

Teacher of the Year B3

# BUCKS COUNTY HERALD

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including Homes

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## Volunteers help stock trout in local waterways

Bucks County Treasurer Kris Ballerini teamed up with volunteers and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission this week to help stock the Delaware Canal ahead of trout season.

"COVID took so many things away from us in 2020, but our connection to the outdoors seems only to have grown stronger," Ballerini said. "It's great to see, more and more folks taking advantage of the beauty that Bucks County has to offer."

Fishing licenses and permits can be purchased through the Bucks County Treasurer's Office. A valid fishing license is required for anyone age 16 and over when angling for any species in Pennsylvania. A trout permit is also required to fish in stocked waters.

The following Bucks County waterways are stocked with trout:

- Delaware Canal (two sections – Upper Washington Crossing State Park and Lower Washington Crossing State Park downstream to Ferry Road in Morrisville);
- East Branch Perkiomen Creek (Branch Road Bridge (T-431) downstream through Sellersville);
- Levittown Lake;
- Neshaminy Creek (two sections – Valley Road to Mill Road near Jamison, and from the dam at the causeway in Tyler State Park downstream to the bridge on Route 332);
- Tohickon Creek (Dark Hollow Road downstream to mouth); and
- Unami Creek (Milford Township Park downstream to Trumbauersville Road (Route 4051)).



JAMES O'MALLEY

## Trout streams are stocked

Bucks County Treasurer Kris Ballerini teamed up with volunteers and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to help stock the Delaware Canal ahead of trout season's opening day on April 3.

## Owner donates 37.2-acre property for open space

Chris Ruvo

More land in Upper Makefield appears to be on its way to being protected from large-scale development thanks to the generosity of a local landowner.

Edgar W. Brick has opted to donate his 37.2-acre property on the 900 block of Mt. Eyre Road into a conservation easement with the township.

On Tuesday, April 6, the Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors voted to authorize township professionals to prepare the documents required to allow the acceptance of the easement, thereby ultimately making it official.

The resolution notes that the township has identified the property as a "high priority" for conservation.

Continued on page C6

## Springfield rejects school sign payment

Barrie-John Murphy

Springfield supervisors may have paid for school speed limit signs in the past, but they're not about to do it now.

Board members rebuffed a request by Palisades District to pay \$13,000 for two replacement signs outside Springfield Elementary but did leave the door open for a partial payment at some point.

Township Manager Jason Wager told the March 24 meeting Springfield may have paid for the Route 212 signs back in the day but said there was no legal requirement for a second-class township to provide new ones.

"This is not our problem," observed Supervisor Pete Kade. "If a board did it once in the past that doesn't behoove us to continue with it. The school district gets a lot of money in tax and we don't."

"It's a function of the school, and it's some-

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## EPA starts groundwater treatment plant construction

Freda R. Savana

Doylestown Borough residents and officials have been waiting years for the contaminated groundwater at the Chem-Fab Superfund Site to be treated and removed from the former electroplating business on North Broad Street.

Work began this week on a two-story groundwater treatment plant, where pumps will draw between 50 and 100 gallons of water a minute, filter it and discharge it into a nearby waterway, said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Building of the 80-foot by 110-foot facility will bring heavy

equipment, including dump trucks, excavators, tractor trailers and cement trucks into the area. A mobile crane will also be used, the EPA said. Some tree clearing could be required, "but only those trees directly in the path of the new access road, the new building footprint and the laydown yard," according to the

federal agency.

The construction schedule, expected to run through July, will begin at 7 a.m. and end at 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Teams are not expected to work on Sundays. Traffic will run south along

Continued on page C7

## Trail advocates celebrate Bucks regional destination

Joe Ferry

On a sun-splashed Tuesday afternoon perfect for hiking and biking, officials from several state, county, and local agencies gathered at Veterans Park in Richland Township to celebrate the region's progress toward using natural, outdoor recreational resources to support local businesses and improve the quality of life for residents in a pilot program called "Nature-Based Placemaking."

Standing next to the recently opened Upper Bucks Rail Trail, speakers touted the benefits of developing a strategic plan that positions the Quakertown

area as a regional destination for recreational activity, then steers those visitors to downtown restaurants and shops.

The state estimates consumers spend about \$28 billion a year on recreational activities and the Quakertown area wants its share of the pot.

"Communities that are walkable and bikeable with trails, green space, parks, and access to water not only create a richer quality of life for their residents; they also have the potential to draw visitors into their downtowns," said Lauren Imgrund, deputy secretary of the state Department of Conserv-

Continued on page C7



JOE FERRY

Above right, members of Quakertown Alive's WalkWorks Committee on a Conference Bike owned by Bob Swaim. They were celebrating the opening of the Richland Township rail trail.

## Former officer charged with abuse

Former Warminster Township Police Officer James Carey has been charged with sexually abusing four teen-age boys while he worked as a D.A.R.E. officer two decades ago, the Bucks County District Attorney's Office said Wednesday.

The arrest follows a lengthy investigation by Bucks County Detectives and an inquiry by a Bucks County Investigating Grand Jury,

according to the DA's office.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is an anti-drug abuse program run by police in cooperation with schools.

Carey was scheduled to be arraigned before District Judge Maggie Snow in Doylestown Wednesday, prior to the DA's afternoon press conference. Details about the charges were not available at press time.

## Bedminster assures property maintenance with ordinance

Cliff Lebowitz

Bedminster Township has recognized a need for "a mechanism to assure the proper maintenance, care, and if necessary, replacement" of private-property roadside infrastructure in its newly developed areas, as that infrastructure ages. It has also noted that it has already "experienced situations in which property owners attempt to avoid" related obligations.

Accordingly, culminating a two-year process, the board of supervisors has approved, for advertising, a new ordinance to serve as that mechanism. The action was taken at the March 10 public meeting, and final approval might be on the agenda for the April 14 meeting.

The new ordinance includes ice and snow removal and related parking, which is covered much more comprehensively than it was in a 2006

Continued on page C7

## County commissioners okay Tile Works agreement

Freda R. Savana

In a unanimous vote Wednesday, the Bucks County commissioners signed a 30-year agreement with the newly created nonprofit TileWorks of Bucks County to continue the mission of the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works in Doylestown.

While the change in management of the National Historic Landmark from

the county to tilemaker Katia McGuirk's nonprofit stirred controversy in some quarters of the community, including the Bucks County Historical Society, which hoped to have a larger role, the commissioners endorsed the plan.

Following a number of residents' comments that both supported and objected to the change, during the commissioner's meeting, McGuirk presented the agreement that, she said, will preserve the landmark as a working history museum.

Bucks County will continue to own the

facility and all its historic artifacts and "exercise robust oversight at all times and appoint one of the nonprofit's trustees," McGuirk said.

TileWorks of Bucks County will have a license to operate the museum consistent with its historical purposes and as a National Historic Landmark. Two of the museum's employees will remain on the staff, according to McGuirk, who served as production manager at Moravian Pottery & Tile Works early in her tile making career.

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Homes Section



# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ryoung@buckscountyherald.com

## Dental clinic welcomes new board member

John O'Leary has been elected to the board of directors of HealthLink Dental Clinic in Southampton.

O'Leary brings to the board decades of experience in both the for-profit and non-profit space spanning roles in public relations, marketing, strategic planning, and business consulting. Having recently relocated to Montgomery County from Southern California, he was looking for an opportunity to get tuned in with the local community and its needs. O'Leary has served on multiple boards and committees during his career including with Radiant Health Centers and Boston Living Center.

O'Leary will be joining the other members of HealthLink Dental



**JOHN O'LEARY**

Clinic's 2021 board of directors: Rick James, Bernie Dishler, David Dotson, George Dempster, Deborah Hedrick, Michael Motte and Jo Ann Allen Nyquist.

## ShopRite employees feted for fighting hunger

The ShopRite of Yardley unveiled a special edition Cheerios box on March 31 featuring the winners of the annual ShopRite Partners in Caring Cheerios Contest, sponsored in partnership with General Mills.

It's a tradition that recognizes associates for fighting hunger in the communities where ShopRite stores operate. Store associates Amy Praria of Levittown and Deborah Freiling of Trevese are featured on the box, which was unveiled at an in-store ceremony, in recognition of their fundraising efforts to support regional food banks.

In addition to the unveiling, ShopRite presented a \$500 donation to Philabundance, made possible by the prize money received from the contest. With this year's contest

theme, "Ending Hunger Together," serving as the backdrop, ShopRite associates came together last September (Hunger Action Month) to collect donations at check-out, helping to raise \$1 million for regional food banks in several states.

*Amy Praria of Levittown and Deborah Freiling of Trevese, two Shoprite of Yardley employees, point to their pictures, which are being featured on a special edition Cheerios box.*



*Staff from ShopRite Yardley present a \$500 donation to Philabundance, made possible by the prize money received from the ShopRite Partners in Caring Cheerios Contest.*



## Camille Granito Mancuso: Chatterbox

It's taken a while but America is picking up steam and some optimism, finally.

With our nation as divided as it was, the outlook wasn't good. For some of us it still may not be, but the gap is closing as we start to see the dawn after this long dark night of COVID, a chaotic and divisive presidential term, and a tough election.

In the new light we may agree that what's really important is: Planetary health, our planetary civilization as a whole, America as part of that planetary civili-

zation, and America's people as a whole. None of us can ever prioritize these things in any other way or for any reason whether personal, professional, or political, because these points are crucial to life at large as well as to America's health, strength and global standing.

We've all talked before about the verbiage that was the thumb on the scale of our nation's people even as the framers of the Constitution wrote it up. We all realize that even as time has marched on, there have

always been those who wish to see things go backwards or, at least, stagnate. As a nation, however, equality, freedom and a fair chance for all can never be abandoned as the ultimate goal. We must legislate that of which we boast.

We've talked before about the power of excessive wealth in this nation and the corporate piracy that has made the worker a second class citizen. The pirates would like to see America remain stagnant in that way and they've been highly successful as proven

by corporate wealth and workers' hourly wages over the past several decades. While the top tier walks off with pie, they pit the small guys one against the other for the crumbs, and they'd not only like to keep it that way, they're trying to figure out how to make more pies without giving up any more crumbs.

They invest in further decadent indulgences through paid legislation. The nation's population will eventually become a class structure of mega-trillionaires with too much and a second class of

## A slice of pie

enough poor to perform the subservient tasks and services they need done for them – and done as cheaply as possible to boot. That's their dream but it's not the American dream. That's not what most of us think of as American and it's not the America most of us are working to achieve.

The majority of Americans are just looking for a fair slice of that pie while remaining more altruistic and realistic. We work and pay our taxes. We simply want the corporations (which, by the way, are not people and should not be legislated as such) to do the same on the sliding scale that is necessary for equilibrium. The existing perk, which allows corporations and billionaires to buy breaks from the leadership they support, must end. Such corporate lobbying advantages were never intended, let alone intended to be so overt, expansive, deeply rooted, or legal. And, they certainly cannot be irreversible.

It can't be legal for rotating doors to make corporate lobbyists and legislators interchangeable. It should never be legal for a member of the family that owns one of the largest international transportation/shipping companies in the world to also be the Secretary of Transportation, but it happened. Only recently voluntarily retired, she was married to the Republican Senate leader to boot. That's only one example – and, yes, that kind of conflict of interests should be barred from both sides of the aisle.

No administration is ever going to be completely pure or achieve perfection in anything. For many of us, our new president may not have been our personal choice, but we can find our comfort in him as the next best thing or in a fresh start. Fresh blood is always, at least, a shot at something better when what we had wasn't working, and change is always accompanied by hope.

As for the people's slice of that pie, we'll take it because we've earned it and, inasmuch as we're all entitled to what we work for, we simply refuse to fight over the crumbs. It's one thing to come up with a great idea; it's another to fairly compensate the people who help you make it a reality every day. America's low wage workers have too long been at the mercy of the corporate giants who should never be above the law.

Change ... we embrace it for the hope it brings.



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So much and so little has changed since then. We are now a nonprofit organization which means that like many other nonprofit media organizations and newspapers across America, we will rely on grants and reader donations to fund our mission (in addition to advertising). We also have a board of directors, the Friends and the Business Friends of the Herald, and new relationships with foundations.

But much hasn't changed, too. We are still the Herald. Thanks to reader support, we never had to compromise our coverage, even during the most difficult times of the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, we have grown stronger as a result of your support and our adaptation.

If you have not yet made a tax-deductible donation to the Herald Foundation's Community Journalism Fund in 2021, we hope you will do so very soon. Our fight to keep local journalism alive in our community is not over. However, with your continued support, we will not only survive, but thrive, in the months and years ahead.

*Bridget*  
Bridget Wingert  
Editor

Sincerely,

*Joe*  
Joseph Wingert  
Publisher

Donations to the Herald Foundation are fully tax-deductible.

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# Township adopts resolution opposing Route 29 project

## NJDOT plans rockfall mitigation on scenic byway

**Bridget Wingert**

The Kingwood Township Committee in Hunterdon County, N.J., has adopted a resolution opposing the New Jersey Department of Transportation's rockfall mitigation project on Route 29 without an environmental impact statement, public hearings and approval by the township, the National Park Service and the Delaware Scenic Byway Committee.

NJDOT intends to construct rockfall mitigation on cliffs adjacent to approximately 3 miles of Route 29 from Mile Post 27.3 near Byram to a point, north of the Devil's Tea Table, at Mile Post 30.43.

The project would include the removal of trees and vegetation, blasting on the rockface, rock removal and reinforcement, installing metal mesh or "draping" materials to the rockface, the creation of a new barrier or a "catchment

ditch," and applying concrete to the smoothed rockface including to the Devil's Tea Table geologic structure, to keep rocks from falling onto Route 29.

The township's open public records request revealed that NJDOT had no records of accidents or fatalities related to rockfall incidents along Route 29 in Kingwood Township and that safety issues could be better addressed in communities where safety issues exist.

Lower Delaware River segments were designated a National Wild and Scenic River by Congress and President Bill Clinton in 2000 and the river bluffs from Byram to Devil's Tea Table were noted as having "remarkable scenic values" in the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River corridor.

The bluffs along Route 29 contain outcrops of Triassic-age lake cycles, known as van Houten cycles, providing the textbook

record of lake formation due to climate change in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods of the Mesozoic Era. According to the township, they could be considered "geologic heritage" because they possess aesthetic, intrinsic or scientific and educational value, and providing unique insight into geological processes.

The Devil's Tea Table geologic formation also has unique local, historical and geological significance, and is believed to hold religious significance to Native American peoples.

The area also contains rare plant species and ecological communities, and the area known as Devil's Tea Table, including siltstone and shale cliff and adjacent dry woods overlooking the Delaware River, is designated by NJ-DEP as a Natural Heritage Priority. The project, the township said, will also negatively impact rare, threatened and endangered plants

and wildlife including American Bald Eagles, copperheads, and several species of bats and fish.

The township also cited the loss of scenic value that would negatively impact tourism businesses, recreational value and the local economy of River Towns surrounding Kingwood Township - Stockton, Frenchtown and Lambertville, and towns across the river, in Pennsylvania.

The committee also cited concerns about groundwater, septic systems and private wells. And construction, it said, would cause significant traffic delays and detours for several months or years during construction.

The state has already banned tractor trailer trucks from the highway, a safety measure taken in 2011, reducing safety concerns of commercial traffic.

Archaeological research has uncovered artifacts of tribes and prehistoric man inhabiting this

portion of the river corridor dating from 6500 B.C. through the 1700s, when the Turtle clan of the Lenape occupied the area, the committee pointed out.

"The rockfall project appears to be lacking sufficient study and analysis including a full and comprehensive traffic study, a historic/archeological impact study, a Delaware River Wild and Scenic River visual and environmental impact study, Scenic Byway visual impact study and an Environmental Impact Study," the resolution says.

The Kingwood officials referred to a Route 46 project in Knowlton Township where a fence was erected without consulting the residents. Most residents felt it was not needed. "The Township Committee of Kingwood Township would like to avoid a similar debacle along a designated scenic byway stretch of Route 29," according to the resolution.

# Businesses will compete at a "Shark-Tank"-like competition at DelVal

Spark Bowl, a "Shark-Tank"-like competition, will award thousands of dollars in prizes to area small businesses on April 15.

The competition has selected the finalists, who will pitch their ideas to a panel of judges in Delaware Valley University's Life Sciences Building auditorium. The competition will be livestreamed so that the public can watch the businesses make their pitches.

Leading up to the competition, teams of DelVal business students have been working as consultants for the businesses and helping them prepare their pitches. Prizes

will be awarded to both the competitors and to top teams of student consultants. The competition is organized by DelVal University's School of Business and Humanities and the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce.

"Spark Bowl provides real-world experience for DelVal business students, who help the finalists prepare for the competition," said Dr. Tanya Casas, dean of the School of Business and Humanities. "The competition also connects our students with the local business community."

Dr. Vail Garvin, president and

CEO of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, said the competition helps local businesses grow.

"The Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce is proud to be working with Delaware Valley University to host Spark Bowl for a second year," said Dr. Garvin. "This competition helps our local small businesses and entrepreneurs to pursue their ideas."

This year, Spark Bowl will be able to offer substantial prizes thanks to funding from community sponsors.

"We're grateful for the support of our community sponsors who

generously donated to make this event possible," said Bill Schutt, a DelVal trustee and event organizer.

The 2021 lead event sponsors are Michael Araten, of Sterling Ventures; Susan Lonergan, of Fulton Bank; DelVal Trustee Bill Schutt; Dr. Donna Marie De Carolis, of Drexel University; DelVal Trustee Kate Littlefield; and Robert and Pamela Byers. The Bucks County Herald is the official media sponsor of the 2021 Spark Bowl.

The 2021 Prizes for Spark Bowl are: Business Prizes: \$12,000, First

Place; \$5,500, Second Place; and \$2,000, Third Place.

Student Consultant Prizes: \$3,000, First Place Student Team; \$2,000, Second Place Student Team; and \$1,000, Third Place Student Team.

The competition will be livestreamed from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 15, from DelVal's Life Sciences Building auditorium. There is no cost to watch the livestream. A limited number of guests will attend the filming, including sponsors and media. For information, and to watch the livestream on April 15, visit delval.edu/spark.

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# Hilltown Township authorizes traffic study

**Chris Ruvo**

Township roadways were a focus at the Hilltown Board of Supervisors meeting in late March. The three-person board voted to authorize the township police department to conduct a traffic study on Fairhill Road between Green Street and Route 152.

"We will be making a crosswalk located in the area in question and would like to consider lowering the speed limit, if possible," explained Township Manager Lorraine Leslie.

Supervisor Caleb Torrice said that the crosswalk is expected to relate to a trail system that the township has been working on for several years.

"Part of the idea with the study is to find out how many cars are going by and to learn

just how fast they're going," Torrice said.

In a different road-related development, supervisors authorized township professionals to solicit bids from contractors interested in a range of planned road improvements this year.

Leslie noted that Hilltown is looking to have NovaChip work done on Milliken Court, Stonycrest Drive, Pleasant View

Circle and Clarion Drive. NovaChip is a preventative maintenance tool used to help extend the life of a road.

Oil and chip work is planned for Steeple Bush Drive, Goldenrod Court, Thistle Lane, Brookside Drive, Pleasant Spring Lane, Cassandra Drive and Yarrow Court. Edgewood Drive and Heather Drive are scheduled for milling and paving.

# Housing Group partners with Salute 2 Service for major entertainment and giveaway event

Salute to Service has partnered with the Bucks County Housing Group to present the free Relief and Resources event to benefit veterans and their families. All community friends are invited.

The event is 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Bristol Township Amphitheater, 2501 Bath Road, Bristol.

An honor guard will open the day and others will perform - Jacob's Mane of Hope, Warrior Watch, Motorcycle Ministries.

It's a day of giving, including food distribution - Caring for Friends is bringing a tractor-trailer load of food boxes and food boxes will also be available from Mission Barbecue.

Tyndale USA is bringing clothing, including outdoor, khaki

pants, cargo pants and shirts. There will be clothing for men, women and children. The Housing Group will be on hand with personal care items and local organizations will be available to make job connections, assist with VA claims, give legal referrals and help for addictions and mental health.

Guest speakers include local community leaders and a representative of Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick.

Jessica Finell is event coordinator (267-456-13610), and planners include Rodney Wyatt of S2S and Tom Steel Housing Group board member and veterans chair.

To make a donation to support veterans, visit Salute2Service.com.

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# Smerconish, McCaffrey will match one-time gifts to Garden of Reflection Remembrance Fund

Nationally Syndicated TV and radio host Michael Smerconish and President and CEO of McCaffrey's Market Jim McCaffrey have agreed to each match any one-time gift to the 9-11 Memorial Garden of Reflection Remembrance Fund endowment.

"We are ecstatic to say we have already raised over \$1.8 million! With your help now, we will meet our \$2 million goal by this year's 20th anniversary of the attacks on our nation."

Smerconish and McCaffrey are board members for the 9-11 Memorial Garden of Reflection, Inc., a nonprofit established to protect The Garden. They have each agreed, along with their spouses, to match up to \$25,000 in donations for the Remembrance Fund endowment.

Once funded, this endowment will provide for the maintenance and upkeep of The Garden, in Lower Makefield Township, in perpetuity, ensuring future generations can enjoy the memorial as visitors do today.

