



THE KENNETT PIKE ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2021-2022



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WCC to Host the BMW Championship

The Wilmington Country Club will host the 2022 BMW Championship on August 16-21 as the PGA TOUR visits the state of Delaware for the first time. Operated by the Western Golf Association, the BMW Championship is the penultimate event of the PGA TOUR’s FedEx Cup Playoffs, featuring the top 70 players in the FedEx Cup standings.

In addition to its purse of \$15 million, this prestigious championship determines the final field of 30 for the season-ending TOUR championship. Patrick Cantlay won last year’s event at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland, outlasting Bryson DeChambeau in a thrilling six-hole playoff. Other past champions include Tiger Woods, Justin Thomas, Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose, Dustin Johnson.

All proceeds from the BMW Championship will benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation and its mission of awarding full tuition and housing college scholarships to youth caddies. Since 2007, the BMW Championship has raised more than \$40 million for caddie scholarships.

The 2022 BMW Championship will be played on Wilmington Country Club’s South Course. Wilmington Country Club was established in 1901, with its original 18 holes covering 135 acres purchased from William du Pont Sr. at what is now the Ed “Porky” Oliver Golf Course, the Wilcastle Center, and playing fields of the Tower Hill School. The club relocated to its present location in the 1950’s with the purchase of 335 acres of the Winterthur property. Playing over 7,500 yards from the championship tees, the South Course has been recognized as one of the United States’ best golf courses by Golf Digest.

While this will be Wilmington Country Club’s first professional event, the club has long been a proving ground for the world’s best amateur players. After hosting the 1913 U.S. Women’s

Amateur event, WCC has hosted five other USGA events including the 1965 and 1978 U.S. Junior Amateur, the 1971 U.S. Amateur, the 1978 U.S. Girl's Junior, and the 2003 U.S. Mid-Amateur. The club also hosted the 2013 Palmer Cup competition between Europe and the United States.



The BMW Championship is expected to draw 130,000 guests with a projected economic impact of \$30 million for our area.

Premier PGA TOUR events require many volunteers, and the BMW Championship is no exception. Organizers will rely on 2,000 volunteers to assist with everything from crowd control to providing transportation for players and their families. These volunteer positions were filled within weeks of the start of registration, marking one of the most successful volunteer recruitment drives in BMW Championship history. Local roads will be busy the week of the championship, but organizers are working hard to keep traffic moving. Anyone interested in tickets for the BMW Championship should visit the website: www.bmwchampionship.com

The 2022 BMW Championship will be a significant event for our area as we play hosts for a week in August to thousands of visitors from around the world.

"The South course has everything you look for in a traditional championship layout. It will present a strategic test for the world's best players."

--- Vince Pellegrino
WGA Senior VP of Tournaments

"It is a great honor for Wilmington Country Club to be the first club in the state of Delaware to play host to the PGA Tour, and to the prestigious BMW Championship. The passion that fans in this area have for golf is unmatched."

--- Melissa Riegel
President, Wilmington Country Club

"We are thrilled the Wilmington Country Club in New Castle County has been selected as the site for the 2022 BMW Championship."

--- Matt Meyer
New Castle County Executive

"Delaware is excited to host the 2022 BMW Championship. The First State has a long and proud golf history and is ideally positioned to support one of golf's great championships."

--- John Carney
Governor



Delaware Bans Sale and Import of Invasive Plants

Starting on July 1, 2022 the sale or import of 37 invasive plants in Delaware will be banned. After that date people selling, importing or planting these species could face fines of \$50 to \$500. The purpose of the new law – Senate Bill No. 22 – is to protect native plant species, and to help support the local insect population. These species can crowd out native plants, says Jeff Downing, Executive Director of the Mt. Cuba Center. “They are particularly aggressive in terms of their spreading and their growth habit, and they tend to crowd out other species. This new law is a real great win for conservation in the state of Delaware.”

Governor John Carney signed the new legislation during the Delaware Center for Horticulture’s “Delaware Naturally” conference held earlier last year. “I learned a lot from that legislation and took it to heart.” A major driver of the legislation was Doug Tallamy of the University of Delaware’s Entomology and Wildlife Ecology Department who said, “The value of the legislation stems from the realization that invasive plants destroy habitat. Throughout the world there is a ton of data that shows that the loss of habitat is the number one cause of the loss of biodiversity.”

One of the banned plants is the aptly named “Mile-a-Minute” weed which grows up to 6-inches in a single day. Each prickly plant produces about 1,000 seeds which are spread by birds. The plant was accidentally introduced from Asia in other nursery stock.

