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County Council Holds Public Meeting
At Restored Concord Township Municipal Building

Delaware County Council will head west for its next evening meeting in the community, this time at 6 p.m. April 28 at the renovated Concord Township Municipal Building, a stately historic structure that once housed the Dante Orphanage.

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance communication with residents, County Council will hold the public meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, at the Concord municipal building, 43 Thornton Road, just off Baltimore Pike.

Concord Township officially moved its offices to the building in October 2009.

The historic property dates back to 1862, when Joseph Shortlidge founded The Concordville Seminary For Young Ladies and Gentlemen. Later renamed "The Maplewood Institute," the red brick building served as one of the area's first co-educational boarding schools.

In 1920, the grounds and buildings were sold to the Sons of Italy, who founded The Dante Orphanage and constructed the present stone building, which catered to the care of World War I orphans from Italy.

In addition, Garnet Valley School District, Delaware County Community College and the Church of Our Savior have utilized the property.

The red brick church on the property was the Maplewood gymnasium. That building now serves as the Concord Community Center and the orphanage is now home to the Concord Township offices.

As part of its open space program, Concord Township acquired the property in 2006. The impressive gray building was redesigned for municipal use and includes a new 2,698-square-foot meeting room that will be used for County Council's public meeting on April 28.

(more)

(Public meeting in Concord continued)

“Council is pleased to hold a public meeting at one of Delaware County’s historic landmarks,” said Council Chairman Jack Whelan. “It is our hope that these evening meetings will encourage our residents to become more involved with local government and in turn, help us to communicate more directly with our residents.”

County Council will conduct its regular business meeting, plus invite input from local residents during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Concord Township was originally formed in 1683 as a part of Chester County and was included in Delaware County in 1789, when the county was established. Concord’s namesake is a result of the harmonious feelings that prevailed among the first settlers. In addition, Concord is home to the historic Willcox Ivy Mill, famous for manufacturing special “localized fibre” paper that was used by the U.S. Treasury for their bank notes in the late 1800s.

The former township building on Smithbridge Road is now fully utilized by the Rachel Kohl Library.

For more information about the April 28 public meeting, contact (610) 891-4931.

* For information: Delaware County Council will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, at the Concord Municipal Building, located at 43 Thornton Road in Glen Mills, Pa. There will be no daytime Council meeting on Tuesday, April 27.