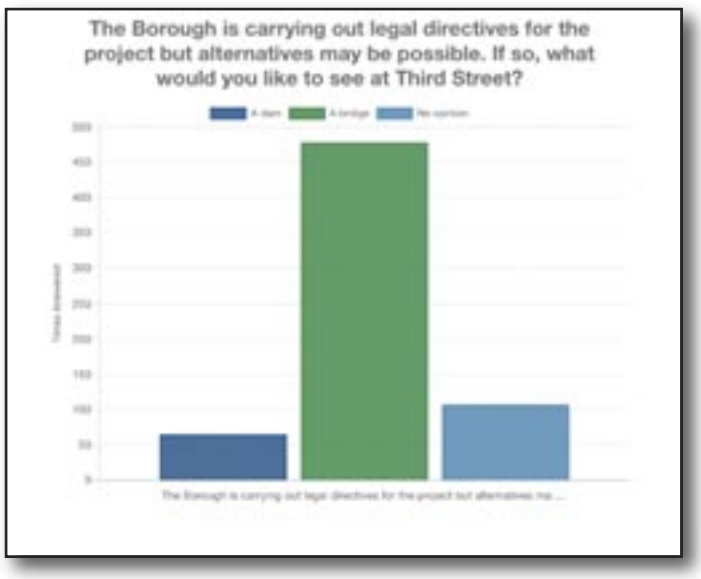
Media Borough conducted an online public survey in the winter of 2021 that solicited residents' input on Open Space, Parks, and Recreation in the borough. There was an incredibly robust popular response, with 796 individuals taking the time and effort to complete and submit survey responses. Of the total responses, 563 were submitted by borough residents – about 12 percent of the town's adult population.

So, what were the people's choices?

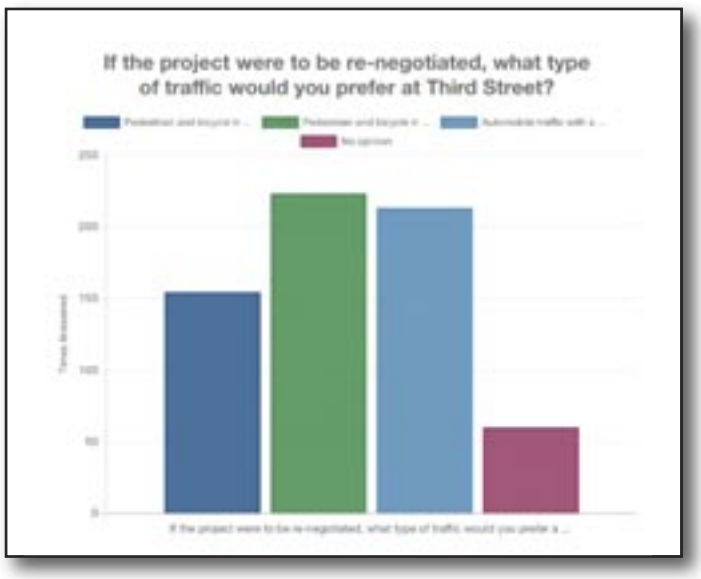
According to the respondents to Media Borough's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Survey:



Acquiring and protecting open space is the TOP priority of residents.



An overwhelming majority of residents OPPOSE reconstructing a high hazard dam that would damage Glen Providence Park; most residents prefer constructing a free-standing bridge to connect Media and Upper Providence on the Third Street parkway.



A significant majority of residents SUPPORT limiting traffic to pedestrians and bicycles on the Third Street parkway and want to ban automobiles on that stretch of Third Street next to Glen Providence Park.