Another banned invasive species is the Tree of Heaven. It is another very troublesome plant native to Asia. It reproduces rapidly, chokes out other plants, and is a favorite habitat for the spotted lanternfly which has caused millions of dollars of damage.

Other invasive species banned by this new legislation include English Ivy, Chinese Wisteria, Amur Honeysuckle, Creeping Jenny, the Water Hyacinth, and the Callery, or Bradford Pear tree. The Bradford Pear is a deciduous tree known for its white flowers and is very difficult to remove. When it is cut down, more trees grow from the remaining roots.

The preservation of our heritage, history and scenic views along the Kennett Pike and Route 100 corridors not only helps to improve our property values, but makes our community a better place to live and do business. “THANK YOU” to the volunteer Directors of KPA for all of their hard work on behalf of the Greenville, Centreville and Montchanin communities:

Glenn Barnhill, Jr.
Jay Chandler
Mark Fortunato
Ellie Maroney
Jon Sloss

Richard Beck
Deborah Barnhill Diver
Patty Hobbs
Nancy S. Martz
John Danzeisen

Joe Carbonell
Bill Duncan
Stephanie Hoopes
Tom Scott



New Castle County has been working on a new comprehensive plan for almost 2-years and it is nearing completion. This plan is a very important roadmap --- it will be a blueprint for the County's growth between now and the year 2050, and is the product of a lot of hard work identifying growth and development opportunities, a focus on what is working and what is not, and anticipating what might be coming in the years ahead. It assesses current conditions and envisions how we may need to adapt in the future to threats and opportunities. In addition to expert inputs and considerations, and lots of research, individuals and groups have participated in surveys, forums, and planning exercises.

Current conditions and projected trends suggested some overarching ambitions, and 11 priorities were established. For each priority, a number of strategies were created to achieve those goals. Here are the 11 NCC 2050 priorities:

1. Direct development to planned growth areas
2. Reduce environmental and health hazards
3. Preserve at least 30% of County land as open space
4. Address climate change and prepare for a clean energy future
5. Develop programs to support a range of industries
6. Strive for equitable distribution of economic growth benefits
7. Orient government processes to implement the plans across agencies
8. Increase the range of safe quality housing for all in diverse locations
9. Implement corridor and water revitalization programs
10. Increase diversity of engagement in community planning
11. Update rezoning practices to achieve the right balance between predictability and flexibility

For each of these 11 priorities detailed and measurable strategies were identified which, when achieved, will deliver the priorities. An assessment of the priorities also led to six emerging themes:

- Sustainable growth
- Livable built environment for all
- Conservation and preservation
- Robust economy
- Thriving places and Community character
- Diverse engagement

Our readers are particularly interested, among other things, in how conservation, preservation and open spaces are handled in this plan. It appears that those factors will play an important part in future planning and development activities. To review the DRAFT plan, go to the following web address:

<https://ncc2050-nccde.hub.arcgis.com>

Here are some of the many interesting statistics gleaned from the New Castle County 2050 Comprehensive Plan:

Our County has an aging population:	<u>2020</u>	<u>2035</u>	<u>2050</u>
Total NCC Population	564,780	583,564	577,814
% age 0 – 29	52%	42%	40%
% age 65+	24%	30%	30%
Our County has a more diverse population:			
% White	55%	48%	40%
% Black	26%	30%	33%
% Other	19%	22%	27%

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- **42% of the land in the County has been developed**
 - **74,700 acres (27%) of land in the County are protected (parklands, private open space)**
 - **2050 goal is to achieve 30% protected land (KPA asks for 33%)**
 - **NCC has 300,000 jobs – major types are Business and Financial Services, Distribution and Electronic Commerce, Education, Hospitality, Insurance and IT.**
 - **Median household income is \$73,892 --- the National median is \$65,712**
 - **County employment rate is 61%**
 - **Median mortgage is \$1,657 per month**
 - **Median House Value is \$272,800**
 - **Transportation to Work: 80% Drive Alone, 8% Carpool, 4% Public Transit, 4% Walk, 4% Other**
 - **Kennett Pike Traffic: 10,000-20,000 cars per day; Route 141 25,000-35,000 per day**
 - **County Car Crashes: 2010 = 10,403 2020 ~ 18,000**
 - **County Bridges 875**
 - **County Traffic Signals 850**