"The Garden of Reflection is the

one place I take visitors to because of its beauty and meaningful representations of that horrific day," Smerconish said. "Lavinia and I are excited to be able to match gifts to the Remembrance Fund between now and Sept. 11, 2021 to provide for the perpetual care of The Garden."

Jim McCaffrey said: "The Garden has always been near and dear to me. Especially in these difficult times, Lisa and I are excited to be able to match gifts to the Remembrance Fund to provide for the perpetual care of this very meaningful memorial. It's great to know that this endowment will allow The Garden of Reflection to continue long after we are all gone."

On these new matching grants, 9-11 widow Ellen Saracini said, "The Garden was founded as a place to find light in the darkness. It was meant to be a place of respite, peace and reflection after the 9/11 terrorist attacks but has now become much more. As Pennsylvania's state 9/11 memorial and the gathering location whenever tragedy strikes our

area or our nation, The Garden has become a beacon of light and its purpose has grown and evolved.

"We feel very fortunate to have such staunch supporters as Michael and Lavinia Smerconish and Jim and Lisa McCaffrey. Their offer and these matching grants will ensure The Garden remains a beacon of hope in perpetuity."

Founding Donors of the construction fund were recognized on a 20-foot long donor plaque at the entrance of the memorial proper. Your name as a proud supporter will be etched on additional plaques for Remembrance Fund donors with gifts of \$2,500 or more. Your support honors the memory of the thousands that perished on that tragic day, and will preserve the historic significance of the memorial in per-



Michael and Lavinia Smerconish



Jim and Lisa McCaffrey



The Garden of Reflection is located at 1950 Woodside Road, Yardley (Lower Makefield Township).

## Penn State study finds noise harmful to birds

Barrie-John Murphy

Noise from compressor stations negatively impacts surrounding wildlife, a Penn State study has found. The finding comes as construction proceeds on Adelpia Gateway's West Rockhill facility, designed to pressurize natural gas for transport through Bucks to the port of Marcus Hook outside Philadelphia.

Researchers exposed some rural nesting sites to continuous recordings of gas compressor noise but left others alone. Unlike other noise studies, which were compromised by other disturbances, the researchers made no changes to the birds' environment and monitored them over the course of several months.

Both the quiet and noisy sites produced fledglings, but the latter

saw fewer eggs hatched, possibly due to lower incubation rates. The researchers didn't know why birds in noisy boxes spent less time incubating but speculated the noise made them more protective of their young, so they spent less time foraging.

The study said it was also possible the birds wanted to flee the noise, since incubation is the time when they spend most time in the box. Without the protective warmth of the mother, the eggs were unable to hatch, they believe.

Despite researchers' predictions, the eastern bluebirds and tree swallows did not prefer quiet boxes to noisy boxes.

Adelpia Gateway representatives have assured the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) they will take steps to mitigate noise, which they have compared to the drone of a dishwasher.

The study, published in the journal *Ornithological Applications*, recommends rural compressor stations make use of the surrounding topography or construct

sound-dampening barriers to reduce noise pollution.

The findings come amid renewed calls for an independent study into the condition of the 50-year-old pipeline, which has not operated for 10 years. West Rockhill supervisors, with the support of Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, are calling on FERC to require Adelpia to release information on any tests done on the structural integrity of the line. When contacted, Township Manager Greg Lippincott said he had not yet heard from FERC.

Adelpia representative Katelyn McNally insisted the company had been forthcoming. In an email, McNally said that the company previously provided the township with information on the project, including steps taken in preparation for the conversion of service and directed it to resources at FERC and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

"Adelpia Gateway will continue to collaborate with municipalities throughout the project and after the pipeline is operational," she added.

petuity.

Yardley architect Liuba Lashchuk, AIA, designed The Garden of Reflection as a gathering place which invites visitors on a contemplative journey of Remembrance, Reflection and Healing.

Since there are no paid staff, 100% of your donation goes to the

Remembrance Fund endowment. Your tax-deductible donation can be mailed to Garden of Reflection, 1460 Heather Circle, Yardley, PA, 19067 or you can donate at 9-11 memorialgarden.org/donate/.

Your gift will be tripled and have a lasting effect "so that we keep our promise to NEVER FORGET."

## Memorial Park Playground groundbreaking set

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Memorial Park Playground will take place at noon Thursday, April 8, at Memorial Park, 601 W. Mill St., Quakertown.

The Parks and Recreation Department will announce the title sponsor and new name of the new \$1 million destination playground.

The new playground, which is being built where the popular Panther Playground stood for 27 years, will be an all-inclusive and multigenerational playground that allows individuals of all ages and abilities an equal opportunity for play. The playground is expected to open in the fall.

There will be designated play areas for both pre-school-age (2-5) and school-age (5-12) children.

In the school-aged area, the focal point is the Giant Castle Structure at a height of 21 to 29 feet, packed with physical and cognitive play activities. The pre-school age area will feature a smaller scale tower that will allow children to prepare for the school-aged area.

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## LETTERS TO THE HERALD

### Ensure signs are not defaced: Remove them

More than five months have passed since Nov. 3, 2020. Whether for Biden or Trump, there is an extraordinarily simple way to ensure no further defacing of political signage (Letters April 1).  
Take them down.

John W. Jones  
Solebury Township

### Not a political operative, not promoting agenda

In the Herald's March 25 issue, under the heading "State legislators bid to limit voting access," a writer begins by saying that he is confused by my letter of March 18, after which he then takes off, accusing Republicans of doing everything he believes is wrong with our nation.

If he had been able to read my letter as originally written – before the Herald chose to make selective edits, which removed clarity and focus of my points – and were to do so with an unbiased mind, he'd find that I in no way was promoting a Republican agenda.

This was to be the end of my response; however, since this gentleman has chosen to infer that I am some kind of political operative, it has brought a few comments and questions to mind:

- The three letters on this page promoting the Democratic Party agenda appear to have been written by the same person.

- If it really makes sense for the District of Columbia to be made a state, doing so legally requires a revision of our United States Constitution, which is an extended process requiring a favorable vote by a majority of the individual states. So why hasn't this action begun?

- I've never given much thought to the filibuster issue; however, I'd love to hear from Sen. Chuck Schumer as to why he believes it now needs to be removed, yet not many years ago was vehemently opposed to its elimination.

- What's really behind the vot-

er I.D. story? You can't legally buy cigarettes, beer and wine, drive a car and do 50 other things including purchase many over-the-counter drug items without an official I. D. ... so what's different about voting? Is there a hidden agenda?

- Finally, any time I turn on the news – which is less and less – I hear about suppression of minority rights. What minorities are we talking about? Me thinks it's anyone who doesn't vote the straight Democrat ticket in every election.

If one of the writers published on this page were to answer these questions, I think it could be an enlightening experience for all of us. As my original letter addressed, there's a whole different matter beyond that of Republicans vs. Democrats, which should concern even these letter writers.

M. R. Taylor, Doylestown

### Grateful for resilience in a challenging time

Resiliency is a word that has made its way into my orbit a lot recently. Tasked with trying to think of a word that best describes our Roxy Therapy Dogs volunteers for 2020, I am once again drawn back to resilient. In March 2020, our work as we knew it came to a grinding halt.

Suddenly we found ourselves unable to physically support and comfort the children in our community at a time when they needed us the most.

Our volunteers did not take this as a defeat but more so as a challenge. Our volunteers launched a "Roxy Reads" program online. We typically listen to students read to us during school visits so we enjoyed reading to them for a change. Teams visited classes virtually.

We held a Roxy Pup Portrait Contest for students to enter by drawing photos of their favorite dog as well as a Roxy Pup Poem Contest for students who chose to write about their favorite instead.

Our very first Roxy Certificate of Excellence lecture series, Insights into the Child with Autism was scheduled for March 2020

but with a lot of creativity and hard work, our volunteers figured out how to put together a virtual lecture.

Volunteers created "Roxy on Demand," videos in response to the school district's request.

Our accomplishments were greater than we could have anticipated in 2020, but we did not reach them alone. Every person who has supported our organization was right there with us every step of the way. So, we at Roxy Therapy Dogs want to say thank you for helping us achieve good things across our community even in the light of Covid19 challenges.

You helped us stay connected to the children in our community even though we could not be with them in person. One thing I know for sure is that the resilience of our volunteers and this community is immeasurable. We are grateful to be a part of it.

Sharon Fleck, President  
Roxy Therapy Dogs

### Everyone should see the park at Columcille

A friend and I visited the Celtic shrine at Columcille Megalith Park after reading Kathryn Fingegan Clark's lovely article about this site.

This peaceful property with its megaliths, stone chapel, bell tower, and gentle paths for wandering and contemplating, is truly an outdoor sanctuary.

Everyone should experience this magical park "for tired sinners and reluctant saints." As its creator, William Cohen Jr. said, "Come as you are, go in peace."

Teresa Moorhead,  
Milford, N.J.

### One step closer to getting students back in classrooms

By now, educators and support professionals across Pennsylvania have been given the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through a special initiative to get school employees vaccinated.

I want to thank the Joint COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, Gov. Tom Wolf, and supportive policymakers and state officials for making this happen in such a remarkably short period of time.

It was only about a month ago that Gov. Wolf announced the plan to provide the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine to Pre-K-12 school employees in an effort to create a safer environment for in-person instruction.

From the very beginning of the pandemic and throughout this school year, our educators and support professionals have gone above and beyond to teach and serve their students — wherever they are. And, throughout all of it, they have wanted one thing more than anything else — to be with their students in school and in person.

Today, thanks to the bipartisan support for Pennsylvania's educator vaccine program, we are one step closer to getting more students back in the classroom, more parents back to work without worry, and our economy back on track. And, most important, we are doing it in a way that protects the health of everyone in our schools.

Rich Askey, President  
Pennsylvania State  
Education Association  
Harrisburg

## Flat panel TVs create a dilemma

I appreciate the Bucks County Planning Commission effort to help residents deal with hazardous materials.

One issue however is quite vexing: Heretofore large retailers in Bucks County such as Best Buy accepted flat panel TVs (obsolete or unfixable) to recycle. Now that is prohibited in Pennsylvania and somewhat curtailed in New Jersey.

As you can imagine, large numbers of these devices are starting to reach the end of their useful life. It's not likely possible or safe (large glass panel) to store indefinitely in, say a basement or closet. The very few commercial

recycling centers are not overly welcoming and charge increasing fees to accept them. What is a resident to do?

I presume that, similar to car tires in the 1970s or so, they will increasingly be dumped along roadsides etc vastly increasing the environmental hazard and economic cost of remediation.

Meanwhile everyone is "kicking the can down the road" or worse and not taking responsibility for a problem individual action is incapable of handling.

I trust this issue will be addressed.

Bob Hills, Doylestown

## Ban on fracking a step forward

The recent ban on fracking throughout the Delaware River Basin is a historic step forward in the fight against climate change. The water, air, and land in communities across Pennsylvania have become polluted as a result of fracking, and the possibility of accidents, spills, and flaring events presents a clear danger. Fracking threatens our safety and the health of our communities.

Every person within the Delaware River Basin deserves the opportunity to enjoy their natural surroundings. The pandemic has highlighted how important nature is to our physical and mental health. The Delaware Canal Tow-

path and Delaware Water Gap are two places located within the Delaware River Basin that I have enjoyed hiking.

The ban on fracking gives me hope that I will continue to enjoy these spaces as I grow older because they will not be spoiled by industrial pollution.

I applaud Gov. Wolf for voting to ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin. To ensure our lawmakers continue enacting policies that protect the environment, I urge all individuals in our community to voice their support for this measure.

Phoebe Vallapuredy,  
Doylestown

## Another multitrillion dollar deal?

President Joe Biden announced his new infrastructure plan, which is expected to cost approximately \$2.25 trillion. The proposal is on the heels of last month's \$1.9 trillion stimulus package. In his first 2-plus months of presidency, Biden is proposing spending nearly \$4 trillion. \$4 trillion!

It is our sincere hope that this money ends up making our roads, bridges, airports, seaports, and rail depots safer, better and more competitive. But our realistic self tells us that this bill – just like the stimulus plan – will likely be a misguided hodgepodge of extraneous funding for pet projects and political favorites, all of which will lead to higher taxes.

We need new roads; any brief road trip confirms our highways, local roads and bridges are a mess. Many airports are dated, tired and shabby, but quite often, we see major construction inside and outside an airport. What else?

We keep going back to our debt level fully aware that the debt will slow down future economic growth. If (a big if) the money is spent wisely, it would be an investment for the future of our country. But if it isn't, we are simply rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

About 65% of our country's

infrastructure is privately owned, with 30% owned by states. That leaves just 5% owned by the federal government. Where, exactly, is all this money going to go?

- Private firms? No, they use the capital markets.

- States? No again, they use their own tax-gathering options, like sales and real estate taxes.

- Will we build the Hoover Dam higher, or will this be just another way to spread money to pet projects?

We need to see how this all plays out; sometimes, the best option is to let things be, see how they go and inject aid judiciously.

However, hyper liquidity, limited supplies, high levels of debt, increased taxes and an economy that is set to reopen fully may be too severe a shock and potentially lead to much higher inflation. This could be a toxic brew unlike anything we have seen in our entire time in the investment business.

The final result is the discussion of taxes to pay for all the debt. Capital gains, higher corporate tax rates and higher taxes on individuals will negatively impact the market and economy. Forewarned is forearmed.

Michael Neft, Holicong  
Merrick Smith Managing Partners  
Secure Retirement Strategies

## Amendment prevents power concentration

Bob Mensch

In the past several weeks there have been several letters to the editor suggesting my comments for a yes vote on May 18 for constitutional amendments are hypocritical, or misleading. Those writers suggest we've "rushed" the legislation, but nothing is further from the truth.

The process requires a proposed amendment to be approved in two successive sessions (a session is two years). So, the amendments were approved during 2020 in last session, and again approved in 2021 to have the amendments appear on the May 18 ballot. That doesn't sound like anything is being rushed – it's more of an issue of necessary timing.

These same writers have also suggested the amendments are unnecessary, but here's why I strongly disagree. Our governor has assumed absolute power over your lives because of a pandemic, and there surely is a need for governmental involvement, but that would require all the government.

Our governor has refused to discuss his moves and his strategies with the legislature – your representatives in our government. What has his absolute power given the state? He's given us, a broken unemployment compensation system where many Pennsylvanians are waiting as long as a year for their first unemployment check. He's given us a secretary

of health who moved COVID-19 positive residents into long-term care facilities, causing the greatest outbreak of COVID-19 in our state. He's given us one of the worst COVID-19 vaccine rollouts anywhere in the United States.

He's given us a business waiver process that unnecessarily caused businesses to close, many never opening again. Since first invoking "emergency powers," Gov. Wolf has shown no transparency in his unilateral behavior, leaving all of us to wonder what has happened to our constitutional rights.

The proposed constitutional amendment to require the governor to work with the legislature in the time of a state emergency is absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, nowhere in our constitution, nor in any other existing statutes, is the governor granted supreme power to ignore your will, and to ignore the powers of the Legislature. Our government requires three co-equal branches of government, not a power supreme governor. America was founded on individual freedoms and worked tirelessly to get away from an absolute monarchy.

Vote "Yes" for the amendments on this primary election to preserve your voice and prevent a dangerous concentration of power that no single individual should wield.

Sen. Bob Mensch represents the 24th Pa. Senatorial District, which includes parts of Bucks, Berks and Montgomery counties.

## HISTORY LIVES

### Jean Rollo, Doylestown Historical Society



#### Stover Livery Stable.

Abel Atherholt Stover (1842-1915) owned and operated a livery stable near the present Doylestown train station. In the 1871 Business Directory & Gazetteer of Bucks County his advertisement stated:

Passengers conveyed to any part of the country at moderate charges. NPRR [North Pennsylvania Railroad] Depot

Stover was born and

grew up on the family farm in Haycock Township. He married Anna Maria Slotter (1844-1939) in Doylestown, and they had three children. In 1874 the family was living a large stone twin house at 94 S. Clinton St. In 1883, Stover served as postmaster at the Mechanicsville Post Office in Buckingham Township; and in 1893 he also served as postmaster at the Edison Post Office in Doylestown Township.

Doylestownhistorical.org

## Send letters to the Herald

Send letters to P.O. Box 685, Lahaska 18931, or [bridget@buckscountyherald.com](mailto:bridget@buckscountyherald.com) or fax to 215-794-1109. The Herald is a nonpartisan publication that aims to print only factual accounts. Letters are readers' opinions.



# OPINION & Editorial



## Vaccines work: We've been here before

Frightened parents kept their children isolated. Pools and schools were closed. Hospitals were overwhelmed. Frightened, paralyzed children were in hospitals hours from their homes, cared for by masked, protected strangers. Quarantine signs were on front doors.

There was no vaccine, no cure. Fear reigned. The children and young adults who were affected by the paralyzing polio virus were ostracized in their community long after the virus left their bodies.

Then, a miracle happened. The Salk Vaccine.

Over the last year we have seen lonely, frightened COVID-19 patients looking out hospital windows, praying for the touch of a loved one. We have learned hospitals could be overwhelmed and be forced to turn away those who need care. We lived in quarantine. Although one is a respiratory virus (Covid) and one is spread by person to person contact (polio), we've seen that these viruses can spread even when the infected person has minimal or no symptoms. Through the gift of modern medicine, we have another miracle. Sadly, fear of that miracle reigns and as many as 40% of all eligible adults are "vaccine-hesitant."

The fear created around vaccines brings sadness to a generation of survivors who are living with the lifelong, disabling effects of what is now a vaccine-prevent-

able disease. These effects are known as post-polio syndrome (PPS). I am a living reminder of what a world without a vaccine looks like. I had a "mild" case of the poliovirus. I had only flu-like symptoms, no paralysis was visible and I was never hospitalized.

The late effects of polio have put me in a leg brace; I require a cane for stability; struggle to manage chronic pain and am dependent on a wheelchair for any distance walking – all because the miracle of the Salk vaccine came too late for me. My symptoms are minor compared to those who have lost all mobility or are struggling to take a breath. Unfortunately, we are now hearing the word "long haulers" (post-Covid syndrome) being associated with the potential long-term effects in those who recover from even the most "mild" cases of COVID-19. Only history will be able to tell our health care professionals the truth of what damage this virus is leaving in its path of destruction.

Determined to serve other survivors experiencing the disabling, long-term effects of the polio virus and with other survivors and family by my side, we founded the PA Polo Survivors Network. At PPSN, our message on disease prevention is simple, positive and evidence based ... vaccines work. Each month that goes by, the data continually suggests the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective.

We live in a time where it's

far too easy to be guided by misinformation and fear. Speaking not just for myself, but for the thousands of permanently disabled polio survivors in our network, we are hopeful that you will not let fear guide your decision. We want to inspire all to educate themselves on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine – not from angry TV pundits, but from easily accessed and credible vaccine information resources, which can provide the answers to many of your questions. We know for sure, that even the mildest cases of a virus can result in disabling, lifelong effects.

The eradication of smallpox through vaccines was a miracle. As a result of a worldwide focus on disease prevention and the importance of vaccination, polio is well on its way to being the second disease in history to claim this title.

We've seen what the world looks like without vaccines. Our compassion for those suffering long-term effects from COVID-19 reflects that. We look forward to the time when COVID19 is announced as eradicated.

We're not afraid. Vaccines Work. *Carol Ferguson is the founder of the Pennsylvania Polio Survivors Network (PPSN), a Rotarian and member of the Bucks County Immunization Coalition. For more information on the late effects of polio and the effectiveness of vaccines, please visit: papolionetwork.org.*



KATHRYN FINEGAN CLARK

A portrait of Michele Pezza, a famous Italian guerrilla leader who once fought the French, lends a touch of Old Italy to a pizza and wine bar in Bristol owned by a descendant of the hero.

## Kathryn Finegan Clark: By the Way Fra Diavolo surfaces in Bristol

I didn't intend it to be a sentimental journey. But it turned out that way. My husband and I took advantage of the holiday weekend to drive to Levittown to drop off some Easter treats for my nephews.

Both, professional musicians, are COVID-19 survivors still recovering from long days in hospitals and we wanted to do something to brighten their lives.

It was a gorgeous day and so we decided to drive around a bit in the lower end of the county, where I grew up. I was living in Lower Makefield when my husband-to-be and I met in Langhorne. He was reared in New York State but had moved back to Bristol where his mother's family had deep roots.

First, we searched for his mother's childhood home in a tiny village called Wheatshaf. No luck there. It's gone – and so is the village – but Wheatshaf Road still exists.

Then we drove to Bristol and a flood of memories engulfed me. It was so different and so much the same – but at the same time so much better.

We stopped to look at the house where I grew up – updated with a shining glass door replacing the old summertime screen door, landscaped greenery pretty enough to shame the old evergreens where I played hide-and-seek and a new driveway.

It housed a million memories but the one that popped out was of my grandmother sprinkling holy water around the house on Easter Saturday. I wondered if people still do that.

I recall Bristol as a wartime town and a bit later on in decline with many young families moving to Levittown. It has now undergone gentrification and what was a somewhat sad place, has, thanks to community activism and some grant money, become a happening place.

Nowhere is that so evident as it is on Mill Street, the main drag, once anchored by the Grand Theatre, where I spent many star-struck hours. That's

gone, and so are the old businesses that lined the street leading to the Delaware River. Practically all have been replaced by inviting new shops, and Bristol is well on the way to becoming another riverside tourist town.