To see the complete results of Media Borough's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Survey visit: keepmediagreen.org/post/open-space-survey-results

Crum Creek Neighbors **was founded in 2005 as a nonprofit environmental, open space, and neighborhood advocacy organization in Marple Township. *CCN* has helped oppose the development of the 185 acre forest at Don Guanella through its network of unpaid volunteers. Your donation will help us continue the legal fight to save the last large unprotected forest in eastern Delaware County.**

Crum Creek Neighbors
To identify, preserve, and enhance sites in the Crum Creek Watershed.
https://crumcreekneighbors.org/
P.O. Box 21, Broomall, 19008/ info@crumcreekneighbors.org

THE 180 ACRE DON GUANELLA FOREST COULD BE OUR BEST COUNTY PARK...

BUT IT CAN'T SAVE ITSELF

For six years, *Save Marple Greenspace* has been working to save eastern Delaware County's last forest with its ten miles of trails and ancient trees. We've hired an attorney and a team of experts and we're in court fighting to protect these woods for our children. But an unwavering commitment to making this gem a county park isn't enough to pay the bills. You can help us go the distance.

Get on our email list and donate online at savemarplegreenspace.com
Prefer to send a check? Save Marple Greenspace, 908 Jamestown Road, Broomall, PA 19008

“We are no longer Everybody’s Hometown.”

Frank Daly, Former Mayor of Media

Keep Media Green Canopy Committee

Keep Media Green has formed a Canopy Committee, whose charge is to work to strengthen Media Borough’s Shade Tree program so that it is guided by an explicit vision and a strategic plan based on best practices in ecology and public engagement.

After months of research and preliminary meetings with Shade Tree Commission members, the Canopy Committee is advocating that Media adopt an Oak Tree Challenge pilot program, whose goal is to increase the number of oak trees planted along Borough streets and on private property. The focus on oak trees allows the Borough to tackle multiple priorities in one project: planting native trees for maximum pollinator and wildlife support, replacing/ expanding high canopy shade trees, and creatively resolving street tree conflicts with infrastructure, such as sidewalks, curbs, and overhead wires.

As many residents have noticed, Media Borough has extremely narrow planting strips between the sidewalk and the street, which poses severe challenges for growing canopy trees. The Keep Media Green Canopy Committee is committed to working with the Shade Tree Commission to face these challenges by advocating for sufficient resources and organizing enthusiastic community support for innovative solutions.

STOP Luxury Development: Invest in Affordable Housing in Media

Frank Daly, who served as Mayor of Media for ten years, was the founder of the Media Business Authority, the Media Five-Mile Run, and the Media Food Festival. Frank is arguably the man most responsible for turning around Media from its low point of economic decline in the late 1970’s and sparking the change that resulted in today’s economic prosperity.

So, when Mayor Daly spoke to a large crowd gathered on the frozen turf of Barrall Field for Paul Patchel’s memorial service this past January, he commanded the full attention of the crowd. After Daly explained the unique role that Paul, a legendary local cultural and political activist, had played in earning Media the title of “Everybody’s Hometown,” the former mayor made a sobering observation.

“Unfortunately,” Daly stated in a dramatic declaration, “Today, Media is no longer Everybody’s Hometown.”

What exactly did the former mayor mean?

The Borough of Media has experienced dramatic shifts in its demographics, economy, and physical infrastructure over the last two decades. The town has experienced a 50 percent decline in its African American population, a steep incline in the median income of an average household, and relentless overdevelopment that has traded green space for luxury housing developments.

To state it bluntly, ordinary working people can’t afford to buy the newly developed houses selling for $500,000 – and higher – and they can’t afford to pay $3,000 per month in rent to live in the West End Flats. It seems that our local elected officials have failed to recognize the tipping point that is obvious to Frank Daly and most residents. It’s time to reverse course and put a stop to new high-end development while moving forward with reinvestment in working families and middle class neighborhoods.

That’s why Keep Media Green has entered into a partnership with Regional Housing Legal Services to help us create a Community Development Corporation in Media that can help seniors and struggling homeowners fix up their houses and stay in town, rather than sell out to predatory realtors looking to “flip” those houses and reap eye-popping profits. The new Community Development Corporation will also explore purchasing houses, renovating them, and renting or selling them to working class individuals and families.