Quick Community Updates

- To improve access for the disabled to the Greenville shops from the west side of Kennett Pike, a crosswalk will be created in front of Stonegates and a brick sidewalk will be installed between the Stonegates entrance and the exit from Greenville One Crossing.
- The Barley Mill Plaza development is progressing on schedule. Announcements about retail tenants are expected in the Spring, and Wegmans should open in the Fall. Construction of the Townhouses is underway.
- The Country House expansion project continues to progress with most of the new cottages nearing completion, and the expansion of the main building underway.
- Canby Grove Park in Centreville recently replaced the playground equipment bringing it into ADA compliance, along with improved parking. The park which is located on the Underground Railroad route will also pay homage to Harriett Tubman --- several informational kiosks are planned. KPA donated funds to refurbish the gazebo.
- The Museum of Natural History refurbishment is progressing with new exhibit installations underway. Its name has also changed – it is now the Delaware Museum of Nature & Science reflecting the broader scope and focus of its mission.
- DeIDOT will soon replace a few small bridges along Montchanin Road and at the intersection with Adams Dam Road. DeIDOT considered replacing the 4-way stop at that intersection with a round-about to improve traffic flow, but several years ago the community strongly resisted that change.
- The stamped brick crosswalks in Greenville are deteriorating and in need of repair. KPA is working with DeIDOT, State Representative Griffiths and State Senator Sturgeon to address this need.
- The Gibraltar mansion at the corner of Kennett Pike and Greenhill Avenue has sat dormant and deteriorating for the last decade. The once meticulously maintained house and garden now has hanging shutters, shattered windows, peeling paint and plaster, and graffiti filled walls. Plans to convert the building into offices were resisted by neighbors, and a new plan to adapt it to a boutique hotel is meeting resistance.
- Frederick’s Country Center in Centreville has a new owner and the shops are getting spruced up. The house in front of the shops has had a partial restoration and more is planned for the future.



New Castle County Byway Protection Strategy

The Kennett Pike Association along with other area preservation and civic groups has been working for the last decade to implement meaningful measures into the New Castle County development codes to preserve and protect the intrinsic qualities of our National and State Byways, including the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway comprised of the Kennett Pike and Montchanin Road. Stricter limits on building heights, building setbacks from the roadways, signage and sidewalks have been proposed to ensure the scenic and historic character of the roadways is preserved.

New Castle County has strongly supported these efforts and developed an “Overlay” set of standards for these roadways. However, the resulting proposed legislation was deemed to be too complicated and difficult to enforce. The NCC Land Use Department is now taking a more simplified approach and has developed a Protection Strategy for scenic byways, watershed areas and villages using the existing structure of the current development codes to accomplish the goals. Those goals are entirely consistent with the proposals from KPA, the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway Partnership, and other organizations. The state of Delaware has endorsed the plan and its provisions.

These efforts have taken a long time to come to fruition, and we are not there yet, but the community and the state and county governments are all rowing in the same direction and all want the same outcomes. The final results must be fair to all – land owners, developers, and the community. We are optimistic that we are close to finding the right solutions to preserve and protect these treasures for all to enjoy for many years to come.

Thank you to all KPA members --- some 250 families and 40 institutions and small businesses --- who care about protecting this heritage and who give us a collective powerful voice with our government representatives and elected officials. Your support is essential for our volunteer organization to do what we do. We are fortunate to live in a special place rich in history and beauty. We all benefit in preserving these qualities.



KPA MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

The KPA has been protecting and beautifying the Kennett Pike and Route 100 corridors for more than 55 years. We are blessed to have an all-volunteer leadership team, but the plantings, landscaping and maintenance cost a lot of money each year. We could not do our work without our family members, our median sponsors, and our company and neighborhood association supporters. On behalf of the entire community, "THANK YOU" for making our surroundings more beautiful!

Thank You to our median sponsors: Bouchaine Vineyards, Brandywine Fine Properties / Sothebys, Brantwyn Holdings, DeWees Investments, Dewson Construction, Janney Montgomery Scott, G. Wm. Keller DDS PA, M&T Bank / Wilmington Trust, Patterson Schwartz Real Estate, Setting Properties, Stonegates, Weymouth Swayze and Corroon Insurance, WSFS Bank

Please support the KPA in its work, and become a member, with a tax deductible payment

Name

Street

City and State Zip Code

Amount Enclosed\$60 Family\$150 Company, Civic or Neighborhood Association

Send To: The Kennett Pike Association P. O. Box 3592 Greenville, DE 19807

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