And why not? It has it all. It's pretty much always had that but it's faded in and out. Now, its amazing renaissance has made everything look better – from Colonial Era homes to Victorian mansions lining Radcliffe Street. Handsome from the street, they have to be seen from the river to be fully appreciated.

A bit hungry, we stopped at a little restaurant called Itri Wood Fired Pizza Bar and found ourselves surrounded by the charm of Italy. No surprise either. I grew up with second- and third-generation Italians whose families had come to this country to work in the Grundy Textile Mill, whose clock tower is a Bristol icon. Those friends enriched my childhood in so many ways.

Itri, I discovered, is named for a town near Naples with an ancient history. It was the home of Michele Pezza, a chef also known as Fra Diavolo, a popular guerrilla leader who fought against the French occupation of Naples in the 16th century.

His descendant, Ernesto Pezza, emigrated from Italy to Bristol, and Ernesto's grandson, Greg Pezza, is co-owner of Itri. The restaurant's logo is an image of Fra Diavolo, and his portrait hanging on the old exposed brick wall adds atmosphere to the cozy little restaurant.

Itri has now expanded into Bristol's Center for the Arts next door. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the center to close, but on the pavement on its Walk of Fame, we found a tribute to Joseph Sagolla, champion of the arts. This was especially meaningful to me. A print of his painting of my father's drugstore, Finegan's Pharmacy, has been hanging in my living room for years.

kathrynfinclark@verizon.net

## Pearl S. Buck International echos founder

### "There is a curse in our land, a shameful prejudice"

Anna Katz

States, culminating in the shootings this week in Atlanta that resulted in the death of eight people, including six Asian women.

Growing up in China where Westerners were targeted for violence, Pearl Buck knew what it felt like to be on the receiving end of that unjustified hate, writing, "I have had that strange and terrible experience of facing death because of my color..." She knew there was no place for that kind of ignorance in the world, and that education and getting to know others "under their skin" was the key to breaking the terrible cycle of judging, blaming, and hating others based solely on how they look or where their families come from.

We at Pearl S. Buck International stand in solidarity with all our Asian and Asian-American brothers and sisters. May we all take to heart Buck's words of wisdom and follow in her footsteps of taking action to make a change in the world, for the better: "All of us must learn to enjoy knowing as friends those whose race and ways may be different from ours. Knowledge must lead to understanding, in order that enjoyment may be a pleasant fruit, enriching life for us all." ("Do You Want Your Children to Be Tolerant?" Better Homes and Gardens)

Anna Katz is president and CEO of Pearl S. Buck International, Hilltown Township.

"For me all human creatures are valuable alike, and a black skin, a brown, a white, are the same in beauty. But there is a curse in our land, a shameful prejudice against some." – Pearl S. Buck, "No Room at the Inn."

Pearl S. Buck – author, humanitarian, social justice advocate, and the founder of Pearl S. Buck International – spent her life being a bridge of cross-cultural education, understanding and acceptance between the East of her childhood, having been raised in China, and the West of her adulthood, where she raised an intercultural family in America that included biracial Amerasian children.

Buck was also the founder of Welcome House, the first international adoption agency for biracial children, particularly Amerasians, who were hard to place because of their ethnic background. She used her fame as a Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning author to shine the light on inequities and injustices, speaking up for marginalized communities including not just biracial children but also people of color, people with disabilities, women and immigrants.

Pearl S. Buck International, in Bucks County, continues Buck's legacy of intercultural and social justice advocacy today and to that end, strongly condemns the recent increase in prejudice, violence, and hate crimes being faced by Asian-Americans across the United

## Bring out colors for victim awareness

The Central Bucks Regional Police Victim Services unit is working with Central Bucks Regional Police, Plumstead Township Police and Buckingham Township Police asking for support for its efforts to educate the community and to work collaboratively in making Victim Awareness Week a visual awakening throughout their communities.

Victim Awareness Week is April 18-24.

During Covid, when social distancing is mandated and extra precautions are necessary, it would be easiest for all citizens, businesses and community resources to show the colors of purple, pink and yellow (the palette of colors this year). This gesture is an act that all victims and our fellow human beings are deserving and in need of, more so now than ever.

We ask residents and businesses to send photos to police@cbrpd.net display on social media. The photos can show purple, pink and yellow creations or simply decorating for friends, neighbors, pedestrians and others to see.

"Can you envision the concept of driving through our communities and seeing potted plants, spring flowers, decorative yard displays, balloon bouquets and gateway highlights that you

come up with to give this week the visual public relations we are trying to share?" Karen Edwards, a victim services specialist, asked.

"Hope we can count on you to put this poster in your store front window so this a successful Awareness to all."

Businesses such as garden centers, grocery stores (floral departments), florists, funeral homes, doctor's offices and many others could make that added display for those that drive by, shop in or otherwise see in passing by and make a significant statement by that participation. Knowing we are a community of one and sharing our symbolization of support for all to participate and share in is a gift that costs nothing more than creativity and ingenuity for our communities to be proud of.

Liz Leone, Supervisor  
Karen Edwards,  
Victim Specialist  
Victim Services Unit  
Central Bucks  
Regional Police



### Have you ever been a victim?

- Victim of circumstance?
- Victim of a crime?
- Victim of fraud?
- Victim of scam?
- Victim of cyber bully?
- Victim of domestic assault?
- Victim of any other situation you can attest and relate to?

Help us give a visual identity to the crisis so many of us share in by "showing your colors" and supporting us in pledging to color our community in pink, purple and yellow to give Victim Awareness Week April 18-24 the exposure it needs. (Examples: balloon bouquets, floral arrangements, yard décor, paint your nails, creative hair styles or hair bands)

Send your pictures to police@cbrpd.net and we will share with others on social media how we could count on you to be there for us and others in our time of need!

**Victim Services Unit**  
Stationed in and working with Central Bucks Regional Police Department, Plumstead Township Police and Buckingham Township Police

## Debra Orben: On the environment

### Extinction is threatening wildlife and us

Biodiversity is the greatest gift our planet has to offer but we are squandering that gift at alarming rates. This is not a quote from David Attenborough but it could be.

Attenborough has lived longer than I and encountered wildlife in every habitat and on every continent. Now he is witnessing the drastic devastation of species wherever he looks. In the PBS documentary "Extinction: The Facts," he warns that extinction is happening a hundred times faster than the natural rate.

It is not only deeply tragic but has profound consequences for all of us. Humans are not outside of ecological systems but interlocked with all life on a global scale. The loss of species will affect people everywhere and have negative effects on our food and water security.

Plants and animals, on land and in the sea, are threatened by illegal poaching and overfishing, by habitat loss, pollution, and our growing human population. It is difficult to learn that there is not a great deal of Wild remaining. Only 4% of the earth's mammals are classified as wild while 60% are pets or livestock. The remaining 36% are humans who pose a threat to all the rest.

Biodiversity is the web of life that connects and protects us all, the trees that provide our oxygen and absorb CO2, the soil nutrients and pollinators that make food production possible, the predators at the top of the food chain that keep smaller species in check so that they do not spread diseases or new viruses. Everything is connected and every rip in this web of relationships has an impact.

Climate change is perhaps the most serious threat to biodiversity as species in the hottest, driest, or coldest regions of our planet will find themselves with nowhere to go. Even here in Upper Bucks we are feeling the effects of a warming climate and the diminishment of species.

If you are as old as I am, you may remember days when insects smeared our windshields at alarming rates. We were told that insects could take over the world, but now we see fewer insects, bees, and pollinators. This decrease in insects may seem minor compared to the loss of whales or elephants, but insects are a food source that helps sustain life on earth.

Every spring, I am grateful for the spring peepers that chorus in the woods, the robins and

bluebirds that return to forage for grubs and worms, all the birds and wildlife that brighten our landscape. Grateful too, for the wildflowers, dandelions, and solitary bees that join in this season's celebration of awakening.

This spring I am hopeful that we too will awaken and work harder to restore the balance of nature. We need to listen to David Attenborough and learn from one another. We need to address global warming and transition to a green sustainable economy that values biodiversity. What changes must we make, not only to prevent the spread of new viruses, but to protect all life on our precious planet?

It is the season of new growth and we too need to grow. We can begin by planting more trees and reducing our carbon emissions to protect wildlife. We can work together to support laws and actions inspired by environmental justice, love and compassion for one another, and the natural world. By working together now, we can pass the gift of biodiversity on to our children and grandchildren.

Debra Orben of Springtown is a retired elementary school teacher and member of The Cooks Creek Watershed Association.



# It's bamboo season – dreaded for its multiplication

David Scott

The spring bulbs are in bloom again – a welcome sign of spring. Not so true when it comes to bamboo, one of the fastest growing plants in the world. Like in the 1984 movie, “Gremlins,” one innocent looking stalk left alone, can generate rhizomes across a lawn and blossom into a thick forest that is difficult to eradicate.

Many Bucks County residents have no idea where bamboo came from. Bamboo plants may seem like a gift of green foliage when homeowners buy a property, but it only takes one spring to discover how much work it takes to keep the sprouts from invading your lawn and any flower beds in their path.

When bamboo spreads, it can quickly cross into adjoining private properties, or municipal lands. Along public roads bamboo can grow more than 30 feet and interfere with overhead power lines. (photo) If underground, the roots can block waterways.

The Encyclopedia Britannica calls bamboo a tree-like grass most commonly found in East and Central Asia, with another spe-

cies native to the southern United States. The benefits of bamboo include eating the seeds as grain and using young stalks as vegetables. Large stems have been used in building homes, and smaller stems for furniture, flooring, and fishing rods.

While many industrious Bucks County residents may love gardening, most will find bamboo to be an invasive nuisance. Many town ordinances mandate that bamboo must be within 10 or 40 feet away from public land or private property (depending upon the particular ordinance), or the owner is subject to sanctions under bamboo ordinances that have sprung up in Bucks County townships over the past few years. Bamboo planting is banned, it must be removed, or kept under control in such townships as Buckingham, Lower Makefield, Bristol, New Britain, Northampton, Newtown, Perkasié, Quakertown, and Yardley.

The Buckingham Township ordinance recommends removing bamboo with a backhoe particularly when it is within a certain number of feet from a neighbor's property line. The question is whether a backhoe actually works



Bamboo can grow to more than 30 feet, interfering with power lines.



A pile of wood chips left by bamboo.

or not. Bucks County Master Gardeners writes, “Besides being expensive, the potential damage to the landscape, and mainly the ultimate ineffectiveness, what's the point?” Homeowners are trying other solutions. Dan, a Buckingham resident cut the patch down, and covered it with tarp and wood chips. (See photo)

“It took a lot of time and labor,” Dan said. Cutting it down and smothering the roots with dark tarp has been recognized as a good idea to economically test the permanently killing off of bamboo roots.

## Photographs by David Scott

Aside from having a panda to graze and eat the bamboo forests, the best way to rid a property of bamboo is to hire a bamboo tree removal service when the problem is no longer a DIY project. Chris Kepich who owns one of the companies, says, “It can take up to two days, to cut the stalks, treat the ground, and then cart it all away.” These companies also work along roads when bamboo grows into power lines potentially causing

outages in a community (photo).

Home buyers in Bucks County should be sure to check whether the property has bamboo near the adjacent property or public road. Ensuring that bamboo is remediated before purchasing a property helps buyers to comply with the law, avoid legal disputes and maintain a peaceful relationship with the owner of an adjoining property.

David Scott is a literary writer of short stories who lives in Buckingham Township.

## Solebury EAC warns of toxic paving process

Birgitta Wolfe

An alarm sounded on Tuesday about the poisonous effects of coal-tar-based driveway sealcoats prompted the Solebury Board of Supervisors to launch a community education campaign to alert residents about that toxic paving process.

Joseph Kubiak of the township's environmental advisory council (EAC) presented the council's study of the process and recommended the supervisors ban the process in the township, as other communities nationwide have done.

He said the coal tar residue resulting from burning coal in steel production is a powerful carcinogenic that causes birth defects and liver damage.

The sealant material is blown by the wind, tracked indoors on shoes, and absorbed by the skin, Kukbiak said, adding his tour of

some township housing developments has found driveways with the tar-base material.

The recommended alternative paving products are asphalt and latex-based materials, he said.

Supervisor Chair Mark Baum Baicker said the township needs to get the word out to homeowners associations, businesses and commercial properties about the dangers.

The board also heard from Jamie Schlesinger of PFM Financial Advisors about the need to borrow additional funding for the township's open space preservation program.

Funding for current properties could be exhausted by the end of the year, Baum Baicker said, and another \$5 million in new money would be needed either through a bank loan or bond issue.

Schlesinger said details and alternatives would be presented in May, but he expected reasonable

interest rates due to the township's A+ borrowing rating.

The board also agreed to ask to county about creating a boat and water ski launch at the 28-acre Hal Clark Park between River Road and the Delaware River.

Supervisor Robert McEwan said the launch would help the Eagle Fire Company in its water rescue efforts by creating another launch site. Last year the fire company responded to 28 river rescues, he said. Because of heavy weekend traffic in the New Hope area, launch rescue efforts there are delayed on both sides of the river, he added.

The board also authorized the administration to prepare two 2021 grant applications: one for the Solebury Gateway Trail — Sugas Road to Kitchens Lane

(\$250,000) and one for an Aque-tong Spring Park restroom facility (\$205,185). The awarded 2020 grant will determine which application will be submitted.

In other matters, the board:

- Accepted the resignation of Irene Biel from the land preservation committee;

- Accepted an 11.47-acre property on Sugas Road into the township's land preservation program;

- Authorized three open space preserved properties to be exempted from future property tax millage increases. Solebury now has 94 properties in the program (Act 153) comprising of just under 3,500 acres, Baum Baicker said.

Finally, due to recent country-wide incidents of discrimination and violence, Baum Baicker made

the following statement on behalf of the board of supervisors:

“From time to time there are things going on in the larger world that we must take note of — and we are in such a situation now. The violence and hatred being directed toward members of the AAPI (Asian American, Pacific Islander) community and the attacks on voting rights are occurring with the murder trial in the death of George Floyd, continued senseless mass shootings, and the attacks on the Capitol as a backdrop. Hatred and attempts to deprive any Americans of their right to life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness must be stopped in their tracks. We must speak out, lend our support, and take whatever action we can to right these wrongs.”

## Stephensons Spring Decorative Arts Auction set for Southampton

This year's edition of Stephenson's Spring Decorative Arts Auction will be held live at the company's Southampton gallery, at 1005 Industrial Blvd., on Friday, April 9, with absentee and Internet live bidding available exclusively through LiveAuctioneers.

The 451-lot sale features both fine and decorative art, Tiffany and other American silver, an “outstanding” selection of jewelry, more than 120 lots of furniture, including coveted Midcentury Modern productions; and many other treasures.

Most of the items set to cross the auction block were sourced from Philadelphia and other



Arthur Meltzer's (Pennsylvania, 1893-1983), portrait of “Davis [Meltzer] at 14 Years of Age,” 1943, oil-on-canvas, from the Estate of Davis Meltzer; is estimated at \$1,500 to \$3,000.

mid-Atlantic estates and collections.

The Fine Art category is highlighted by paintings from the estate of sci-fi artist and scientific illustrator Davis Meltzer (1930-2017). Meltzer inherited an archive of family art from his father, Arthur Meltzer (1893-1983), a noted landscape painter; and his mother, Paulette Van Roekens (1895-1988), a respected painter of still lifes and landscapes.

The auction start time is 2 p.m. EDT. Goods may be inspected from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 8, and on auction day from noon until the start of the auction. Bid absentee or live online exclusively through LiveAuctioneers. For information on any lot in the sale, or to reserve a phone line, call 215-322-6182 or email info@stephensonsauction.com. Online, visit stephensonsauction.com.

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## Rotary Club of Warminster grant aids foster care youth

The Rotary Club of Warminster recently presented Bucks for Kids with a donation of \$500 to be used as a COVID-19 relief grant to benefit kids and teens under the care of Bucks County Children & Youth.

Thanks to Rotary of Warminster, the nonprofit organization can continue to provide those served by Bucks County Children & Youth with “enrichment activities” – sports fees, music lessons, academic tutoring, clothing, summer camp and college scholarships. Since 1991, Bucks for Kids has been providing financial assistance to this vulnerable population.



# Bucks League of Women Voters hosts roundtable on hunger

Join the league of Women Voters of Bucks County for the last in a series of roundtable presentations about the breadth and depth of the problem of hunger and food insecurity in Bucks County. The free, virtual information presentation and Q&A occurs from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 10. Register at [bit.ly/HungerSeries](https://bit.ly/HungerSeries).

Attendees will hear from people committed to raising awareness and actively engaged in addressing the needs of hunger and food insecurity. The program, "Hunger Crisis: It Doesn't Have to be So," will identify how people can address the problem.



CATHY SNYDER



KATHY FISHER



MADDIE BURGESS

Helping attendees to understand both the complexities of and opportunities for food pan-

tries, as well as strategies to see that pantries can offer nutritious food, will be Madelaine (Mad-

die) Burgess, food pantry manager at the Bucks County Housing Group and co-chair of the Hunger and Nutrition Coalition of Bucks County.

Cathy Snyder, food justice advocate and executive director and founder, Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, will help attendees understand her unique organization and how it is important in the chain of help to mitigate food insecurity for many Bucks County residents.

Adding to the discussion and the hopes for successful advocacy to establish good policy and programs to diminish and control the growth of hunger and food

insecurity in Bucks County, will be Kathy Fisher, policy director for the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger.

Liz Fritsch, LWVBC member, will moderate the discussion.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the information needed to listen on April 10. The program will be recorded and available at the League of Women Voters of Bucks County's YouTube channel and @LWVBucksCounty on Facebook. Visit the League's YouTube channel to view the recordings of the two previous roundtable presentations on hunger and food insecurity.

## Trustees issue \$100,000 Challenge Match in support of Doylestown Health

In advance of National Doctors' Day on March 30, the boards of trustees of both Doylestown Hospital and Doylestown Health Foundation issued a \$100,000 Challenge Match to the community.

All gifts made in response to the challenge will be matched by the board members through June 30, 2021. The challenge is in honor and recognition of National Doctors' Day, as well as National Healthcare Volunteer Week (April 19-25) and National Nurses Week (May 6-12).

"This challenge was issued by the boards as a gesture of our tremendous

gratitude to and appreciation for our dedicated Doylestown Health care providers," said Joan Parlee, chair of the boards of Doylestown Hospital and Doylestown Health Foundation.

All gifts to the Challenge Match will support One Vision: The Campaign for Doylestown Health, which recently passed the halfway point to its planned conclusion in 2023, coinciding with the hospital's 100th anniversary celebration. In January, having reached just over \$70 million in gifts, Doylestown Health announced the increase of the campaign goal from the original \$75 mil-

lion to \$100 million.

The Challenge Match was issued with participation across both boards. Parlee is an active member of the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown (VIA), which founded the first Doylestown Hospital in 1923 and which continues to govern the health system with seats on both boards.

"This Challenge Match is a demonstration of our trustees' commitment to the health care professionals and volunteers who make Doylestown Health the unique and outstanding health care provider

that it is," said Laura Wortman, vice president and chief development officer, Doylestown Health. "We are fortunate to have so much medical talent and expertise at the service of our community, and hopeful that this challenge will galvanize renewed support that will allow us to continue to attract expert physicians and nurses, and generous volunteers."

Doylestown Health Foundation is grateful for the generosity of the community throughout the last year in response to the pandemic, and the history of the One Vision Campaign, including other successful challenge

matches and numerous demonstrations of community support.

"Even though Doylestown Health is a regional leader in healthcare and investing in services and technologies on the cutting-edge, it's our people that really set us apart," said Wortman. "The physicians, volunteers, nurses and Associates – and the incredible support of our community – make the Doylestown Difference. We're so grateful for their generosity and dedication, and proud to honor them with this Challenge Match initiated by our boards of trustees."

## Bucks County makes transition to online sheriff sales

Bucks County's Sheriff Office will conduct its foreclosure sales online through its foreclosure sales auction site Bid4Assets.com, beginning this month.

The first sale will open for bidding April 9, with 189 properties posted for auction. The sale's new online format eliminates all COVID-19 concerns surrounding the auction by allowing bidders to participate remotely using their cellphones, lap-

tops and desktops.

"While it is important to get these auctions back on schedule, the safety of our citizens remains our primary concern," said Bucks County Sheriff Milton Warrell. "Bid4Assets services allow us to safely conduct our auctions while introducing Bucks County to a national audience of buyers. This is a fantastic step forward."

Bidders must register a free Bid4Assets account and fund a \$10,000

bid deposit to participate in the auction. All auctions will be offered with no reserve price, meaning that the highest bid at or above the attorney's upset price can purchase the property. Available auctions can be viewed at any time at [bid4assets.com/bucks-countysheriffsales](https://bid4assets.com/bucks-countysheriffsales).

Bid4Assets has recently hosted successful online foreclosure sales for multiple sheriff's offices in Pennsylvania, including Montgomery,

Monroe and Berks counties. Based on data from past auctions, the sale is projected to increase participation from bidders and surplus overages returned to former homeowners. Bid4Assets' services come at no cost to Bucks County.

"The impact we've seen past online sheriff sales have on other counties in Pennsylvania has been overwhelmingly positive," said Jesse Loomis, Bid4Assets CEO. "In

Montgomery County's first sheriff sale, participation increased ten-fold with a 400% increase in third-party sales. The success surrounding these sales has been eye-opening for Pennsylvania and many sheriffs are pledging to continue with a virtual format long after we have moved past COVID-19."