Tami Graham, a Media home owner whose family roots in Media go back to the early 1920’s, is leading the effort to build a Community Development Corporation that can offer an alternative to more luxury houses and apartments that have become the focus of Media’s housing policy over the last decade.

“Once we have our financial and organizational structure in place,” explained Graham, “we intend to meet with local banks, individual investors, and local, state, and federal officials to raise the capital for responsible redevelopment in Media and South Media rather than reckless over-development that destroys our green spaces while simultaneously eroding our rainbow-colored diversity.”

Keep Media Green will keep the public informed about our progress in launching a Community Development Corporation devoted to people’s needs, not profit and greed.

“Where Bagels are made daily the traditional way."
Family owned and operated since 1993.

15 South Olive St., Media, PA

We support Keep Media Green
in their fight to preserve green space
in Media Borough.

DON GUANELLA TRAIL MAP

What are you waiting for?
The great outdoors
is right next door...

Explore and enjoy more than ten miles of existing trails, a dozen stream crossings, and the mature woodlands of the Don Guanella forest. But these 180 acres are not yet preserved. You can help that happen by asking your elected officials to support making this a protected park for Delaware county residents. See you on the trails!

KEY

AMBER	2.5 MILES
INDIGO	2.4 MILES
AUBURN	2.2 MILES
JADE	2+ MILES
CORAL	TRAIL HEAD

1 TREE OF THE ELDERS
2 WATERFALL
3 VALLEY OVERLOOK
4 ROCK HENGE (ADD YOUR OWN STONE)
5 THE CHUTES
6 "THE PIT" QUARRY
7 BMX COURSE
8 "HIGH QUALITY" STREAM*

*Meets PA DEP criteria to be categorized as a high quality stream.

Cardinal O'Hara High School
SAVE MARPLE GREENSPACE
Route 320
High Quality Unnamed Tributary
8
7
3
2
1
To Crum Creek Trail ??
Don Guanella School
The abandoned and blighted 33 acre site of the former Don Guanella School would be the perfect nature center for a 180 acre forested park.
Sproul Road
Whetstone Run
North
SAVE MARPLE GREENSPACE
Learn more on our website about how you can help make the Don Guanella forest a protected park.
www.savemarplegreenspace.com
facebook.com/savemarplegreenspace
Reed Road

Tyler Arboretum

NEW HOURS

EXPLORE NATURE

March - October
Weekdays 8 AM - 6 PM
Weekends 8 AM - 8 PM

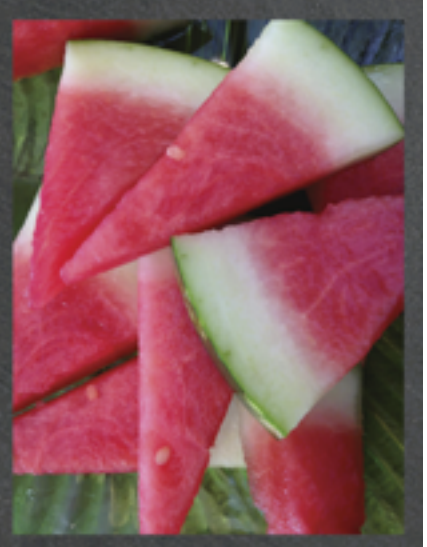
TylerArboretum.org
610.566.9134
515 Painter Road, Media, PA 19063

Wolff's
Always in Season
Since 1910

Wolff's Apple House
Farm Market
& Garden Center

Fresh, Locally Grown Produce & Plants

Wolff's farm market & garden center features thousands of plants, the region's best selection of locally grown produce, and our own homemade prepared foods.



Wolff's is "Always in Season!" Spring and summer bring an ever-growing variety of fresh produce from dozens of local family farms. Our Garden Center is bursting with a wide selection of Perennials, Vegetable plants, Herbs, and Annuals- responsibly grown by trusted local greenhouses. Soils, mulches, soil amendments, tools, and pottery round out our selection along with expert advice from our helpful plant staff! And inside you'll find "Wolff's Own" fresh food to go made by our chef: picnic salads, salsa & guacamole, pulled pork, soups, salads & wraps, house-roasted cold cuts, and more!

www.WolffsAppleHouse.com

81 S. Pennell Rd. - Media, PA - 610-566-1680

KEEP MEDIA GREEN
Candidates Survey

Mayor and Borough Council 2021 Race

Kevin Kellogg (R), Bob McMahon (D)

According to Bolder Advocacy, the nationally acclaimed project for guiding nonpartisan voter engagement activities, hundreds of nonprofit organizations across the United States develop, distribute, and publish the results of nonpartisan candidates' surveys each year.

On March 30, 2021, Keep Media Green emailed a seven-question candidate survey to the eight candidates running for Media Borough Council this year – four Democrats and four Republicans – and the two candidates seeking the office of Mayor, one Democrat and one Republican.

The questions in the survey addressed issues related to the natural environment, open space, and housing development policies in Media Borough. Candidates were asked to give a Yes or No answer in response to a very specific question and were also given the opportunity to provide a detailed explanation of their answer.

Each candidate was informed that they had over two weeks to respond to the survey; completed surveys were due to be returned to Keep Media Green on April 14, 2021.

Each candidate was also informed that Keep Media Green intended to publish their responses in "The Green Crier," our free community newspaper that is distributed at the door of Borough residents and, if they declined to respond, that we would inform the readers of "The Green Crier" about their decision. Every candidate received a reminder about the April 14th deadline on April 11th. Keep Media Green has published the verbatim answers and explanations of the candidates who responded, and we have indicated when a candidate did not respond.

Keep Media Green followed the best practices for nonpartisan candidates' surveys that have been established by Bolder Advocacy.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Each question required a Yes/No answer but also a narrative explanation, limited to 700 words.

1. **Broomall's Dam**: Do you support the Borough taking action to dissolve the 2011 legal Stipulation between Broomall's Lake Country Club, Delaware County, and Media Borough that obligates the Borough to reconstruct the Broomall's Dam?
2. **Third Street**: Do you support making Third Street between West Street and Upper Providence a pedestrian and bicycle-only greenway (with an option for emergency automotive vehicles)?
3. **Broomall's Tract**: Do you support rezoning the 13.8-acre Broomall's Tract from Residential (R-2/R-3) to MERC (Municipal, Educational, Recreational, and Community) in order to restrict any housing development on the tract?
4. **Centennial Woods:** Do you support Borough Council investing Borough funds to purchase the 1.1-acre Centennial Woods at 6th Street and Centennial Avenue if the County, State, and community also contribute funding?
5. **Budgeting for green space preservation**: Do you support establishing a dedicated line item in the Borough's budget for the purpose of preserving green space through acquisition or conservation easement purchase?
6. **Shade Tree Commission**: Do you support significantly increasing the budget of the Borough's Shade Tree Commission in order to restore and expand the Borough's tree canopy and to ensure best practices for the care and maintenance of Borough-owned trees?
7. **Taming gentrification and overdevelopment**: Do you support establishing a dedicated line item in the Borough's budget for the purpose of assisting low- and moderate-income Borough homeowners to maintain their houses, thereby preserving the Borough's socioeconomic diversity and its existing housing stock?

All candidates also had the opportunity to share "Additional Thoughts."

https://bolderadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Candidate_Questionnaires_and_Voter_Guides.pdf

SURVEY RESPONSES (published in the order they were received)

KEVIN KELLOGG (R - mayoral candidate)

1. Broomall's Dam: **YES**

There would have to be a new agreement in place (compromise) to address both parties desires. I understand we had monies to fund the previously agreed and legally agreed solution, why are we not building already?