Over the last 20 years, Bid4Assets has sold over 80,000 real properties for the public sector.

## Bridge Commission urges drivers to get E-ZPass prior to toll hikes

The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission is urging cash toll payers to register for E-ZPass before a new two-tier toll schedule with higher cash rates goes into effect this Sunday, April 11 – the agency's first system-wide toll adjustment since 2011.

The new toll schedule – [drjtbc.org/newtolls](https://drjtbc.org/newtolls) – utilizes a two-tier pricing framework that assigns lower rates to E-ZPass transactions, which are less costly to process, and higher rates to Cash/Toll By Plate transactions, which are more costly to process.

The Commission's only Toll By

Plate facility is the new Scudder Falls (I-295) Toll Bridge, which has an all-electronic toll collection system. The Commission's seven other toll bridges have E-ZPass/Cash toll-collection facilities.

Under the new toll schedule, the Commission's most frequent toll transaction – a passenger vehicle equipped with E-ZPass – will rise 25 cents to a \$1.25 charge system-wide. Passenger-vehicle operators paying with cash, however, will be charged \$3 starting Sunday – a rate that is 140 percent more than the comparable E-ZPass passenger vehicle charge.

This two-tier pricing method is a prevailing trend among toll agencies nationally because it helps cover the increased processing costs associated with cash or license-plate-billing collection methods. This change also will end the current situation where E-ZPass customers are effectively subsidizing the toll collection costs of those paying with cash.

Sign up at [ezpassnj.com](https://ezpassnj.com) or call 1-888-AUTO TOLL (1-888-288-6865) – but wait times for a service representative can be long.

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## Local composer wins awards for musical score

Emmy award-winning composer Brian Katona of Bucks County has been lauded with several awards for the musical score he has written for the new short documentary "The Long Hair."

Among the recognitions Katona has received for this work are: Best Composer-Venice Shorts Film Festival, Silver Medal Award Winner-Global Music Awards, Finalist-Oniros Film Awards, and finalist in the Hollywood Art and Movie Awards.

"The Long Hair" is a documentary short that visits with one of the last independent barbers still operating

in North Dakota — but more than that, it is about a part of American life that is disappearing before our eyes. The documentary premiered March 27, at the Garden State Film Festival.

"The Long Hair" reunites Katona with Emmy-winning filmmaker David Kuznicki, with whom he worked on "The Town That Disappeared Overnight," about the farming community of Round Valley in New Jersey, which was unceremoniously uprooted in the 1950s to make way for a reservoir.

Katona has numerous other film and television credits.

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# Cultural center offers cherry blossom viewing map and more

The head gardener at Shofuso Japanese Cultural Center in Philadelphia, Sandi Polyakov, is calling for peak cherry blossom bloom around the first two weeks of April, averaging around the 10th and coinciding with the Virtual Ohanami cherry blossom program live from Shofuso. Polyakov said there will be great viewing opportunities of different cherry trees also the week before (April 3-10) and after (April 10-17). Blooms in the city come a bit earlier than their siblings in the suburbs. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia has developed new ways, both virtual and in-person, for all lovers of the ethereal flowers to enjoy them this spring. JASGP is conducting the Shofuso Cherry Blossom Viewing, which includes both socially-distanced activities and virtual programming

throughout April. From a Virtual Marketplace to a Cherry Blossom Viewing and Virtual Ohanami, plus a virtual 10K, there are a number of ways to recover and renew while enjoying Shofuso's beauty this spring. New for 2021, Japanese artist Hiro Sakaguchi handpainted a new map of Philadelphia Cherry Blossom Ohanami – helping visitors find Cherry Blossoms throughout Fairmount Park as well as other spots around the City of Philadelphia. Visit [japanphilly.org](http://japanphilly.org) for information on all programs and events, and to download a map.



*Cherry trees will soon be in full bloom. For a map of viewing locations in and around Philadelphia, visit [japanphilly.org/programs/festivals/virtual-ohanami-cherry-blossom-viewing/](http://japanphilly.org/programs/festivals/virtual-ohanami-cherry-blossom-viewing/).*

## Tinicum bridge restoration gains new attention

**Cliff Lebowitz**

Property owner Steve Gidumal continued to advocate for restoration of the Headquarters Road Bridge, closed by PennDOT since 2011, as a one-lane thoroughfare at the supervisors' meeting April 6. The restoration would be over the same 10-ton footprint, as bridge preservationists have recommended before and since

the closing. Gidumal appeared to gain some traction on the matter with Supervisor Rich Rosamilia, who pledged cooperation in exploring funding and other issues. Meanwhile, supervisors tabled a resolution designed to facilitate development of PennDOT's two-lane, revised and unlimited footprint, replacement bridge proposal, which continues to face legal challenges.

*Tinicum resident Steve Gidumal, right, answered a question from fellow resident Dr. Gary Woertz, regarding his proposal for restoration of the closed Headquarters Road Bridge at Sheep Hole Road, at the April 6 public board of supervisors meeting.*



CLIFF LEBOWITZ

## New Hope Celebrates plans nontraditional Pride celebration

New Hope Celebrates (NHC) will not be having the traditional Pride Parade and Pride Fair in May due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and safety concerns surrounding the wellness of community members, visitors, partners and volunteers.

NHC is planning numerous events that can be experienced safely throughout May and June. The NHC Board is working on creating a variety of events to support the local community, encourage people to come OUT and celebrate who they are.

The events include the annual Best Cocktail Contest, which is extended to three weeks to allow more time for participants to safely enjoy their cocktails and vote, the annual flag unfurling on May 8, several drag shows, a book club event, mental health events, a Pride bike ride, a

Pride drive-in movie, and more. The community, like many others, has been affected by the pandemic and the NHC Board does not feel it is safe to bring 5,000 to 10,000 people together at this time. There are ways to celebrate Pride together while also supporting the local businesses, restaurants/bars, galleries, and more. The State of New Jersey and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have lessened restrictions, but they will not allow for a large-scale Pride event in May at this time.

Visit [newhopecelebrates.com](http://newhopecelebrates.com) for information. Follow NHC on Facebook and Instagram for updates as well.

NHC encourages everyone to wear a mask, social distance, support local businesses, and be safe. "We look forward to celebrating with everyone, so come OUT, come visit."

## George Anthonisen named National Sculpture Society Fellow Emeritus

The National Sculpture Society's board approved the nomination of Fellows George Anthonisen, a Bucks County resident, and Bruno Lucchesi to Fellow Emeritus.

It was agreed unanimously that the services of Lucchesi and Anthonisen have been of such a nature as to merit this distinction. Both artists, whose careers extend over 120 years combined, have been Fellows since 1976.

Italian-born Lucchesi has been a fixture in the New York art scene since the late 1950s.

Anthonisen's sculpture is in-

cluded in the collections of Woodmere Art Museum in Philadelphia, James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown and Ursinus College in Collegeville.

Two of his notable works are part of the collections of the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland and the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

In 2019, Anthonisen's retrospective was held at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., and six of his bronzes were displayed alongside Rodin's sculptures as part of "The Rodin Legacy" at the Michener in 2015.

## PA Civic Commemoration Ceremony of Holocaust set

The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition will proceed with its 2021 Pennsylvania Civic Commemoration of the Holocaust in a virtual format, scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, April 8. The public is invited to attend.

In addition to Holocaust survivors and clergy from across the state, the following dignitaries have been invited to speak:

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf; Pennsylvania House of Representative Speaker Brian Cutler; and Pennsylvania House of Representative Democrat Leader Joanna McClinton

To view the program, visit [jewishphilly.zoom.us/j/91228675085?pwd=MEIkMkNyaWdJMmZOWWZiU1VtWTJBZz09](http://jewishphilly.zoom.us/j/91228675085?pwd=MEIkMkNyaWdJMmZOWWZiU1VtWTJBZz09).

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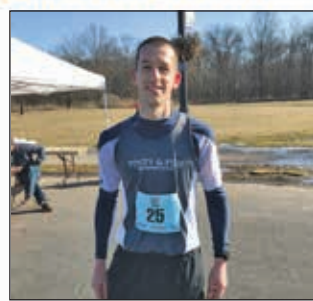
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**Candy Cane 5K held, finally**  
B2

# SCHOOLS SPORTS HEALTH & FITNESS

**Pennridge teacher receives honor**  
B3



## SECTION B

April 8, 2021

# Pennridge, CB South advance in Flyers Cup

Don Leypoldt

Score early and often. That was the formula that No. 10 Pennridge (9-5) used – getting three first period goals on Tuesday en route to a 4-2 win over No. 7 CB East (6-5-1) in the first round of Flyers Cup 2A action. Richie Shanks, Aeryk Lehrhaupt and Aidan Boyle all found the back of the net before the game was 13 minutes old. Defensively, Pennridge goalie Ryan Pico stopped 24 of 26 shots to make sure the first period 3-spot was sufficient. The Rams won their Feb. 5 meeting against East. Lehrhaupt, who led the team with 15 goals and scored in all but four games, lit the

lamp with the eventual game-winning score 10 minutes into the third period to give Pennridge the 4-3 regular season win.

The Rams face No. 2 Pennsbury in Thursday's quarterfinal. The matchup gives Pennridge a chance to avenge two one-goal losses to the Falcons: one on opening night and a second in the Suburban High School Hockey League National/Continental semifinals.

No. 6 CB South also advanced (8-5-1) Tuesday by virtue of its 3-1 win over No. 11 Owen J. Roberts. The Titans, who won the SHSHL Continental in the regular season, will play No. 3 Haverford on Thursday. Daniel Kvecher, South's regular season points leader, scored four minutes into the second period to break the scoreless deadlock. The Titans extended their lead to 2-0

on an Owen Mendham power-play goal midway through the third period. South goalie Mason Moyer was outstanding, stopping 35 of 36 Wildcat shots.

No. 5 Council Rock South (9-7) fell in overtime to No. 12 Avon Grove 3-2 in Tuesday's first-round action. The Golden Hawks, the National/Continental runners-up, won five games in a row before falling to Pennsbury in the SHSHL finals. Goalie Jimmy Sweeney had a .921 save percentage and a 2.19 GAA during the regular season. Jeremy Purcell (11 goals) and Julian Same (11 assists) led the team offensively.

For most area programs, playoff hockey was already in full swing before the Flyers Cup. Last Thursday night, No. 1 Pennsbury defeated No. 3 Council Rock South 7-4 to claim the SHSHL Class 2A title.

The Falcons were the only team in the SHSHL National/Continental with fewer than five losses or ties. They matched up with a shorthanded CR South squad that was playing their third game in four days.

It looked like the Golden Hawks would repeat as Class 2A champions when Julian Wagenmann put South up 2-1 seconds into the second period. But Pennsbury's Brendan Macainsh scored twice in the next four minutes to give the Falcons a 3-2 lead that they would not relinquish.

Pennsbury had to fight to reach those finals. The night before, the Falcons needed overtime to knock off No. 5 Pennridge 6-5 in the semis. Rams Boyle, Jack Lowery, Shanks and Andrew Savona all lit the lamp in the second period, with Savona's goal putting the Rams up 5-3.

CR South earned a trip to the finals by virtue of a 2-1 Wednesday semifinal overtime win over No. 3 CB South. The game featured two of the area's best goalies in the Titans' Moyer and the Golden Hawks' Sweeney. Both netminders lived up to the billing, with Sweeney saving 21 shots and Moyer saving 27. CR South won when Sam Cherkassky converted a deflected pass into an overtime goal.

The semifinal was Sweeney's second straight brilliant game. He saved all 34 shots that No. 6 North Penn fired at him in a CR South 7-0 March 29 quarterfinal romp. Blaize Pepe had a hat trick. In the other quarterfinal, Pennridge topped No. 4 Neshaminy 4-2. Pico stopped 46 of 48 shots as Lehrhaupt's late second period goal to put Pennridge up 3-1 proved to be the game-winner.

# Veteran arms expected to keep Palisades in mix in '21

Jeff Moeller

Over the years, pitching has been a mainstay for Palisades' baseball program.

This season, their situation should follow the same script.

The Pirates have four veteran arms at the top of their rotation, and they will need to rely on a revamped offense due to graduation to stay in the hunt in the Colonial League and District 11.

Head coach Gary Koenig has an optimistic outlook.

"I think we'll be in the mix," stated Koenig, who is beginning his ninth season. "This is a talented group."

"We like our pitchers because they have experience, and that will help us."

Seniors Will Guthrie and Bela Pavlinsky along with juniors Jaden Newton and Kyle McGrath form the Pirates' rotation.

When someone isn't on the mound from the foursome, Koenig noted that each of them will field a position with Guthrie and Pavlinsky in the outfield, Newton at third base and McGrath in the middle infield.

"Those four are a big part of our offense as well," Koenig added. "They all should have big years for us."

Others expected to be in the mix for the Pirates will be senior catcher Jon DeNato, junior second baseman Nick Petrillo, outfielder Josh Alkhas, first baseman Michael Wallbillich and outfielder Scott Segreaves.

Palisades opened the season with a 7-4 loss to defending district Class 3A champion Notre Dame. Guthrie and Pavlinsky each had two hits, and Guthrie had four strikeouts over his six-inning performance.

The Pirates bounced back with an 11-3 victory over Wilson to even their mark at 1-1. McGrath had three hits and Newton had three RBIs. Newton also had eight strikeouts in his five-inning outing.

Palisades gained its second victory of the season (2-1) with a 19-5 rout over host Bangor Tuesday afternoon.

Pavlinsky had three hits and five RBIs behind Newton, who pitched a solid five innings.

The Pirates had a game at Salisbury Wednesday (results unavailable at press time) and at Saucon Valley Saturday to conclude the week.

Koenig sees his team in the mix, but he has a hard time envisioning the breakdown of the league.

"I really don't know," he offered. "It has been two years and it is still too early to tell. Notre Dame is looking pretty good, but anything can happen. We'll just keep working."



A mock-up of the proposed artificial turf field at Delaware Valley Regional High School.

# Del Val High School launches fund drive for turf field

The tragedy of the pandemic has yielded few bright spots; however, one of them is a budget surplus that enabled the Delaware Valley Regional High School District to bank \$200,000 toward an artificial turf field. The surplus was the result of closing the school building and canceling programs and activities.

According to Athletic Director Bill Deniz, most other high schools have artificial turf fields, which are subject to fewer rain-outs and muddy conditions. He also explained that natural fields can put the home team at a disadvantage – in soccer and field hockey, the ball bounces and rolls differently on grass versus artificial turf.

"Teams can practice on grass before they come to play us," he said, "but we can't practice on turf before we go to play them because we don't have any – yet." Deniz added that many of those "away" events on artificial turf are tournaments and championship contests.

The artificial turf would be installed at Tap Webb Memorial Field

and would include lines for multiple sports, including football, lacrosse, field hockey and soccer. The markings would be color coded by sport.

"It seems like it would be confusing," said Deniz. "But in actual use, the athletes get used to noticing only the markings that apply to their sport."

Delaware Valley is one of only a handful of New Jersey high schools without a turf field. According to DVRHS, turf fields provide more practice opportunities with the lessening of weather-related cancellations. They are also environmentally safer and cheaper to maintain than natural grass. However, studies have shown that artificial turf can increase the risk of athlete injury.

Superintendent Daria Wasserbach noted that the value of turf goes beyond sports. A turf field would allow the high school marching band and other music ensembles to practice and host competitions. Outdoor physical education class days would be enhanced with a drier field, and large events such

as graduation would not be impacted by field conditions.

"It'll be great," said Wasserbach. "Thirty minutes after it stops raining, you can get on it, and it won't be damaged."

The DVRHS Turf Committee has been meeting over the last few months. Core members include Business Administrator Teresa O'Brien, Wasserbach, board members Ellen Gordon and George Tavernite, sports parents Stacey Blake and Brent Kephart, and professional grant writer Therese Matthews.

"The next step is to launch a funding drive with a goal of \$100,000," said Wasserbach. "Once that goal is met, we'll raise another \$100,000."

This pandemic-constricted school year is liable to leave another surplus, some of which could go toward the new field. The goal is to have the field ready for use in spring 2022.

For sponsorship and donation opportunities, visit [dvrhs.org](http://dvrhs.org). On the home page, scroll down, find "Turf in '22" on the left, and click on it.

# Loynd, Marinelli lead alum highlights

Don Leypoldt

Several area players have taken advantage of Opening Day and are hitting their stride.

Sophomore **Joey Loynd** (CB South) leads the Delaware Blue Hens with a .340 batting average. The freshman infielder has multi-hit games in half of UD's first dozen games. He opened 2021 with 11 straight errorless games.

Fellow CB South Titan **Andrew Dietz** co-led the CACC with 13 hits and seven steals at press time.

Chestnut Hill's Dietz, a junior, was hitting .351 with a homer and six RBIs for the Griffins.

Two Archbishop Wood products are punishing pitchers in the PSAC. Kutztown sophomore catcher **Antonio Rossillo** (Warrington) thumped six homers and 18 RBIs in the Bears' first 23 games. Rossillo is also hitting .303. West Chester junior baseman **Mike Ferrara** (Jamison) had a 1.000 slugging percentage in the Golden Rams' first dozen games. That was also second in

the PSAC. Ferrara was hitting .471 with 18 RBIs to start the year.

On the softball diamond, two other area hitters were causing equal damage to Atlantic 10 pitchers. Senior third baseman **Taylor Marinelli** (CB South) was hitting .366 and slugging .537 to open the year. Both ranked third on the St. Joseph's Hawks. The Hawks host UMass in a four-game series this weekend. Sophomore Minutewoman outfielder **Jules Shields** (CR North) is batting .333 and slugging .556 for UMass. Both marks lead the team.

# Ex-Blazer Mayza triumphant in return

Don Leypoldt

The last time baseball fans saw Tim Mayza, it wasn't pretty.

On Sept. 13, 2019 – a Friday the 13th no less – Blue Jay southpaw Mayza was making his 68th appearance, putting him among American League leaders. Mayza, a 2011 Quakertown Blazer and Upper

Perkiomen product, uncorked a pitch five feet behind then Yankee shortstop Didi Gregorius and dropped to the ground in obvious pain.

"I love Tim Mayza," said Toronto manager Charlie Montoyo to MLB.com postgame. "He's done a great job and he's part of our future. He felt it and it was emotional. Everybody was, because everybody loves

Timmy Mayza."

Mayza had Tommy John surgery five days later. Fortunately, he is back and healthy. On April 3, Mayza threw a shutout inning against the Yankees and then struck out the only Texas Ranger he faced on April 5.

After debuting in August 2017, Mayza set career highs in appearances (68) and innings (51.1) in 2019.

# Young Pirates squad battles growing pains in early going of season

Jeff Moeller

For the Palisades girls softball team, it is about finishing.

The young squad has dropped its first three contests (0-3) of the season, the latest being a 17-2

defeat at Bangor Tuesday.

Head coach Jill Amato understands it will be a maturation process.

"We're striving toward finishing a full seven innings," said Amato. "We have a young freshman pitcher who is working to finish a full seven innings. We don't have much behind her in relief."

"Once we start hitting on a consistent basis, we'll be in a better situation."

Amato referred to freshman pitcher Julianna Flanagan, who has been the Pirates' workhorse. The head coach is confident her freshman hurler can find her niche. Senior Audrey Sayre, a first-year player, and freshman Chesney Mosher also should see some time on the mound this spring.

"She (Flanagan) has played on a good tournament team, and was a starter and a reliever," said Amato. "She is building her arm strength, and she'll be there for us the next three years."

Amato will look to seniors catcher Kyleigh Davis, first baseman Brooke Gerhardt, centerfielder Jemma Amato – the coach's older daughter – and second baseman Katie Cooper.

"All of them started as sophomores," said Amato of her four seniors. "We're hoping they can be leaders out there."

Aside from the seniors, Amato will look to her younger daughter, Ashley, a sophomore, who has emerged as a leader at shortstop.

"She is a leader in the field," said the coach of her daughter. "She was going to start last year for us."

"She had eight hits in 10 at-bats though our first two games and she went 6-for-6 in a game against Wilson. She plays on a high level tournament team, and has really made the adjustment."

The Pirates opened the year with a 12-4 loss to Notre Dame after they had an impressive 15-4 scrimmage victory over Faith Christian. They then suffered a momentous 26-21 loss to Wilson.

"That was a crazy game," said Amato. "Both teams teed off on each other's pitchers. It will be a game that neither team will forget."

Amato is confident her team can mesh together down the road. The Pirates start three freshmen and one sophomore in the field.

"We will have three, sometimes, four games a week starting next week," Amato said. "We do have a few girls who can pitch for us, but we have to hit the ball."

"Our future looks bright because we'll have a good eighth grade class coming up. We'll be a young team for a few years."





# SPORTS



## Candy Cane 5K held on first day of spring

The Candy Cane 5K, originally scheduled to be held in December, took place March 20 in Quakertown.

Benefiting the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the 5K race was postponed and moved from Bethlehem to Quakertown's Park at 4th (Univest Perfor-

mance Center) as a result of the pandemic.

Awards were given to the top three males and females in various age categories, with each wave starting one hour apart.

A virtual run/walk was also held. FCA, as stated on its web-



COURTESY OF JEFF MOELLER  
Mike Browne of Easton won the first flight of the race.

site, "focuses on serving local communities around the globe by engaging, equipping and em-

powering coaches and athletes to unite, inspire and change the world through the gospel."