2. Third Street: YES

Yes, but that would have to be agreed upon. I think there are agreements or legislation that says Media Borough has to be a dam and fully operational bridge and roadway.

3. Broomall's Tract: NO

I understand that the property is R1 zoned. R2/R3 would allow more dense housing and take away green space, while increasing the property value. MERC would significantly lower the value to the current owners, unless Media reimburses the other party or an agreement can be made. If it moves to MERC, what are the use intentions? I understand that MERC can be playground, educational buildings (public or private), Municipal or governmental use among others.

4. Centennial Woods: YES

Why not? Do we have the funds and how will they get generated? I think the property value is $1M or more.

5. Budgeting for Green Space Preservation: YES

How is green space provisioned today? Through what budget category? If a dedicated line item brings more visibility then great. I am not sure why this cannot be managed in either case.

6. Shade Tree Commission: YES

I think the borough needs to have a plan, I asked for it at the last meeting, they said it would be available after the new website is in place. So I haven't seen the tree replacement plan and how mature this plan addresses replacement and timing. Key aspects for me is to figure out how to replace large SHADE trees and maintain these trees to support the visual aspects we enjoy and to play a role in the traffic calming plan.

7. Taming Gentrification: NO

There are do it your self groups that can support maintenance initiatives. I think the area has plenty socioeconomic diversity and it is not the responsibility (financially and otherwise) of the Media Borough. I would relook at this issue from a county level. As we have experienced and as the business and social activities have grown over the years, the property values have risen as the desire to move here increases. Market conditions prevail and there is not much we can do to alter the course.

Final Thoughts

I think these are important topics and many times we look at just the Media Borough view. There are strong communities in NP and UP that we should consider and possibly leverage. I think there should be coordination across several of these topics.

MICHELE FIZZANO (R – council candidate)

1. Broomall's Dam: **YES**

I support the Borough taking action to getting this resolved in the best way that can benefit the community – including financially –- which is likely possible with a compromise. If this approach fails, we will have no choice but to follow court rulings. We must try to compromise!

2. Third Street: YES

This would have to be part of the compromise, otherwise, we will have no choice based on the current stipulation that it will have to be a dam and bridge/roadway.

2. Broomall's Tract: NO

Much too large of a tract but would love to see a dedicated large green space on any planned housing development.

4. Centennial Woods: YES

1.1-acre purchase is certainly within reach and we must try to preserve the little remaining green space in the borough especially when it is part of an existing residential area.

5. Budgeting for Green Space Preservation: YES

As long as it doesn't raise borough taxes! Preserving existing green space (especially within developed neighborhoods) helps us keep our small town charm – a big reason for many people wanting to live in a walk-able town.

6. Shade Tree Commission: YES

We don't need another concrete jungle town. The greenery is part of our charm and we should make reasonable efforts to keep it that way.

7. Taming Gentrification: NO

This should come from other sources. Borough taxes are high enough and we all have our own financial concerns maintaining our own homes in these times. Maintaining one's home does not insure to tame gentrification and over development efforts.

Final Thoughts

[None offered]

Kevin Boyer (D), Michele Fizzano (R), Don McAviney (R), Mark Paikoff (D), Elizabeth Romaine (D), Kelly Sides (R), Michael Straw (R), Joi Washington (D)

MICHAEL STRAW (R – council candidate)

1. Broomall's Dam: **YES**

I believe that the Borough Council, County Government, and Broomall's Lake Country Club should sit down and work to find a compromise that is beneficial for all parties to move forward in regard to open space, roadway/utility construction, etc. However, if one or neither party can agree to end the stipulation agreement then the agreement must move forward as stated. Although, I believe that having a new councilmember, with a fresh perspective, will be beneficial in working to help negotiate different opportunities as a Borough Councilmember with the club and the county government.