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Colin Babin and Morgan Swartley of Quakertown participated in the Candy Cane 5K, held in support of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

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## Virtual town hall examines COVID's impact on mental health, addiction in Perkasie area

Penn Foundation and Perkasie Borough are joining forces on Tuesday night, 7 p.m. April 13, to host a town hall update about the impact of mental health and addiction on the Perkasie community via Zoom.

The event will look back at the past year's COVID-19 crisis and how it has affected Perkasie area and the Upper Bucks community in those two specific areas.

The town hall event will offer concerned citizens, parents, neighbors, and individuals the opportunity to learn more about the current mental health and substance abuse challenges in the community and understand the role they can play in bringing positive change.

Presenters will include Matt Weintraub, Bucks County district attorney; Donna Duffy-Bell, Bucks County Behavioral Health administrator; Gordon Hornig, Penn Foundation addiction professional; Robert Schurr, Perkasie Borough Police chief; and Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps, Penridge Minister and pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Perkasie.

Introductory remarks will be made by Perkasie Mayor John Hollenbach and Councilman Scott Bomboy, the chair of Perkasie's Public Safety Committee.

"COVID-19 has had an extensive impact on our Penridge community," said Bomboy. "Talking about these issues is more important than ever. We hope that this event will help us all better understand the role we play in helping to instill hope for our loved ones and neighbors who are struggling with these issues in this historic situation."

This project is made possible with support from the Penridge Community Recovery Fund, Penridge Ministerium, and Today, Inc.

The event is free, but registration is required in advance at pennfoundation.org/events.

# Pennridge tech teacher earns award

Joe Ferry

Matt Peitzman has a simple philosophy when it comes to teaching.

"The big thing is to make the material interesting," said Peitzman. "And the way to make it interesting is to make it relatable to kids."

Apparently, his philosophy is working. Peitzman, a technology teacher at Penridge High School for the last eight years, recently was selected for the International Technology and Engineering Association (ITEEA) 2021 Teacher Excellence Award. He was honored during the group's 83rd Annual Conference, which was held virtually March 22-27.

Only 20 classroom educators from across the country at the elementary, middle and high school levels received ITEEA's Teacher Excellence Award.

Peitzman's reaction when he was informed of the first-time honor for a Penridge teacher?

"Disbelief," he said with a laugh. "I just wanted to share the good news with the people who have influenced me the most during my career."

A Penridge grad (Class of 1998), Peitzman earned his un-



Penridge High School teacher Matt Peitzman has been honored by an international organization for his classroom instruction.

dergraduate degree in technology education from Millersville University and his Master's in Education (with a concentration in instructional technology) from St. Joseph's University in 2002. He taught tech ed at Penridge for

two years before his job was eliminated due to enrollment declines, then spent eight years teaching at Penridge High School. Peitzman returned to Penridge in 2013 with a renewed sense of teaching purpose.

"Those years at Pennsbury were when I became a good teacher," he said. "Working with different students and different co-workers really gave me a different perspective on what I could do in the classroom."

When he returned to Penridge, Peitzman joined a tight-knit group of veteran tech teachers, most of whom also graduated from Millersville and were in the process of transition from a traditional woodshop to a more STEM-based curriculum. He also got involved with the National STEM Guitar Team, a group of teachers who use the process of building electric guitars and ukuleles to teach their students the basics of math and science. He helped establish the school's popular Guitar Building Class, an elective that typically has a waiting list of students.

The strategy is to teach students math and science lessons through building an electric guitar, a process they can relate to, said Peitzman.

"We're not trying to turn them into guitar builders," he said. "The whole idea behind tech ed and STEM, in general, is to let students explore, try out new things, and learn from their failures as well as their successes."

## All Catholic Concert Band to perform festival via livestream

Seventy-four students representing Archdiocesan Secondary Schools and private Catholic High Schools throughout the five-county region have been selected to participate in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's 2021 All Catholic Concert Band 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 10 at Cardinal O'Hara High School.

This year's concert is under the direction of guest conductor James Colonna, director of bands/graduate studies in instrumental conducting, Messiah University. It will be hosted by Michael

Connor (Class of '85), president of Cardinal O'Hara High School, Eileen Vice (Class of '89), principal of Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, Delaware County, and Hector Ramirez, music director for Cardinal O'Hara High School.

To view the livestream of the 2021 All Catholic Concert Band, visit <https://vimeo.com/event/849501>.

Social distancing and COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed.

The students will perform se-

lections from: "Apples," composed by Andrew Boysen; "Cause for Celebration," composed by William Himes; "Portraits," composed by James Colonna, guest conductor; and "American We," composed by Henry Fillmore.

Students from Archdiocesan secondary schools including Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster (Bucks County); Bishop McDevitt High School in Wyncote (Montgomery County); Conwell-Egan Catholic High School in Fairless Hills (Bucks County); and Pope John Paul

II High School in Royersford (Montgomery County) will participate.

Students from private Catholic high schools including Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School in Gwynedd Valley (Montgomery County); Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Bensalem (Bucks County); Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Flourtown (Montgomery County); Saint Basil Academy in Jenkintown (Montgomery County); and Villa Joseph Marie High School in Holland (Bucks County) will also participate.

## Centurion's winning entries

The following are the 2021 Keystone Media Awards earned by the Centurion:

General News, second place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Sellersville Teen Shot Dead at State Park - Payton Schreier

Ongoing News Coverage, second place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: The 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic - Centurion Staff

Ongoing News Coverage, honorable mention, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Special Report: The 2020 Presidential Election - Centurion Staff

Public Service/Enterprise Package, first place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: The Results and Winners of Bucks' 2020-2021 Student Body Election - Alyssa Moore, Dakota Carlson, Olivia Ruddell, Kristen Reiter

Feature Story, second place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Coping With Boredom During COVID-19 - Alyssa Moore

Personality Profile, second place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Ethel Rackin is a Professor and a Poet - Shannon Goldhahn

Sports Story, first place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Spring Athletics Forced to End Seasons Due to COVID-19 - Karagen Kelly

Sports Story, second place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Men's Basketball Fall Short of Playoffs by One Win - Cole Schug

Sports Story, honorable mention,

Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: 2020 Philadelphia Union Season Preview - Skyler Hoffner

Review, first place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: RDJs Dolittle Does Little - Bradley Hare

Review, second place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Sonic the Hedgehog Speeds Past Everyone's Expectations - Bradley Hare

Layout and Design, first place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Bucks prepares for the Coronavirus (Centurion Vol 55 Issue 9) - Sarah Siock, Alyssa Moore, Shannon Goldhahn

Layout and Design, second place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Joe Biden Wins Presidential Race (Centurion Vol 56 Issue 5) - Alyssa Moore, Dakota Carlson, Olivia Ruddell, Kristen Reiter

Website, first place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: [www.bucks-news.com](http://www.bucks-news.com) - Centurion Staff

Video Story, first place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Effort to Provide Low-Cost Textbooks Gains Momentum - Sarah Siock

Video Story, second place, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Acme Workers Keep Shelves Stocked During the Pandemic - Jon Corley

Video Story, honorable Mention, Bucks County Community College - The Centurion: Students Make the Adjustment to Online Classes - Sarah Siock

## BCCC newspaper captures 17 awards

The Centurion, the student newspaper of Bucks County Community College, won a record 17 awards in the statewide student Keystone Media contest for 2021, despite the fact that its staffers had to produce the paper from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Centurion, competing in the two-year college division, has won more than 130 awards since 2010 in the contest run by the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association.

Students won awards for articles and news videos on everything from student government elections and a shooting in a Bucks County park, to the pandemic and the presidential election.

Journalism professor Tony Rogers, the Centurion's faculty advisor, said winning 17 awards was a terrific accomplishment in itself. But the awards, for work done in the spring and fall of 2020, mean even more this year.

"Our campuses shut down last March, and since then the students have had to write and edit their stories and lay out the paper from home," Rogers said. "The fact that they did such excellent work under such trying circumstances is absolutely amazing to me. I couldn't be more proud."

Bucks County Community College courses remained mostly online in the fall and spring, with limited campus access for classes that require hands-on components. The journalism program, part of the language and literature department, smoothly pivoted to all-remote formats. The college has the distinction of being ranked the No. 1 online community college in Pennsylvania in 2020 by Guide to Online Schools.

The Centurion swept the sports

story and news video categories. It won second place in the general news category, and second place and honorable mention for ongoing news. It also won first place in the public service/enterprise package category, second place for feature story, and second place for personality profile.

The paper also won first and second place in the review category, first and second in the layout and design category, and first place for its website.

Working from home forced the paper's staff to be innovative, Rogers noted. Reporters did interviews via Zoom, email or text. Editors downloaded Adobe software to their home computers or laptops so they could lay out the pages.

Rogers singled out two students in particular for their work: Chalfont resident Alyssa Moore, the current editor-in-chief; and Sarah Siock of Doylestown, last year's editor-in-chief, who is now studying at Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J.

"Alyssa and Sarah were in uncharted territory when they took on the job of running a student newspaper in the midst of a global pandemic," Rogers said. "This has undoubtedly been the toughest year for everyone in the history of this college, but Alyssa and Sarah absolutely rose to the occasion and met those challenges head-on."

Moore said she became the editor-in-chief this past fall while studying remotely from home.

"I had to try to replicate the system that we had going in the journalism

classroom in my own room, which was a lot more difficult than I expected," said Moore. "But overall, things worked out pretty well, and that is thanks to the journalism team who are so passionate about the work we do."

Rogers mentioned that several graphics students, under the tutelage of graphic design professor Michael Kabbash, also worked from home in helping to get the paper laid out.

"Professor Kabbash's students have been a godsend to us this year, and we really appreciate their help," Rogers said.

Normally, the Centurion prints 2,000 copies that are distributed across the college's three campuses in Newtown, the Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks in Bristol and the Upper Bucks Campus in Perkasie. But with most students taking classes virtually, the editors have instead produced a PDF of each issue that is emailed to all students. In addition, the team continues to maintain the publication's website.

The Centurion is available to read for free at [bucks-news.com](http://bucks-news.com). To learn more about the associate degree journalism program at Bucks, visit [bucks.edu/journalism](http://bucks.edu/journalism).

The Keystone Media Awards recognizes student journalism that provides relevance, integrity, and initiative in serving readers. Any student who has had material published in the school newspaper may enter the contest, which has divisions for large and small universities, two-year colleges and high schools.

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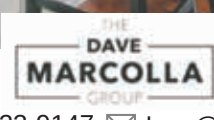
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# EDUCATION

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## Quakertown school raises \$12,000 for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Quakertown Elementary School raised a record \$12,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

During the six-week fundraiser for the LLS Hero Squad Program, which raises money for childhood blood cancer patients, QE, with fewer than 300 students, shattered its goal of \$2,021.

"This has certainly been a silver lining in a difficult school year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," Principal Dr. Michael Zackon said. "For the past six weeks, helping others less fortunate than ourselves has been something that our kids have been looking forward to and asking about. It has kept smiles on the kids' faces, behind the masks."

Zackon praised QE teachers and staff for their extraordinary efforts during the fundraiser, specifically naming Alicia Bolks and Christa Held. "As usual, they have gone above and beyond to help make this happen," he said.

Held said QE has "continued to drive home with our kiddos the importance of helping others and that together we can make a difference."

QE's theme this year was "How lucky are we." The fundraiser began on Feb. 1 with hallways filled with hearts and shamrocks. In addition to monetary donations, students and staff participated in various fundraising opportunities that included: weekly heavyweight challenge, Valentine candy grams, Lucky

Loot grams, and QE spirit wear. For the heavyweight challenge, students brought in coins and dollars to be weighed as a class each Friday. All of the collected money was put on a scale and totaled up. Each paper dollar donated counted as a pound. To kick off the fundraiser, the school held a spirit week, and each Friday focused on how lucky they are.

"It's amazing to look back and see how over the past six weeks, our QE family has grown stronger as we have put ourselves aside to come together and help others," Held said.

QE held a schoolwide Bingo on March 17 to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of kindness and helping others as a family.



Two Quakertown Elementary School students hold a Ziploc bag filled with cash for the school's fundraising effort on behalf of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

## Schools invited to enter recycling challenge

New for 2021, Colgate, ShopRite and TerraCycle have launched the Colgate and ShopRite School Challenge.

After a year of virtual learning and hybrid schedules, Colgate, ShopRite and international recycling leader TerraCycle have come together to sponsor a contest among participating schools in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut and Maryland. The schools will compete for prize packages worth a combined total of over \$92,000 consisting of new desks, chairs, backpacks, pencil cases and pens, all made from recycled oral care waste and packaging.

Between now and June 30, schools located in the eligible states are urged to visit [terracycle.com/en-US/contests/colgate-shopriteschoolcontest2021](http://terracycle.com/en-US/contests/colgate-shopriteschoolcontest2021) and register for the Colgate and ShopRite School Challenge.

Participants are encouraged to collect and recycle used oral care waste and packaging, such as empty toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes and floss containers through the Colgate Oral Care Recycling Program. With each

shipment sent for recycling, participants earn "Supply Credits." Additionally, schools can earn extra Supply Credits by voting online on the contest page for the registered school of their choice. In the end, the school with the most credits will be awarded the grand prize package.

A full set of rules for the Colgate and ShopRite School Challenge can be viewed at [s3.amazonaws.com/tc-global-prod/download\\_resources/us/downloads/14471/TerraCycle\\_Colgate\\_ShopRite\\_2021\\_Rules\\_VF.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/tc-global-prod/download_resources/us/downloads/14471/TerraCycle_Colgate_ShopRite_2021_Rules_VF.pdf).

Open to any individual, family, school or community group interested in helping to protect the environment, TerraCycle also offers the Colgate Oral Care Recycling Program. For each piece of oral care waste and the associated packaging sent to TerraCycle using a pre-paid shipping label, participants can earn money toward the school or charity of their choice.

To learn more about the Colgate Oral Care Recycling Program and to sign up, visit [terracycle.com/colgate](http://terracycle.com/colgate).

## MCCC to participate in pilot partnership offering free college credits

Mercer County Community College (MCCC) has been selected by the State of New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) and Modern States Education Alliance to participate in a pilot partnership to provide students with the opportunity to earn free college credit for demonstrating college-level mastery.

The partnership with Modern States furthers the goals outlined in the State Plan for Higher Education by offering students college preparation and the ability to earn free college credit.

"Mercer County Community College is delighted to join New Jersey OSHE, Modern States, Thomas Edison State University and Centenary University in an innovative partnership to provide high-quality options supporting degree completion. Specifically, this partnership will allow eligible students to earn college credits through high-quality preparation and standardized College Level Examination Program examinations free of charge. It is an additional pathway to college completion without the cost barrier," said Dr. Jianping Wang, president of Mercer County Community College.

Modern States is a nonprofit organization that provides high-quality courses and other learning materials to individuals free of charge, with the goal of the program being "Freshman Year for Free." Students are able to take courses at their own pace, and once they have successfully completed a course, Modern States provides a voucher to take CLEP exams for free. CLEP exams are offered by the college board and normally cost \$89.

For information, visit [mccc.edu](http://mccc.edu).

## Princeton Junior School's purchase of historic property leads to expansion

On Sept. 1, 2020 Princeton Junior School became one of the first schools in the Princeton area to open its doors to students for in-person learning.

Utilizing a campus that was intentionally designed to foster an immediate connection to nature, where each classroom opens to the outside, the school found that it was uniquely equipped to handle the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The school has remained open for in-person learning to all students, providing consistent education in a haven where they have continued to share ideas and work together as a group – a vital component to academic development.

From the time it was founded in a local church basement with just a handful of children in 1983, Princeton Junior School has been known amongst educators in the Princeton area as the "little engine that could." The school, which recognizes the importance of experiential, hands-on learning for children and today ac-

cepts just 100 students per year, quickly outgrew its initial space. After expanding to three separate locations simultaneously and an exhaustive search for the ideal campus, a 10-acre tomato farm on the border of Princeton and Lawrenceville was pinpointed as the perfect spot to build a school with a deep connection to its natural surroundings. But there was a problem.

The property had a historic landmark on it – a 4,500-square-foot stone house known as the William Phillips Tavern – that could not be altered for school use. A solution was devised. The school would purchase the property in tandem with the Morgan family, who were interested in buying the house and 3 acres of the parcel. The school would take the remaining 7 acres to build their dream schoolhouse on the farm's fields.

In early 2020, after 28 years of sharing the property, PJS embarked on yet another expansion. Its long-time neighbors informed the school that they were ready to move and offered their property to PJS for the

right of first refusal.

Enter Steve Ginzburg, a family friend of Head of School Silvana Nazzaro Clark, who stepped forward with the largest-ever single donation to PJS, making it possible for the school to purchase the Morgan property.

The school's expansion plans, made possible by Ginzburg along with other donors to the school, include a new sports pavilion being installed this spring, a performing arts center, a STEM shop, and possible future plans for an atrium swimming pool. The performing arts curriculum, along with the school's fall and spring productions, have long been a highlight at PJS, and the new venue has caused much excitement among the school's community.

Opening in the fall of 2021, the performing arts center will incorporate a professional theater space and dancehall, as well as a backstage bungalow and lobby. The theater, to be located within an existing barn on the new property, will be named the Hana N. Ginzburg playhouse in memory of Ginzburg's mother.

The expansion has also made it possible for PJS – which emphasizes inquiry-based learning and fosters student agency with an emphasis on public speaking and presentation skills – to add a grade six class beginning in the fall of 2021.

## Kindergarten Registration for Full Day Program at Palisades School District

Resident children of the Palisades School District who will attain a chronological age of **five years before September 1, 2021** are eligible to be registered for the **2021-2022 school year. Beginning March 12th**, parents/guardians are asked to visit [www.palisd.org](http://www.palisd.org) to start the online registration process. Click on "Our District" on the main page. Click on "**Kindergarten and New Student Registration 2021-2022**" and then click on the link. You must create an account before entering information. Please upload requested documents if you are able. You will be contacted via email with further information concerning kindergarten screenings, meeting a building counselor and school nurse, as well as other pertinent information. Our administrators are working closely to finalize registration procedures due to COVID-19.

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## Fitzpatrick visits St. Mary vaccination clinic

St. Mary Medical Center welcomed U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick to St. Mary's Community Vaccine Clinic on March 30. The clinic is a coordinated effort between St. Mary Medical Center, St. Mary Physicians Group and volunteers to vaccinate community members against COVID-19. From left are: Dr. Larry Brilliant, president, St. Mary Medical Center; Dr. Sharon Carney, senior vice president and chief clinical officer, Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic; Kim Sudac, vice president, practice operations, Medical Group Physician Services; Cathy Judge Cardillo, regional director advocacy, Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic; Suzette Cunicelli, vice president of professional and support services, St. Mary Medical Center; and Congressman Fitzpatrick.

## St. Luke's offers new valve procedure for patients with COPD

St. Luke's now offers a new pencil-eraser-shaped device, called the Zephyr endobronchial valve, that helps patients with advanced emphysema or COPD breathe easier.

This relief-valve-like device is inserted without surgery or incisions into damaged areas of the lung to help air to escape. Charles Gadwell said he can feel his lungs working better since St. Luke's pulmonologist Dr. Deborah Stahlnecker inserted three Zephyr valves into his left lung in February.

"I feel pretty good," said the former Marine, National Guardsman and Post Office employee who had struggled with emphysema after a half-century of smoking, before quitting in 2015.

Emphysema or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)

are caused when lung tissue becomes diseased or damaged from cigarette smoking or inhaled toxic chemicals/substances. There is no cure for this debilitating, sometimes fatal condition, which may require the patient to use supplemental oxygen. Treatment with medication inhalers can be effective in some patients, but advanced COPD cases often require a lung transplant or lung reduction surgery for patient survival and improvement of symptoms.

Patients who have the Zephyr valves placed into the most damaged recesses of lung tissue, report improved lung function, better breathing during daily walks and other activities and an overall enhanced quality of life, said Stahlnecker, who is the only physician in the Lehigh Valley area currently performing this

minimally invasive procedure. The Pulmonx Zephyr valve was approved by the FDA in 2018; it is the first device of its kind to be made commercially available in the United States.

Stahlnecker uses a long camera-tipped tube, called a bronchoscope, to implant this barrel-shaped, hollow device with a flared end through the patient's mouth and into the lung. Because of the often-extensive tissue damage common to COPD, it is often necessary to implant multiple valves into the lung.

During this procedure, which takes about an hour, the patient is under general anesthesia. No cutting is required to access the diseased tissue or affix the valve within the lung, as it is designed to expand to fit the airway into which it is placed.

## Doylestown Health participates in trials to advance AFib care

The electrophysiology team at Doylestown Health's AFib Center are among the first in the United States to test a new type of ablation technology for patients suffering from atrial fibrillation.

Electrophysiologists Robert Sangrigoli and John Harding treated three patients on March 15 and 16 in the investigational device exemption (IDE) pivotal trial called PULSED AF. The trial uses the Medtronic PulseSelect Pulsed Field Ablation (PFA) System, a breakthrough technology currently being studied to treat atrial fibrillation by interrupting irregular heart rhythms using pulsed electric fields.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to offer this to our patients and thrilled to participate in groundbreaking clinical trials evaluating PFA," said Dr. Sangrigoli.

Calling the innovative technology "revolutionary," Dr. Harding added, "This is the next big step in cardiac ablation."