2. Third Street: YES

I think it would be a great idea to construct a bridge with a greenway and to allow access for pedestrians, bicycles, emergency traffic, and possibly school bus traffic as well. I would also be fine with a bridge that allowed for public vehicular traffic. I do not want to see this area continue in the state of disrepair that it is though. However, for any of these ideas to come to fruition a successful negotiation with all parties must occur to allow for the dissolvement of the stipulation agreement.

3. Broomall's Tract: NO

To be clear, I'm all for preserving open space and I believe this is a property that we as a community could look to preserve. However, there have been lawsuits that have occurred regarding this particular property over the years. Also, there is an agreement that resulted in the Borough Council reversing its rezoning the property as MERC and in exchange Broomall's Lake Country Club would not build townhomes on the property as recently as January 2019. I do not think we should be looking to rezone the property to MERC until the Borough Council negotiates with the club to find a solution. Once its future use is negotiated I think the Borough could look to rezone it.

4. Centennial Woods: YES

Absolutely 100%. The Borough is able to get additional and supplemental funding from non-profits, the State, the County's Green Space Taskforce. I would absolutely work toward this solution and other solutions that would help the Borough protect and preserve the land. I think the Borough should also look to rezone the land to MERC if the Borough were to purchase the land to preserve it.

5. Budgeting for Green Space Preservation: YES

I support creating a dedicated line item for preserving open space in the Borough. Having this available will be beneficial for future open space possibilities in Media. I would also be amenable to possibly tying this line item to maintaining existing green spaces as well.

6. Shade Tree Commission: YES

In my opinion our town is losing too many shade trees each year. This is not the fault of our shade tree commission; they have been working hard to identify spots to include new trees and working with owners to replace trees. I do, however, think that an increase in the budget item for shade trees is a goal to commit to if it is within the Borough's budgetary means. Therefore, I will work to find ways to increase the budget for the shade tree commission.

7. Taming Gentrification: YES

I would been in favor of setting up a line item that would help benefit lower income and middle-income families to help maintain their homes. However, I would need to review and make sure the Borough would have the funds available for such a program and there would need to be a discussion to set standards and requirements. Also, this service could be utilized by many Borough residents. In my opinion, I would propose having a public referendum be placed on the ballot to allow for voters to decide if they would like to have a specific line item for this in the budget. I would be in favor of voting for it to be a referendum and working to implement such a line-item once established.

Final Thoughts

First I want to thank Keep Media Green for asking myself and my fellow candidates these important questions. It is extremely important for voters to hear our answers and make decisions based off of them for the benefit of the town. The bottom line is Media Borough has a limited amount of green space and natural environment remaining. I feel we as a community want to preserve as much of the remaining land as possible. Not only will it help benefit our air quality and environment, but it will also benefit our own wellbeing as residents to enjoy our open spaces. This is an issue that impacts all residents, almost every Borough resident walks by or under a number of our shade trees in the borough each day for instance! As someone who is an avid park goer, I love to enjoy bird watching and hiking in Glen Providence Park (county park) and Houtman Park in Upper Providence (owned by Media Borough) and I want to make sure they are maintained and advocated for. Furthermore, as a your Borough Councilmember I would work to maintain our parks, green spaces, and trees for future generations in Media to enjoy.

DONALD McAVINEY (R – council candidate)

1. Broomall's Dam: **YES**

There is a Stipulation Agreement (the "Agreement") that governs the parties rights and interests in this matter. Unless the parties agree to dissolve the Agreement or the Court orders it dissolved, the Agreement must continue to be followed.

2. Third Street: YES

The Stipulation Agreement (the "Agreement") governs how this property can be used, and unless the parties agree to modify the Agreement, or the Court orders a modification or dissolution, the Agreement must be followed.

3. Broomall's Tract: NO

The current zoning should remain in place.

4. Centennial Woods: YES

If the State, County and community don't contribute funds to assist the Borough in purchasing this property within a reasonable period of time, then the owners of the property should be able to sell the tract privately in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and ordinances then in effect.

5. Budgeting for Green Space Preservation: YES

But the funding of this line budgetary line item would have to be fully discussed and agreed upon.

6. Shade Tree Commission: YES

But "significantly increasing" is rather vague, and the funding for this purpose should not result in an increase in taxes.

7. Taming Gentrification: NO

This question is an important question, and it does not lend itself to a simplified answer in a questionnaire. Funding for this would be an important concern, as well as developing standards for implementing the program, and establishing definitions and guidelines for qualification and receipt of assistance. This is the type of program I would like to see presented for approval to the voters rather than having Council take action on their own.

Final Thoughts

[None offered]

KELLY SIDES (R – council candidate)

1. Broomall's Dam: **YES**

Provided all parties involved can reach an agreement.

2. Third Street: YES

But if the stipulation remains in place it would have to be a dam and fully operational bridge.

3. Broomall's Tract: NO

I feel that there is enough land to build beautiful homes on that would bring more revenue to the borough, also if it is rezoned to MERC we don't know what type of facility could end up there.

4. Centennial Woods: YES

I think it would be wonderful if we could purchase the 1.1 acre Centennial Woods provided that we were able to receive outside funding to assist in absorbing some of the cost.

5. Budgeting for Green Space Preservation: YES

I feel that dedicating a line item for preserving Greenspace is a great idea provided it does not cause an increase in taxes.

6. Shade Tree Commission: YES

I agree that the budget would need to be adjusted to care for, restore and expand borough owned trees. It is part of what makes our town beautiful, tree lined streets tend to slowdown traffic and most of all it is better for our environment.

7. Taming Gentrification: YES

Again I agree with establishing a dedicated line item to bring attention to the matter and to push for identifying and implementing ways to fund it without increasing taxes.

Final Thoughts

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this survey.

Bob McMahon (D – mayoral candidate) – Declined to respond
Kevin Boyer (D – council candidate) – Declined to respond
Mark Paikoff (D – council candidate) – Declined to respond
Elizabeth Romaine (D – council candidate) – Declined to respond
Joi Washington (D – council candidate) – Declined to respond

Note: On April 13, 2021, Joi Washington, Chair of the Media Democratic Party Committee, sent Keep Media Green an email that included a group statement on behalf of all of the Democratic candidates that failed to address any of the survey questions and also stated, "In a few weeks, the Media Democrats will release our Spring newsletter and we invite you to read about our positions on these and other affairs facing our Borough."

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The Cat Hospital of Media is located at:
422 East Baltimore Avenue, Media, PA 19063
Parking in the rear on Worrall Street.
Look for the cat murals on the back of the building.

We are moving soon!

New location is on Baltimore Avenue in Media Borough.
Check our website: thecathospitalofmedia.com for updates.

Hours: Monday & Thursday 8am-5pm | Tuesday & Wednesday 8am-8pm
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The Cat Hospital of Media was established in 2006. In 2015, Dr. Christine Bohn Kirnos and her husband, Paul, purchased the hospital. Since then, they have lived and worked in Media, with their two children, Julian and Amalia. Their philosophy is to give back to the community that supports them. If the Kirnos family are not at the practice, you will often see them supporting other Media businesses or attending community events.

The Cat Hospital of Media is enrolled in the AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund, which helps veterinarians with the cost of offering low or no-cost services to clients facing extraordinary hardships and medical care for animals rescued from abuse and neglect. Considerable time and money is donated each year to local, animal health-related charitable endeavors in and around Media.

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Keep Media Green Board
left to right: Terry Rumsey, Robin Lasersohn, Jane Sleutaris, Abbie Wysor, and Will House

Our Mission

The mission of Keep Media Green is to protect and preserve open green space and the natural environment in Media, Pennsylvania.

Our Vision

Our vision is a community where public and private policies work to protect and preserve open green space for current and future generations.

keepmediagreen.org
info@keepmediagreen.org
484.326.1370

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