Doylestown Health's medical research program offers patients access to a broad range of clinical trials including heart and vascular studies. Clinical trials test new and innovative treatments and therapies, a critical part of advancing medicine.

Atrial fibrillation (also called AFib or AF) is a quivering or irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) that can lead to blood clots, stroke, heart failure and other heart-related complications. AF is the most common type of treated heart arrhythmia. At least 2.7 million Americans are living with AF. Treatment options include cardiac ablation procedures that target the cause of irregular heart rhythms and destroy the tissue where the faulty electrical signals originate.

The most widely used ablation techniques involve radio frequency (RF) energy that heats the targeted tissue, or balloon ablation with Cryo energy that freezes the targeted tissue. "While successful, RF energy and Cryo energy are not perfect and may occasionally

result in incomplete elimination of the targeted tissue and rarely inadvertent damage of tissue beyond the target related to 'thermal creep' from heating or freezing at the target site," explained Sangrigoli.

The PulseSelect System delivers pulsed electric fields through an ablation catheter designed specifically to interrupt irregular electrical pathways in the heart that trigger atrial fibrillation. However, unlike traditional methods of ablation that heat (radiofrequency ablation) or cool (cryoablation) the atrial tissue, the PulseSelect System uses a nonthermal approach and preferentially targets heart tissue with the goal of avoiding unwanted injury to surrounding tissues, including the esophagus, aorta, lungs and phrenic nerve (important for breathing).

"Pulsed field ablation (PFA) is very different from current ablation techniques," noted Sangrigoli. "PFA delivers very short duration (nanoseconds to milliseconds) energy pulses, which is very effective at eliminating only the targeted tissue with essentially no change in temperature, thereby protecting nearby tissue."

The clinical trial will demonstrate the safety profile of this technology, which has the potential to be a "game changer," said Harding.

"While large clinical trials are just now getting underway, early data suggests this technology is safer, more effective and faster than any previous technologies or energy sources in treating AF," added Sangrigoli.

The Pulsed AF trial is a prospective, non randomized, multi-center clinical trial that will enroll up to 500 patients who will be treated with the PulseSelect System across as many as 50 sites in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia. Pulsed AF is designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the PulseSelect System for the treatment of AF in adult patients with a history of drug refractory, recurrent and symptomatic paroxysmal or persistent AF.



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## ASIAN ARTS

Auction April 8, 10 AM EDT

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A Chinese carved and underglaze red-decorated porcelain "Dragon and Waves" meiping vase, Yongzheng mark and of the period (1722-1735)  
\$150,000-250,000

PROVENANCE

The Collection of Sheelah M. Langan (1910-1993),  
thence by descent in the family of the present owner







## *Rowers paddle downstream*

**In whitewater release Tohickon Creek to Point Pleasant on the Delaware**

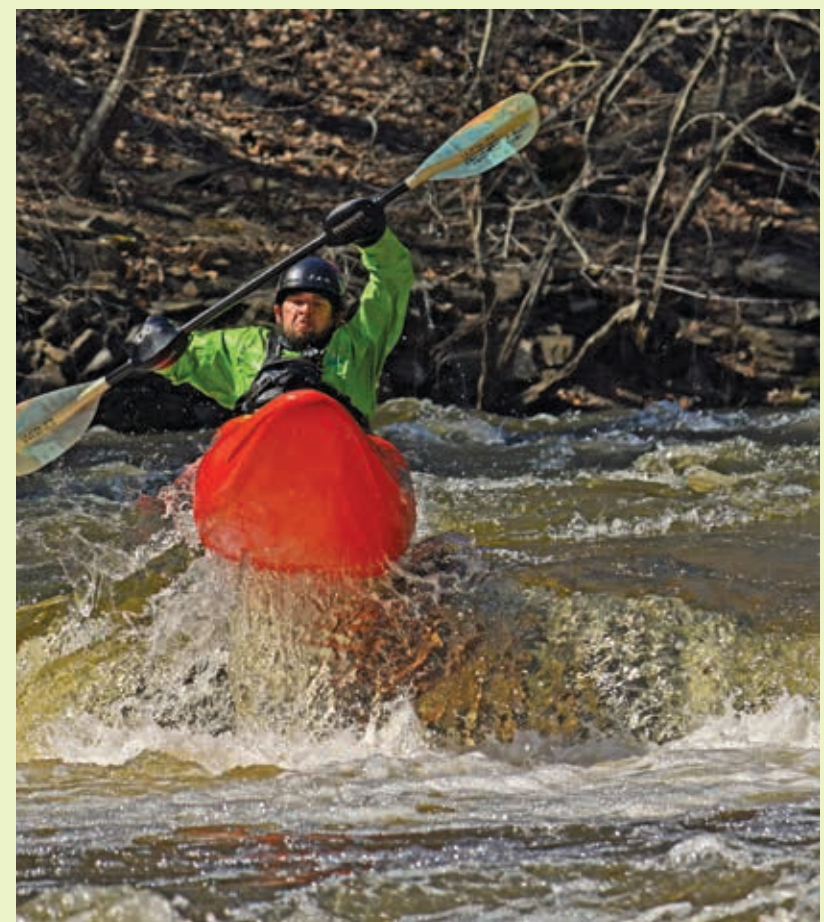


Whitewater boating enthusiasts converged in Bucks County last month for the release of water from Lake Nockamixon into Tohickon Creek.

Releases are historically scheduled on a semi-annual basis, occurring on the third weekend in March and the first weekend in November.

The whitewater releases from the Nockamixon State Park dam provide suitable whitewater boating conditions downstream through Ralph Stover State Park.

**Photographs by Richard Rudolph**





# Dining

## Susan S. Yeske: Recipe of the Week 100% organic at Soulberry Market

A large variety of organic and non-GMO foods and supplements fill Soulberry Market, the store that took over the space formerly occupied by Poppy's Greengrocer in Solebury Township, just outside New Hope.

Husband and wife Amir and Brittany Yassin took over the site last year, expanding the space to double its previous size. Using Amir Yassin's expertise gained from years working for his family's market in New Jersey, they created a produce selection that is 100 percent organic, a feat that few stores can claim.

Opening the store has been a labor of love for the couple, who believe wholeheartedly in the products they sell. "We live this lifestyle," said Brittany Yassin, whether it's eating only organic foods or utilizing the health supplements they sell.

In addition to produce, meat, fish, poultry and dairy departments, the Yassins offer products for alternative diets including keto, paleo and vegan.

Many customers come for the prepared foods case, which offers a variety of foods. The popular "bowl" station caters to individuals who can choose their ingredients,



Hot and cold bowls, like these shown here, are a top seller at the store, which offers a bowl station and prepared-foods case featuring foods for traditional and alternative diets.

then top the bowl with a variety of dressings including herb goddess, Mediterranean and sesame Caesar. Top sellers from the prepared foods station include the falafel wrap, Portobello fries and sweet chili torta.

The store recently added a juice station for those in search of a pick-me-up.

While in some stores organic foods are priced much higher than their supermarket counterparts, the Yassins said they go out of their way to buy products that are affordable.

"We want to appeal to everybody," said Amir Yassin.

Toward that end, they designed the store to provide one-stop shop-



Amir and Brittany Yassin, shown with their daughter Naya, have opened Soulberry Market, a one-stop shopping destination for those in search of organic and non-GMO products.

### Soulberry Market photos

ping. With 90,000 square feet, the store offers just about everything a shopper might hope for, filled with the healthiest and environmentally safe products they could find.

While all produce at Soulberry is organic, the Yassins plan to of-

fer local produce in season, clearly marked as non-organic. They offer products from around the world, but buy as many local and regional foods and supplements as they can find. This time of year that includes, milk, cheeses, eggs and honey.

The Yassins share this favorite recipe:

### Blue Majik Chia Seed Pudding

- ½ cup chia seeds
- 1 ½ cups coconut milk
- 1 packet E3 Live Blue Majik Powder (see note)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon agave
- 1 tablespoon coconut flakes
- ¼ cup fresh fruit

In a bowl, combine the chia seeds, coconut milk, Blue Majik, vanilla extract and agave. Mix all ingredients and let sit for 15 minutes. The chia seeds will absorb the liquid and expand into a thick pudding-like consistency. Top with coconut flakes and your favorite fresh fruit. (All ingredients listed can be found at Soulberry Market.)

**Note:** Blue Majik is a type of blue spirulina, which is a mineral- and vitamin-rich farm-raised algae.

## Low Larason: Thoughts from an Epicure Risotto the way it should be

Our favorite cooked rice is risotto. It takes time to prepare. And, you need to pay attention.

I don't remember where I got the recipe. It called for 1 cup Arborio rice, 2 cups warm stock, and ½ cup Parmesan cheese.

This worked okay but never as good as the risotto in Italian restaurants.

Recently, I was looking through one of my favorite cookbooks, The Classic Italian Cook Book by Marcella Hazan, published in 1972 by Harper's Magazine Press. I found several risotto recipes and discovered why mine wasn't as

good as I wanted.

Hazan's recipe is 5 cups broth and 1 ½ cups Arborio rice.

After seeing this, I made the dish using 1 cup rice and nearly 4 cups chicken stock. What a difference! When I looked on the back of the rice package, I found a good recipe. It is 1 cup rice to 4 cups stock.

If I'd looked years ago, we would have had better risotto. My "new" recipe is below:

### Lew's Risotto

3 ½ to 4 cups hot stock, chicken or beef (homemade or

- purchased salt free)
- 2-3 tablespoons finely diced scallions
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 cup raw Arborio rice
- ¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan

Heat stock to slow simmer. Add olive oil and butter to large saucepan on medium high heat. When hot, add scallions and cook until tender, about 3 minutes. Add rice and stir well to coat. Sauté until hot, then begin adding stock, about ½ cup at a time. Stir often to prevent sticking. When liquid

is gone, add another ½ cup. Repeat. Just as the last of the liquid is used, add Parmesan and stir well. Serve at once.

To reheat leftovers, put rice in a small, cold saucepan with a little stock. Set heat on low. As rice begins to warm, add small amount grated Parmesan to "re-

vive" cheese flavor.

Enjoy and stay safe!

If you have any questions or suggestions for this column, please contact me either through this newspaper at [atbuckscountyherald.com](mailto:atbuckscountyherald.com) or directly at [guthrielatason@verizon.net](mailto:guthrielatason@verizon.net).

## Easton Public Market celebrates fifth anniversary

The Easton Public Market (EPM) is ringing in its fifth anniversary as only a food hall can — with a menu of food specials.

Anniversary festivities run April 15 to 18, with menu specials featured at participating vendors. Customers can also visit the Customer Appreciation Pick-a-Prize Pot at the Highmark Farmstand and choose a goodie bag.

The market will host a grand prize drawing for five \$100 EPM gift cards, with entries available at Highmark Farmstand. Winners will be announced at 5 p.m. April 18 on the market's social media.

"This has been a difficult year for all of us at the market, and

we're grateful for the vendors and customers who kept us going," said Market District Director Megan McBride. "We can't celebrate like we normally do just yet, but five years is a big milestone for us and we wanted to find ways of giving back to our customers and community for helping us to grow."

Market-goers will also notice a new art exhibit near Mister Lee's — a custom Lego build of the facade to celebrate the market's anniversary by Jeremy Joseph, who runs Brick Easton and the Big Easy Easton Brass Band.

Visit [eastonpartnership.org](http://eastonpartnership.org) for information.

## Market Pizza supports Hunters Helping the Hungry

Market Pizza has donated the proceeds from the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) fundraiser held in January.

The one day event was extended this year through the en-

local hunters to statewide food pantries. The funds raised go toward the organization's expense of meat processing through approved butchers by the State of N.J. Health Department. This



With Megan Jones-Holt of Market Pizza, second from left, are, from left, board members of Hunters Helping the Hungry, Les Giese, Mark Charbonneau and Mike Aversa.

tire month and into February due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The funds raised this year will provide a source of protein for 2,000 families and we could not (have) accomplished this if it were not for our customers," said owner Megan Jones-Holt.

This is the fifth year HHH and Market Pizza have teamed up, with funds raised exceeding well over 15,000 meals just by adventurous foodies coming out to try something different.

Hunters Helping the Hungry-HHH, a not-for-profit organization, donates venison from

event is supported by the N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife.

To support the organization, donations can be made through the website [huntershelpingthehungry.org](http://huntershelpingthehungry.org).

Market Pizza, located in the Stockton Market, 19 Bridge St., Stockton, N.J., serves artisanal hearth-baked pizzas featuring weekly specials. Call 609-664-7521 or visit [marketpizzamenu.com](http://marketpizzamenu.com).

Market Pizza was recently recognized and featured by the international pizza magazine PMQ.

SECOND ANNUAL

# spark bowl™

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY  
CENTRAL BUCKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## APRIL 15

5:30 to 8 p.m.

Learn more and watch the live event at:

[delval.edu/spark](http://delval.edu/spark)

### Watch local businesses compete for prize money!

Spark Bowl, a local "Shark-Tank"-like competition organized by Delaware Valley University's School of Business and Humanities and the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, will be live streamed this year for the public. Watch real businesses pitch their ideas and compete for funding!



Congratulations to the 2019 Spark Bowl Second Place Winner Pollen!

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April 8, 2021

## SCORE Bucks assists nonprofit it spurred to feed, educate amid pandemic

Muneera Walker was knee deep in census work in her Lower Merion community when the pandemic began.

Soon after, she saw her neighbors struggle to have enough food.

A former owner of a general contracting business and avid volunteer, Walker launched her nonprofit organization, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, on the Main Line in response to food insecurity in her community. Since March 2020, the effort has taken off and the charitable organization has delivered food weekly to 60 families in Lower Merion Township and another 50 families in Philadelphia.

The organization is seeking its own space to expand programming and outreach capabilities that would enable Neighbors Helping Neighbors the ability to provide aid to those in need in Bucks County as well.

Walker launched another "tentacle" of the organization, E Squared, Excelling in Education. About 50 students have received free virtual educational assistance in various subject areas from the organization's pool of current and retired educators, parents, grandparents, high school students and all types of neighbors.

"As horrific as this time is for our nation and our world, I'm grateful that the shift toward virtual is actually helping me help the students in ways that I probably would not have thought of," Walker said. "You always get some good with the bad."

Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line is funded primarily through private donations. Other organizations, including a local food pantry, contribute food over-abundance to the cause.

"My goal has always been to elevate the opportunities and stature of our Black and Latinx communities in Lower Merion," Walker said. "They have suffered disparities from the past that require strategic work and a lot of energy to correct. Neighbors Helping Neighbors is my opportunity and our opportunity to heal our community."

As the nonprofit began to grow beyond Lower Merion – including Philadelphia, Montgomery County, Delaware County and soon Bucks County – a volunteer recommended that Walker seek out guidance from SCORE Bucks County for insight on grant funding, insurance coverage, business planning and more.

"SCORE has been a great asset to Neighbors Helping Neighbors," Walker said. "It's a phenomenal resource and everyone should know about it."

SCORE Bucks County volunteers Kumar Natarajan and Rob Purdy began mentoring Walker during the



MUNEERA WALKER

summer.

"Muneera has found a very successful strategy and is most definitely meeting the needs of the communities," Purdy said.

Most recently, the nonprofit has expanded to offer a VS3, Virtual School Sensory Support Program, which provides free sensory items, such as wobble cushions and fidgets for individuals with special needs.

What began as an initiative to feed Walker's Lower Merion neighbors has since grown to become so much more.

"The main focus is to assist families in any way they need in order to help them rise up," Walker said, adding that help can come in the form of food donations, educational services, financial assistance, coat drives and more. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors is all about helping each family and each child however they need help."

Walker credits her team of 20 dedicated volunteers, along with her SCORE Bucks mentors with empowering her organization to make an impact.

"My desire is to be a lasting entity of help and change for ours and the expanded communities," she said. "It's not me. It's not each individual volunteer. It's not SCORE. It's all of us. Together we're changing the face of our community."

To learn more visit [nhnonthemainline.com/](http://nhnonthemainline.com/).



Neighbors Helping Neighbors volunteer Claire Kelly bags food donations for distribution.

## Girls With Impact offers online event for Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day, a national day that gives kids a look into the working world, has been an integral part of many young people's lives since 1992.

With the impact of COVID-19, Girls With Impact, the nation's only live, online Business and Leadership Academy for young women ages 12 to 21, announced an interactive and fun way for companies to participate in this national day with a virtual event.

Hosted by Jennifer Openshaw, national Dow Jones columnist and CEO of Girls With Impact, at 9:30 a.m. April 22, companies of all sizes can sign-up for this immersive one-hour online event where employees' daughters and sons will have the opportunity to learn more about the intricacies of business with their parents and skills needed in the future.

The event will also include an in-

teractive element where parents and their children can work together as they brainstorm and learn about leadership, structure, and what makes a great company.

"One of the best ways kids can learn more about the working world is to experience it firsthand," said Openshaw. "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day is such an incredible way for kids to understand what their parents actually do – and the steps they can take today to get them to their ideal career path."

Pricing for the one-day event starts at \$5,000 for 1,000 employees and all funds raised will be used to equip under-resourced girls to become tomorrow's business leaders through Girls With Impact's business training program.

Companies can learn more and register at [girlswithimpact.org/today](http://girlswithimpact.org/today).

## Rick Welch: Dollars and \$ense

### Is a Roth conversion right for me?

The Roth IRA, named for its principal legislative sponsor Sen. William Roth of Delaware, was established by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

Roth accounts are funded by after-tax contributions which are not deductible. Similar to traditional IRAs, contributed assets in a Roth IRA grow tax free until withdrawal.

Roth accounts have two big tax advantages: tax-free qualified withdrawals and no required minimum distributions (RMDs) after reaching age 72. The latter means that you can leave your Roth account untouched for as long as you live if you wish.

The first question to ask when considering the suitability of a Roth for your circumstances is whether it is better to get a tax deduction now for contributing to a traditional plan or to put after-tax dollars into a Roth account and take tax-free withdrawals at a later date.

Focus on whether you can expect your tax rate at time of withdrawal to be higher than your current tax rate – if yes, then a Roth might be a good choice for you.

What is a Roth conversion? It is a transfer or rollover of the assets in a Traditional IRA (including SEP and SIMPLE) or qualified employer sponsored retirement plan (such as 401k, 403B and governmental 457) to a Roth IRA.

The conversion is treated as a taxable distribution as you are deemed to have received a payout (or distribution) of the money then going into the new Roth account.

A conversion is the quickest way to get a significant sum into a Roth IRA since you are not limited by a maximum annual contribution limit or eligibility based on your modified adjusted gross income.

Many investors view a Roth conversion strategy as insurance against future tax increases that would otherwise hit withdrawals from their traditional IRA account. This insurance does, however, come with a cost – the taxes due on the taxable distribution from the traditional account.

Be careful here. It is never a good idea to cover the tax with funds from the distribution itself; rather you should only consider a conversion if you are able to pay the income tax due upon conversion from funds in other savings accounts.

High net worth individuals, with a large IRA balance (of money that is not needed in their lifetime), may view a Roth conversion as a means to reduce their gross estate (by paying tax on conversion) and leave their heirs an inheritance that could grow tax-free for years.

There are a number of reasons why a Roth conversion might not be right for you. Not having ample

savings to cover the tax bill resulting from a conversion or the expectation that your tax bracket will be lower in future years are both good reasons to avoid a Roth conversion.

If a lower tax bracket becomes reality, you will be glad you kept some assets in a traditional IRA as the low brackets combined with larger standard deductions may allow future IRA RMDs to be withdrawn at lower rates for years.

Generally, if you will need the converted funds within the next five years, a Roth IRA is not a good choice. This is because a five-year waiting period is required if you are under 59 ½ before you can withdraw the converted amount without owing a 10% penalty.

If you plan to leave your IRA to charity upon your death, it does not make sense to convert a traditional IRA, pay the taxes due and then leave the Roth IRA (with less money) to a charity.

Take your time. Do not rush into a Roth conversion, for once converted the transaction itself cannot be recharacterized or undone.

*Rick Welch is a Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) and chief investment officer of Academy Wealth Advisers. He can be reached at 215-603-2976 or [rickwelch@academywealthadvisers.com](mailto:rickwelch@academywealthadvisers.com).*

## Noteworthy

618 Hospitality Group and Steve Lau announce local staff additions to their on-site management team for their new concept, The Borscht Belt Delicatessen: Lauren Proscia of Lambertville, N.J., as general manager and Erica Kopp of Langhorne, as catering sales manager.

With a public opening this spring, together, Proscia and Kopp will aid Celebrity Chef Nick Liberato in leading the daily operations and sales aspects of the business.

Other employment opportunities include barista, deli clerk and chef. More about the Borscht Belt can be found on The Borscht Belt website.

With a restaurant staff of 12, Proscia will run daily operations on-site, developing and implementing growth strategies, ensuring quality control and overall management of staff responsibilities. Proscia has worked at The Salt House in New Hope as bar manager, among other places. She is a graduate of New York City's Laboratory of Merchandising (LIM).

Kopp, with a robust catering offering plan to rollout, will introduce the Borscht Belt to the surrounding area to accommodate groups of all sizes from private events through to satisfying corporate and hotel needs. A Bucks County native, Kopp has worked in various, iconic restaurants within the Philadelphia region and has spent the last two decades working in the sales and finance industries.



ERICA KOPP



LAUREN PROSCIA

Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. (Isett) announces the development of a new Landscape Architecture Department in the Public Division of the company.

Led by Bryan Smith, RLA, ASLA, an Isett company shareholder with over 25 years of experience in the landscape architecture field, the new department will work with a wide variety of public and private sector clients.

Previously, when operating as a division of the Municipal Engineering Department, the focus was principally on park master plans, streetscape, trail designs, planning, and construction documentation for outdoor spaces.

Smith and his team, which includes Stephanie Milewski RLA, Christine Mildner, Ashley Eichlin and Scott Grundowski, will widen their scope to provide landscape design and master planning services to assist other design professionals, corporate and college campuses, commercial properties, and health care facilities. For information, visit Barry Isett online.



BRYAN SMITH

J.G. Petrucci Co. Inc. formed a partnership with Cabot Properties Inc. to develop on speculation a 148,960-square-foot industrial building on 15.6 acres at 59 Fretz Road in Souderton.

The building is expected to be completed by this fall. JLL arranged the venture between the two real estate companies.

## Fred Beans Ford earns 17th President's Award

For the 17th time, a Fred Beans Ford dealership – Fred Beans Ford of Boyertown – is among an elite group of Ford and Lincoln dealerships to receive the President's Award from Ford Motor Company.

"This award belongs to all 108 Fred Beans Ford of Boyertown team members working in sales, service, parts, collision and detail," said Dennis Malloy, general manager/partner of Fred Beans Ford of Boyertown. "Each of us, regardless of our role, works to provide customers with exceptional service and maintain that commitment to putting customers first, year-after-year. I could not be more proud of our team."

The President's Award was established in 1998. Dealers become eligible through survey responses from customers related to their sales and service satisfaction. For the 2020 President's Award program, Fred Beans Ford of Boyertown placed first in the East Market for satisfaction among service customers.

"Earning the 2020 President's Award is especially telling of our company-wide commitment to customer service, because we were challenged over the past year to find new ways to interact with customers due to the pandemic," said Fred Beans, founder of Fred Beans Automotive Group.



Fred Beans Ford of Boyertown earned the 2020 President's Award. The dealership has earned the award 17 times, including eight in recent consecutive years, a winning streak only two dealerships in the Philadelphia Region and six in the East Market have achieved.

"We moved quickly and thoughtfully to develop new processes that put customers' safety and comfort first, from adapting new cleaning and disinfecting procedures to modifying sales processes to avoid contact and even launching the digital retailing platform called the Fred Beans ExpressWay. The customer

response was overwhelmingly positive and validated the steps we took to ensure they would continue feeling good about doing business with us."

Fred Beans Ford of Boyertown is among just 10% of Ford dealerships nationwide to earn the 2020 President's Award.



## League of Women Voters readies for May 18 Primary

Bucks County candidates running on the May 18 ballot for municipal offices, including school director positions, will be contacted by the League of Women Voters of Bucks County.

By this week, they can look to receive an email from LWV of Bucks County with a "Voter Guide Invitation to Participate," a personal link to participate in the web-based voters' guide on Vote411.org.

Vote411.org is a one-stop-shop voter service of the League of Women Voters and now in its 14th year of operation. The League of Women Voters of Bucks County uses this resource to provide Bucks County voters with an online voters' guide before each election. Candidates offer email addresses in their filing petitions; LWVBC uses these to send them this email invitation that includes a unique link for each candidate to participate.

Candidates are requested to respond by April 15 to basic biographical questions and several questions directed to all candidates running for that office. Their unique link does allow for editing up until Election Day. This non-partisan service will enable voters to make a side-by-side comparison of candidates, be informed, print out a list of candidates to take along to the polls, and much more well ahead of completing a mail ballot or setting off for the polling location.

Municipal elections have significant consequences for communities. On May 18, you can give your voice to who you would like to represent you at the government's local level. These are the people who decide on our taxes, how our schools are run, or rule on import-

ant family, civil and criminal matters in our courts. Elections will be held for county row offices, judges for the Superior and Commonwealth Courts, the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas and Magisterial Districts, many borough councils and township supervisors, along with school board directors.

Decisions about who to vote for in this Municipal Primary carry a great deal of weight because the closed primary system in Pennsylvania restricts who votes for candidates on the ballot to those registered in that candidate's party. Typically, fewer than 15% of eligible voters will vote in the municipal primaries, leaving many races decided by a very slim number of votes. Cross-filing for school board and judicial candidates can conceivably have races decided at the point of the primary election, making voter participation in the Municipal Primary that much more important.

There are three constitutional amendments on the May 18 ballot, and all registered voters, including unaffiliated and third-party voters, can vote on these questions. Learn more about the proposed amendments at Vote411.org, as part of What's on Your Ballot, when you request your Personalized Voting Information.

Register or check and update your voter registration at the official Pennsylvania government website, VotesPA.com.

The last day to register to vote ahead of the Municipal Primary Election is May 3. The last day to request a mail ballot is May 11. More information on participating in the May 18 Municipal Primary can at Bucks County's official website, BucksCounty.org.

# Riverkeeper mounts challenge to National Park Service

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network will mount a legal challenge to the failure by the U.S. Department of Interior through the National Park Service to protect historic and natural resources in the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River District, specifically the Headquarters Road Bridge and the Tinicum Creek in Tinicum Township, Bucks County.

Last week, the National Park Service (NPS) issued a determination that PennDOT's replacement of the historic cross-

ing "would not have a direct and adverse effect on the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River's free-flowing condition, water quality, or outstandingly remarkable values." Tinicum Creek, a Delaware River tributary, is listed as both a federal Wild and Scenic waterway and an Exceptional Value stream in Pennsylvania requiring the most stringent protections.

Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum says the decision sets a bad precedent. "NPS made this determination despite infor-

mation from several experts, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, saying PennDOT's realignment plan for a new bridge would have catastrophic effects on the downstream riparian corridor," said van Rossum.

"Once the trees and the stream bank are destroyed there's no way to repair the damage and PennDOT will not be held legally or financially accountable under the NPS plan," said van Rossum. "Downstream property owners will be harmed by this decision."

## OBITUARIES

### John Stevens Merriam



John Stevens Merriam, 87, passed away on March 29, 2021 in Flemington, N.J., after a long illness.

Born in Montclair, N.J., in 1933 to Elizabeth Brigham Merriam and Francis Fuller Merriam, John grew up in Mountain Lakes and Shrewsbury. Following graduation from Mountain Lakes High School, John attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute before serving in the United States Army in Europe, primarily Germany, from 1953-1957. John graduated from Lafayette College in 1959, after marrying his sweetheart of many years, Gerry Gearhart, and starting a family. He worked briefly at IBM in the early 1960s, and then embarked on a long career at Gearhart Chevrolet and BMW, a family-owned business in Denville, New Jersey. He retired in 2003.

People familiar with the Merriam family think of Gerry as the rider, but as a young man, John took pride in his membership in the Essex Troop, a cavalry dating to the late 19th century

which required members to practice drills on horseback. John recounted with pleasure taking the train to Newark to practice his equestrian skills in the Armory, and riding horses throughout Boonton and Mountain Lakes when he and Gerry were young. He also fell in love with flying at an early age, eventually earning his pilot's license and becoming an expert at piloting his cherished Cessna Skylane. Many family members and friends will remember John's firm shout "Clear!" before turning on the Cessna and taxiing to the runway at Morristown airport. On one memorable July 4th, he flew family members over a number of local fireworks displays, allowing us to see many small but beautiful celebrations illuminate the landscape.

His military service in Europe helped spark John's lifelong love of travel, which he generously shared with extended family and friends on trips via horseback, foot, barge, boat and train (as well as more conventional means, such as cars!) throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, and South America. John reveled in learning about new cultures, foods, and wine, and took great pleasure in stilling that love in his children and grandchildren. When asked which country he would most like to visit again, he quickly responded "New Zealand" because of its extraordinary natural landscape and friendly citizens, but he also seemed to truly love the countryside and foods of Italy.

John's most enduring and sustained passion was caring for Esteburne Farm (Solebury, Pa.), which he and his family have owned since the late 1970s. He never ceased to keep the landscape in anything but immaculate condition, and found tremendous satisfaction in all things related to the farm. Perhaps nothing gave him more pleasure than getting up early, putting

on work clothes, making a "to-do" list, and going into the day to operate the many tools — tractors, lawn mowers and chain saws — he used to keep the farm looking perfect.

John was predeceased by his sisters, Betty Merriam Bay and Margaret "Pam" Merriam Treimann. He is survived by his wife, Gerry, and his children and their families: Susan Merriam; Deborah Merriam and Jean Wilcox; Lynn and Steve Merriam and their children Susan and Michael Merriam. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in John's name to the World Wildlife Fund: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/>.

A celebration of life service will be held sometime this summer.

### George J. Babich



George J. Babich Jr., 74, died Feb. 23, 2021 in Cape Carteret, N.C.

Born and raised in the Lambertville-New Hope area, George was a '65 graduate of South Hunterdon Regional High School. He studied at Gastonia College, Trenton State and Antonelli's School of Photography. He was a heavy equipment operator in commercial landscaping. George loved the outdoors, fishing and hunting being his favorite hobbies; was a car enthusiast and loved his pets. George's story-telling was unequalled to others and enjoyed by many. Upon retirement, he and Rita moved to the Florida Keys and subsequently to N.C.

Son of the late Ruth P. and George J. Babich Sr., George is survived by his wife, Rita Garefino Babich; his brother, Peter Babich Sr. and wife, Patricia; two nephews, Peter Jr. and Scott, niece Amy Stayskal and several grand-nieces and nephews; and his lifelong friends, Albert Pickett and Richard Knostr.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to your choice of military, police service organizations or animal rescues.

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# Mark Your Calendar



## Arts

**The Eyes of March**, featuring 100 paintings by Brian Gormley, at J.B. Kline Gallery, 25 Bridge St., Lambertville, N.J., open through April 30. Call 609-397-7026 or email jbklineson@yahoo.com.

**Machines of Interest:** The Selected Works of Stephen Mallon, a photography exhibit from the National Museum of Industrial History, through Aug. 29. Information: nmih.org.

**2021 Phillips' Mill Youth Art Exhibition** now online, featuring 153 pieces of fine art from 22 local high schools, at phillipsmill.artspan.com.

**"In Search Of Luminance,"** an exhibit by Shirley Mersky and Denise Callanan-Kline at the Stover Mill Gallery. Works in oil, gouache and graphite that capture the beauty of light in the local area, open 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekends through April. Information: 610-294-9420 or stovermillgallery.org.

**Virtual beginning and intermediate drawing**, classes from the Michener Art Museum with instructor Jenn Hallgren, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays from April 8 to May 13. Discover the essential techniques you need to draw confidently. List of materials needed and details available at michenerartmuseum.org.

## Games

**Bingo with Tylersport Fire Co.** every Tuesday night, includes \$1,000 jackpot. Doors open 4:30 p.m., dinner served at 5 p.m., game begins at 6:30 p.m. Call 215-257-5900 x171 for details.

**Bingo with Old York Road Temple-Beth Am Sisterhood**, 6:45 p.m. on April 21 via Zoom, prizes and raffle will be gift certificates, highest prize is \$100 in

gift cards. RSVP by April 12, send your email address to eilieensimmons@comcast.net along with your name, address and phone number. For further information contact cin.garber@gmail.com.

## Holidays

**PEEPS in the Village**, a family-friendly display at Peddler's Village in Lahaska, in a spacious indoor area in the Village Courtyard, on view through April 17. Information: 215-794-4000 or peddlers-village.com.

**Elmo's Eggstravaganza Celebration** at Sesame Place® in Langhorne, on select dates through April 18. Information: sesameplace.com/philadelphia.

## Lectures/Seminars

**Virtual Storytime** with the Southampton Free Library, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays through April. Read, dance and sing during storytime, visit southamptonfreelibrary.org for Zoom Meeting ID and password.

**Critical Eye: The Camera as a Social Justice Tool**, a panel discussion from Michener Art Museum, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on April 8. Join artists Donald Camp, Ed Eckstein and Ada Trillo as they discuss the evolving role of photography within social justice movements. Register for this online event at michenerartmuseum.org.

**Music and Motion** with Southampton Free Library, 10:30 a.m. every Monday in April. Ages birth and up are invited to sing, dance and move with Ms. Nancy, a professional music teacher. Visit southamptonfreelibrary.org for details.

**Celebrate Princess Grace's 65th wedding anniversary** with Morven Museum and Garden, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on April 15. Create a pressed flower crown and reminisce about her gown on the anniversary of the famous wedding. Event is virtual, for tickets and registration visit morven.org.

**Morven Moments** from Morven Museum and Garden, free presentation at noon on April 19. Join Docent Kim Gallagher as he shares stories about famous celebrity visitors. Visit morven.org/morven-moments for details.

**Current events discussion** hosted by Southampton Free Library at 2 p.m. on April 20 via Zoom. Discussion will be on solutions to poverty, all viewpoints welcome with polite attitude. Register at southamptonfreelibrary.org.

## Movies

**ACME Screening Room**, virtual screenings. New releases include "F.T.A.," "Long Live Rock" and "Stray." For details and tickets visit acmescreeningroom.org.

**ACME Film Club**, watch the film on your schedule and join the Zoom meeting for discussion. Earth Day discussion film "Kiss The Ground," 6:30 p.m. on April 20. Visit acmescreeningroom.org

for details.

## Museums

**Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site** is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Night tours also available Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings starting May 7. Tours include new offerings to explore, including the Fair Chance Beer Garden. Timed tickets must be purchased online in advance at easternstate.org.

**Historic Nazareth walking tours**, hosted by Moravian Historical Society, 4 p.m. every second Saturday from March through September. Tours last 45 minutes to 1 hour, more info at moravianhistory.org/walking-tour or call 610-759-5070.

**Virtual tours of Fonthill Castle and Central Court** at the Mercer Museum, 45-minute virtual experiences feature a 30-minute recorded guided journey followed by a live Q&A conversation with experienced tour guides. Tours run through March and April, various dates and times, visit mercermuseum.org/virtualprograms for details.

**Meet the Makers: Bartering in Colonial Times**, a virtual presentation from the Mercer Museum, 1 to 2 p.m. April 16. Join a Colonial shoemaker and the owner of a general store and learn how people in early America bartered for the household objects they needed to survive. Visit mercermuseum.org/virtualprograms for info.

**Springfield Township Historical Society Open House** from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 1. The one-room schoolhouse is located at 2165 Route 212 in Coopersburg, PA. See the Church School, do research and view historical documents and photos. For details call Tom Cline at 484-308-1510.

## Music and More

**Sourland Mountain Happy Hours**, hosted by the Sourland Conservancy, held via Zoom from 6 to 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month through June 3. Local artist performances, bespoke cocktail and other happy hour deals. Ticket holders will receive a link via email, proceeds benefit the musicians and the conservancy. Information and tickets: sourland.org.

**Virtual concert at Perkasio Patchwork Coffeehouse**, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on April 17. Toby Walker, roots music finger style guitar virtuoso, and The Brush Brothers, country/folk/bluegrass. Details at perkmenno.net/calendar-of-events.

**Get Happy!**, a virtual cabaret saluting Judy Garland from Bucks County Community College's Zlock Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. on April 8. Jenna Pastuszek stars with music direction by Broadway's Joshua Zecher-Ross, register at bucks.edu/tickets.

**Big Laughs Comedy Series** benefiting Bucks County Community College, 7:30 p.m. on April 15. Comedy is virtual but the laughs are in real-time with national-

ly-touring comedians. Event is free, details at bucks.edu/tickets.

**Songs of social justice** from David Brahinsky & Friends, 12:30 p.m. on April 15. Songs from Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, Joan Baez and many more, event is free but registration is required. Details at bucks.edu/tickets.

**2021 Philadelphia Classical Guitar Festival**, online April 10 and 11 featuring concerts by Beijing Guitar Duo and Ronn McFarlane, workshops, masterclass with Philip Goldenberg, 2021 PCGS competition, and student recitals. For details visit pcgs.wildapricot.org.

## Nature

**Saturday morning bird walks** at Silver Lake Nature Center, offered at 7:30 a.m. March through May. Meet outside of the SLNC Visitors' Center at the Welcome Kiosk near the parking area. Free, email pacutter@buckscounty.org or visit silverlakenaturecenter.org for details.

**Shofuso Japanese Cultural Center** in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, opens March 20, in time for Cherry Blossom season (estimated early April). The site will be open for visitation 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, through Dec. 12. For information on in-person and virtual events: japanphilly.org.

**Morven in May plant sale** from Morven Museum and Garden, shop new, unusual and distinct varieties that thrive in N.J. Limited quantities on many plants and products, online sale ends April 12, pickups and on-site plant sale April 30, May 1 and 2. Visit morven.org/plantsale or call 609-924-8144 (ext. 103) for details.

**Spotted lantern fly presentation** from Tinicum Conservancy, 7 p.m. on April 22 via Zoom. Learn management options and regulations regarding this invasive pest from Emelie Swackhamer, horticulture extension educator with Penn State Extension. To register email kbudd3030@gmail.com or call 610-294-9069.

**Bristol Photographers Club 47th Annual Photo Contest**, hosted by Silver Lake Nature Center. Contest drop-off

dates: noon to 4 p.m. on April 17, noon to 2 p.m. April 18, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. April 21. Awards reception at 11 a.m. on May 8. For info/registration, contact hebaker1@gmail.com or visit bristolphotographerclub.com.

## Outdoors

**Antique & Classic Car Cruise** with the Newtown Business Association. Parade begins at 2 p.m. on June 20, rain date is June 27, cars accepted in multiple categories from pre-1959 to 1996. Interested owners should register at newtownba.org, limited to the first 100 registered vehicles, deadline is June 11. Email questions to dan.pettyjr@gmail.com.

## Schools

**The Bucks County Parent's Guide to Schools Open House Calendar** is accepting submissions from advertisers. Advertisers in the Bucks County Parent's Guide to Schools receive a free listing in the calendar. Forms must be submitted to a Herald advertising representative by Aug. 6.

## Support Groups

**Virtual Parent & Caregiver Support Groups**, offered weekly in English and Spanish by The Family Support Organization of Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren counties. Information and Zoom link at 908-223-1191 or FSO-HSW.org.

**Virtual Memory Care Support Group** for caregivers and families of those with dementia and Alzheimer's, noon to 1 p.m., first Thursday of each month via Zoom. Facilitated by Brianne Gerhard, provided by Artis Senior Living of Yardley. Contact charis@artismgmt.com or 267-392-5945 for the Zoom invite. Attendees are welcome to eat lunch during the meeting.

## Theater

**George Street Playhouse** in New Brunswick, N.J., presents "Fully Committed," the hit comedy written by Becky Mode and directed by David Saint, starring Maulik Pancholy, known for his roles on "30 Rock" and "Weeds." The virtual production is available to stream through April 11. Tickets: GeorgeStreetPlayhouse.org.

## Ivyland company offers vegan chocolate spreads

Vör Foods is adding chocolate nut butter spreads to its line of products and continues to share its vision of creating a world with foods that are both healthy and delicious.

Since 2016 the company has provided customers around the world with plant-based aquafaba powder and single ingredient nut butters made in Ivyland.

Vör Foods has launched a pre-sale for its chocolate spreads, available to U.S. residents, beginning this week at vorfoods.com/vr-chocolate-nut-butter-presale.

Made with dry roasted nuts, sustainably sourced cocoa, 100% vanilla bean and pure cane sugar, the spreads are vegan, kosher, gluten-free, non-gmo and contain absolutely no palm oil.

Vör chocolate nut butters come in three flavors, including chocolate hazelnut, chocolate peanut and chocolate almond. They are stone ground in batches for a smooth finish, and when placed in the refrigerator develop a thick and spreadable consistency.



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# Owner donates 37.2-acre property for open space

Continued from page A1

In Pennsylvania, a voluntary conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation/natural values – the upshot of which is that

significant development is typically prohibited under terms of the deals.

Such easements allow property owners to continue to own and use their land, as well as to sell it or pass it on to heirs. Owners can donate easements, or seek to be compensated by land trusts or government agencies

that wish to conserve the land in return for placing an easement on a property.

Dave Nyman, Upper Makefield's township manager, told the Herald that more than 5,400 acres – nearly 40% of the municipality – is either preserved land or under conservation

easement.

“Open space preservation remains a priority with supervisors, however there are very few unreserved parcels still available in the township,” Nyman noted.

In other news from the April 6 meeting, Upper Makefield super-

visors promoted part-time township police Officer Eric Farra to full-time officer. Supervisors also passed a resolution commending local teen Hannah Thomson for attaining the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement within Girl Scouts.

# Springfield rejects school sign payment

Continued from page A1

...the school should be taking care of,” Supervisor Chairman Jim Nilsen said of the malfunctioning signs, which have left the township's four-man force flustered and frustrated during school arrival and dismissal times.

“One will work for a week straight; one's on, the other one is not. That makes our enforceability pretty tough

because we're in the middle expecting both to be on,” said Police Chief Michael McDonald, who recalled pulling over motorists only to realize to his chagrin one light wasn't working.

Wager said the district had had help with school sign costs from other municipalities, and the board directed him to ascertain how much Nockamixon and Tinicum townships

had paid.

In other business, board members discussed an official response to a revised state police funding plan, which, if enacted with the current formula based on population and income, would require the township to pay an \$43,818 annual fee (\$8.69 per resident) to fund the Dublin barracks, which provides part-time coverage to the township. Calling the propos-

al bogus and inequitable, Supervisor Jim Hopkins questioned why the township was being charged for 50 percent of coverage when state police responded 16 percent of the time.

In public comment, Pat McGinness of Bodder Road labeled the state police unprofessional and blasted their response times to crimes. The plain-spoken former police officer added they were more interested in amass-

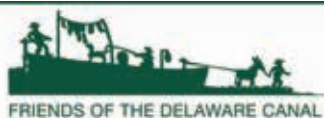
ing traffic citations than interacting with the township. “I see a state police trooper come through here once every six months; Springfield Township on a patrol basis two to three times a week. They are not giving you what you're going to be paying for.”

In other news, Chief McDonald announced the resumption of prescription drug takeback on April 24 at the township building.

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For more information and desired qualifications, please visit: [www.fodc.org/executive-director-position/](http://www.fodc.org/executive-director-position/)

To apply, submit resume with cover letter in confidence to: "ED Position" at [friendsofthedelawarecanal@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthedelawarecanal@gmail.com) by April 28, 2021, for initial consideration. No calls.

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# EPA starts groundwater treatment plant construction

Continued from page A1

North Broad Street and turn right onto the site at 400 N. Broad St., officials said.

John Davis, Doylestown's manager, said, "We're just pleased that the long awaited cleanup of the site is finally ready to begin. While the contamination was long ago identified and contained, the cleanup and

restoration of the water table has always been the real goal."

The EPA, said Davis, "has an excellent plan in place to both construct the treatment facility while limiting the impact on the surrounding community. They have been excellent partners and we expect that to continue."

Chem-Fab operated in the borough from 1965-1994, with contaminated water slowly seeping into the groundwater. The toxic water was contained on the site several years ago, but complete treatment and removal of all the contaminated water will likely take at least 10 years, the EPA said.



FREDA SAVANA

The groundwater treatment plant at the former Chem-Fab site is being built behind the tree line.

# Trail advocates celebrate Bucks regional destination

Continued from page A1

and Natural Resources.

Quakertown is one of four communities in the state to participate in the pilot program, which is operated through the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. Other towns in the program include Connellyville in Fayette County, Clearfield in Clearfield County, and the Allegheny-Clarion River Valley near Pittsburgh.

Julie Fitzpatrick, executive director of the PA Downtown Center, said her group believes that almost every community in the Commonwealth can

benefit directly or indirectly from the opportunities and impact of nature-based placemaking. She praised the various organizations working in the Quakertown plan for working together toward a common goal.

"What Quakertown has done really well is collaborate," said Fitzpatrick. "We don't always see that. It doesn't happen overnight."

The 3.2-mile, 12-foot-wide multi-use Upper Bucks Rail Trail, which opened in November, is a linchpin of Quakertown's plan to become a regional recre-

ation destination. The trail connects Upper Bucks County to the popular Saucon Rail Trail in Lehigh and Northampton counties.

With the arrival of warm weather, borough businesses have seen an uptick in visitors from out of town, said Naomi Naylor, executive director of Quakertown Alive!

"Nature-based placemaking is about exploring the recreational assets we have and making them economic drivers," said Naylor. "We want to create awareness among people using those

assets of what's available downtown so they can stop for lunch or coffee or a beer when they are done."

Quakertown Alive! and the borough are conducting surveys to prepare an active transportation plan to develop an accessible pedestrian and bicycle network that connects residents to key destinations in the borough and to the regional trail network. The goal of the plan, said Naylor, is to identify the disconnects and fill the gaps in getting trail users into the downtown.

Among the possibilities are extend-

ing the Upper Bucks Rail Trail another two miles into the heart of downtown and developing a plan to get the 1.2 million yearly visitors to Lake Nockamixon into the borough for shopping and dining.

The PA Downtown Center also used Tuesday's event to announce the release of a statewide economic analysis of the state's outdoor recreation economy and a video "Connecting Nature, Commerce & Community." Both are available on the PDC website (padowntown.org)

# Bedminster assures property maintenance with ordinance

Continued from page A1

ordinance. It also refers, under all conditions, to infrastructure including "curbs, sidewalks, bikepaths, and pedestrian walkways," as well as "storm drainage ways, otherwise known as gutters or swales," and trees and other vegetation.

In particular, with the exception of salting and sintering during a winter storm, or trash receptacles on pickup days, "no debris or objects (such as trash receptacles, basketball hoops, chairs, cones, etc.)" may be placed or thrown into such roadside infrastruc-

ture, let alone the streets. In addition, the township may require property owners "to construct, pave, repave, and repair" such infrastructure, and requires in any case they "ensure that no structures, soil, rocks, vegetation, shrubs, trees, and the like intrude onto or into" such infrastructure.

In addition, owners are to ensure that "all vegetation and trees upon their property or within the right-of-way adjacent to their property are properly mowed, pruned, and trimmed; free of damage and diseases; and shall not create a risk of harm to passersby,"

including taking proper precautions to protect the public during related activity. Street trees may be removed only under certain conditions, and via permit from the township, and replaced if so directed, with the township possibly requiring such removal.

Any notice from the township requiring infrastructure modifications are to include least 90 days to achieve compliance. Notices for vegetation

and trees are to allow at least 10 days. Notices regarded as emergencies may allow only 48 hours. Upon failure or refusal for any type of notice, the township may levy the cost for getting it taken care of.

Exemptions to the infrastructure provisions of the new ordinance are provided for "owners of parkland, farm fields, undeveloped properties larger than 5 acres, and residential

properties larger than 10 acres."

Also at the March 10 meeting, supervisors authorized 2021 paving for all of Stover Mill Road, and parts of Fairview Road and Farm School Road, as well as 2021 oil and chip for all of Hill Road, Meadow Lane, Birch Lane, Spruce Lane, and Apple Tree Lane, and parts of Deer Run Road, Edge Hill Road, Slotter Road, Bucks Road, Scott Road, and Sweetbriar Road.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- Across**
- Sn, to chemists
  - Strike force?
  - Opening
  - Golden Rule conclusion
  - Shell lining
  - Sch. in Tempe
  - UV protection
  - State secrets?
  - Place, as a bet
  - Suez Canal locale
  - Cup-shaped April bloomer
  - Fred's sitcom pal
  - Golfer's concern
  - \_ al-Fitr
  - Tweeting site
  - Surfing need, for short
  - Jet \_
  - Vous, informally
  - Observe Ramadan, say
  - Connption
  - Vineyard measure
  - Sanction
  - Barbecue leftovers
  - Destiny or fate, in Buddhism
  - Roy Orbison's "\_ Over"
  - Words with "jam" or "jiffy"
  - Fragrant spring-flowering bulbs
  - Airer of old RKO films
  - Suit material
  - Bar fixture, perhaps
  - Where one might catch some rays
  - First appearance
  - "A Wrinkle in Time" director DuVernay

- Down**
- Cobb, Hardin, and Pennington
  - Marker, in brief
  - Person living an orderly life?
  - Remove a top
  - Not, quaintly
  - Curling surface
  - It's of miner concern?
  - Hawaiian fliers
  - "Mixed-ish" actor Cole
  - Rush-job acronym
  - Last shot, typically
  - Boat owner's rental
  - Card game
  - Appropriate letters for Cru-soe?
  - Major or Minor opener
  - Trombone players?
  - Blog, essentially
  - Competitive \_
  - Oscar-winning Kazan
  - Mark indelibly
  - Word with "throat" or "thumb"
  - Reasons for extra innings
  - Jerry's nemesis
  - Pt. of LPGA or PGA
  - "The Two Fridas" artist
  - Listing
  - LEGO buys
  - Ending to avoid?
  - 1961 hit "\_ Lama Ding Dong"
  - Big name in frozen confections
  - It's seen in Chinese circles
  - They're below peccs
  - Grp. with a lot of baggage?
  - Kind of traffic lane
  - Radio broadcaster (abbr.)

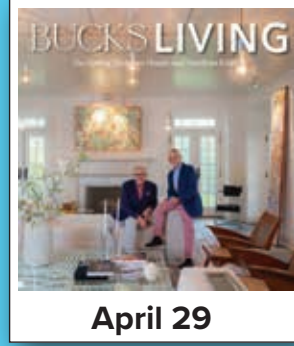
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Puzzle by Linda Dunn of Furlong.

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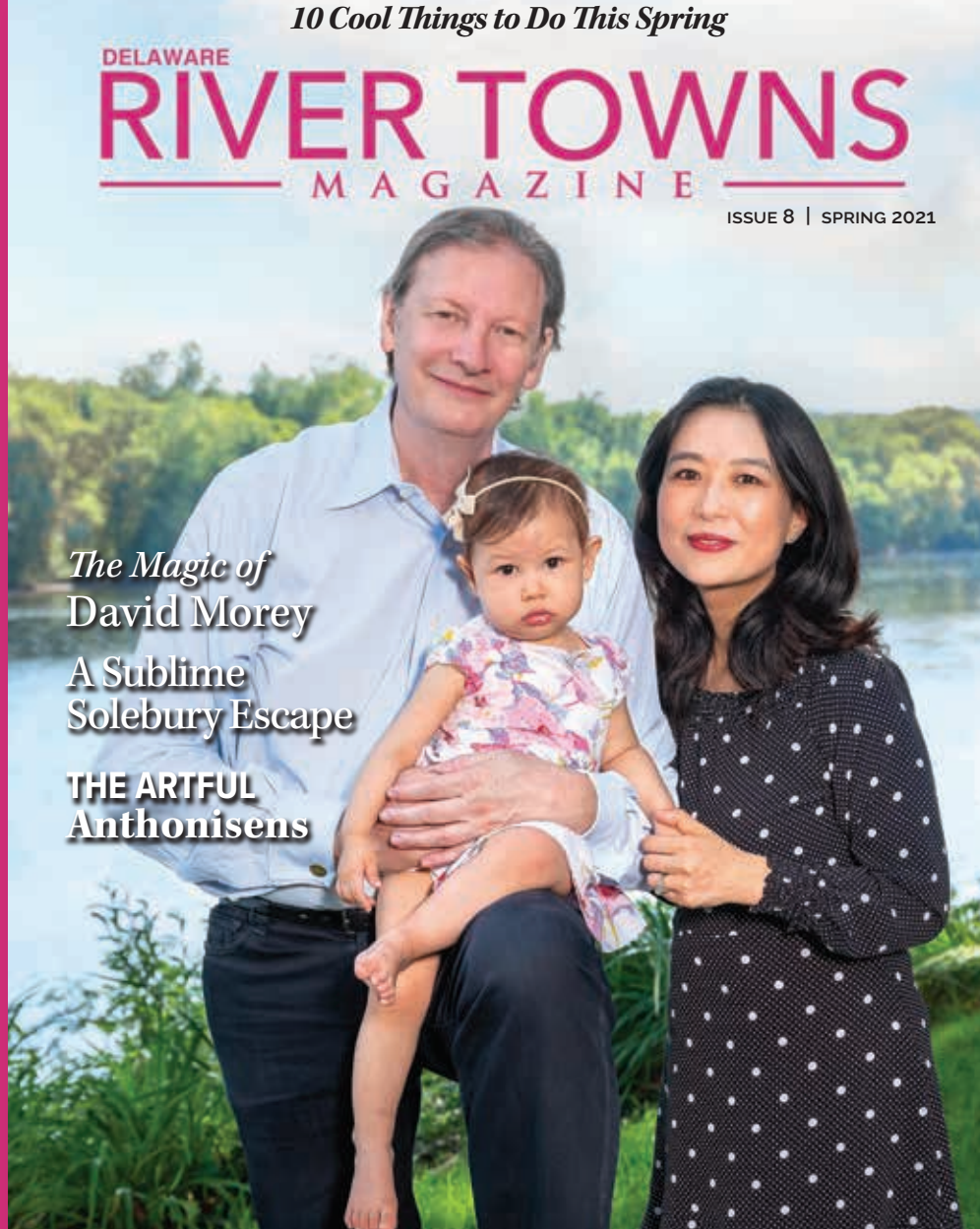
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# ARTS & Galleries

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

## Artsbridge presents Mary Ann McKay with art depicting child laborers

Artsbridge's Distinguished Artists' Series features Mary Ann McKay presenting, "Silent Voices: Art of the Children of the Mines," online via Zoom at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 15.

McKay's mixed media art feels like it comes through her DNA, as she bears witness to the plight of child laborers her coal miner grandfather saw and worked with in Pennsylvania.

Using images taken around 1911 by Lewis Wickes Hine, photographer for the National Child Labor Committee, she combines her painting and digital skills with glass, metal, cold wax, oil and film to create works that bring color and life back to children's lives lost to child labor during the industrial age.

McKay will present her work



Mary Ann McKay in a Coal Mine Closet.

during the Zoom.

"My research discovered children as young as 8 years old working in the mines, especially the 'breaker houses,' where they sat as long as 10 hours a day, separating and breaking the coal into small pieces by hand. With my artistic efforts, I hope to return a voice to these forgotten boys," she said.

In 2019, McKay shifted her focus to Hine's images of young boys working around-the-clock

in the southern New Jersey glass industry, for her "Children of Glass Series." In addition to her focus on children, earlier work concentrated on abandoned steel and glass factories. "Being from Pennsylvania, I understood the problems and hardships of the industrial working class."

McKay received her art education at The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art and The Hussain College of Art in Philadelphia. After many years as a successful

graphic designer, she now devotes her time to creating her interdisciplinary art in her studio in Keyport, N.J., where she also serves as vice president of The Arts Society of Keyport. McKay's work has been shown in galleries throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

To learn more about McKay visit her website.

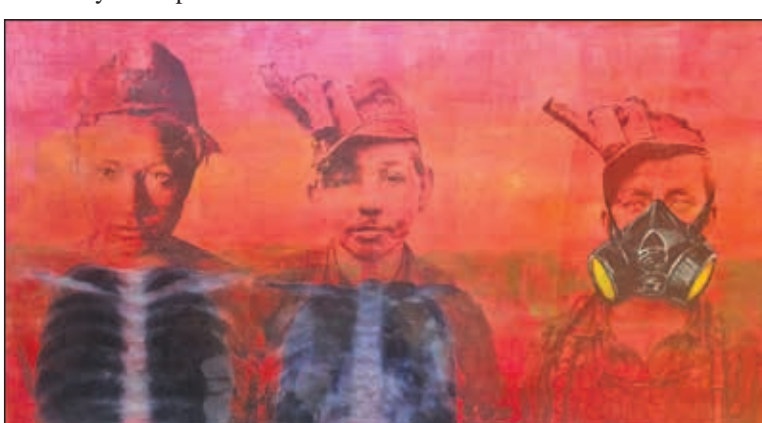
To attend the free Zoom presentation, or for information, visit artsbridgeonline.com.



"Canal Afternoon" is an oil on board by Jennifer Hansen Rolli.



"Christine's Laundry" is an oil on canvas by Jennifer Hansen Rolli.



"Three Boys. Three Stories." is by Mary Ann McKay.

## Silverman Gallery exhibits Jennifer Hansen Rolli's 'The Space Between'

The Silverman Gallery of Bucks County Impressionist Art presents "Jennifer Hansen Rolli: The Space Between" through May 9.

The artist will be on hand to meet and greet visitors on two separate weekends, from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 10, and again the following weekend, from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 18.

Over the past difficult year Rolli said she has concentrated on "finding the beauty in both the poignant and simple moments while we all hang in suspension during this Space Between."

The signature painting of the exhibition shows the vast interior of the iconic Metropolitan Opera in Lincoln Center in full glory. The title, "All Else In Life is Folly" is a lyric from one of her mom's favorite operas, "La Traviata."

Other paintings are from uncomplicated times like hiking past a familiar farm or biking along the canal path . . . where subjects become what she decides to paint next. The luscious palette of Rolli's "Canal Afternoon" and "Christine's Laundry" contrasts with the quieter "Valley Below August Skies" and "Sunlit Tulips."

The exhibition is the first for the gallery's 10th anniversary slate of 2021 shows.

"Showcasing Jennifer's incredible paintings throughout the last decade is one of the key reasons that we attract visitors and collectors," said Silverman Gallery owner, Rhonda Garland. "Her work continues to capture the essence of Bucks County and beyond, connecting with people both visually and emotionally. Considered by Bucks County Magazine to be their artist in residence, her paintings have graced their covers since 2016."

With safety being a top priority, visitors are asked to wear their masks (if you've mislaid yours, just ask for one). Social distancing will be observed as well, so you may want to allow extra time when arriving to meet with Rolli.

The collection is available for viewing both online and in person. You may make an appointment for a private viewing, call ahead for availability if you are in the area, or just stop by. Priority will be given to visitors with an appointment.

The gallery is located in Buckingham Green Shopping Center, 4920 York Road (Route 202) in Holicong, five miles south of New Hope. Call 215-794-4300 or visit silvermangallery.com.

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# ARTS & Galleries

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

## Quakertown photographer shows “peculiar” work at Michener

Jodi Spiegel Arthur

After Quakertown native Hannah Bohrer posted a series of striking photographs on Instagram, one of her college professors encouraged her to enter one into an upcoming juried exhibition at the Michener Art Museum.

Bohrer, a senior photography student at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, wasn't certain the photographs fit in with the subject matter — “Essential Work.”

But, after considering it, she decided to enter her work.

“I thought about how the family unit has changed, and parents have had to become teachers and coaches and anything else their children might need in addition to being parents,” the 23-year-old said.

The jurors for the exhibition — “Essential Work 2020: A Community Portrait” — clearly agreed.

Bohrer's arresting photograph — of a family donning gas masks while sitting on a blanket in the woods, listening to the mother reading a story — “Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children” by Ransom Riggs — was one of 25 chosen for the show from among more than 200 submitted.

“I looked at what a family photo



“Peculiar Family” is by Hannah Bohrer of Quakertown, one of 25 photographs exhibited in “Essential Work 2020: A Community Portrait” at the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown through July 11.

shoot would look like during a pandemic,” the lifelong Quakertown resident said when asked how she came to photograph her sister and brother-in-law and their four children taking part in a seemingly normal activity while wearing gas

masks. Bohrer said she found and provided the gas masks, utilized her favorite book from childhood, and helped pick out the outfits for the family, who posed for the black and white photograph in Nocka-

mixon State Park.

“I wanted it to feel like they were really listening and having a family picnic in the woods,” Bohrer said.

The graduate of The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School said she has been interested in photography for the past 10 years; she learned by watching a family friend who is a photographer.

Bohrer said she is interested in both fine art and editorial photography.

“I really want to use my art to create awareness and start conversations (about subjects) that people might not be willing to talk about, and (to) do that through visual storytelling,” she said. “I really enjoy art like this, that makes people stop and think.”

Bohrer's senior thesis is called “The (In)visible War.” It's about “individuals and their lives living with mental illness.” The project's aim is to bring awareness to the issue of mental health and provide resources to those who are struggling.

“I want people to be inspired by my work to tell stories and to start conversations about difficult subjects to help other people and create a more accepting world in the

future,” Bohrer said.

To view Bohrer's senior thesis, visit theinvisiblewarproject.com. To view Bohrer's photograph, “Peculiar Family,” visit the Michener Museum, at 138 S. Pine St., Doylestown, now through July 11.

The exhibition also includes photographs by Zimra Chorney, Kylie Cooper, Taylor Ecker, Michael Freeman, Max Friedenberg, Linda, Gaye Harley, Riley Joslin, Bob Kelly, the Rev. Catherine D. Kerr, Christina Kimmel, Anna Kurtz, Lisa J. Levin, Lisa McGovern, Charles Mintzer, Kristin Moore, Gerard O'Malley, Lisa Lacroce Patterson, Shawn Reid, Heidi Roux, Henry Rowan, and Pili X.

In addition to those photographs, there is a slideshow of an additional 35 images, which were next on the jurors' selection list.

Jurors were: Ruben Christie, former vice president, African American Museum of Bucks County; Laura Turner Igoe, Ph.D., curator of American Art, Michener Art Museum; and Marlene Pray, MEd, community organizer, director/founder, Planned Parenthood's The Rainbow Room.

For information, visit MichenerArtMuseum.org or call 215-340-9800.

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

## Michener juried photo exhibition highlights a year like no other

Connie Wrzesniewski

Though the weather outside was less than delightful for the preview of the juried photography exhibition, March 18, inside the James A. Michener Art Museum's Beans Gallery there was a pleasant and warm atmosphere in tune with the presentation of “Essential Work 2020: A Community Portrait.”

Slated to be on view through July 11, the show features 25 images taken by residents from local communities organized by Laura Turner Igoe, Ph.D., chief curator, Michener Art Museum, and supported by Jim and Valerie McK-

inney. As the United States was confronted with the coronavirus pandemic, racial injustice, political protest and a heated presidential election, 2020 will be long remembered as a year of upheaval and uncertainty. During these challenging times, the creation and sharing of images has raised awareness, communicated information, spread hope and strengthened connections.

With the outbreak of COVID-19 and lockdowns about one year ago, many recognized that we were living through extraordinary times and set out to document what we

were experiencing. This exhibition seeks to identify how different people interpret what work is essential for our health and well being and a more equitable future.

“A global pandemic presents the opportunity to look at the world differently, to examine and decide what work is essential for life,” said the Michener's Executive Director Kate Quinn. “I am impressed with the images chosen by the jurors, which tell very human stories of connection, of loss, and of resilience.”

Last fall community members were invited to submit photographs that capture the many meanings of



COURTESY OF MICHENER ART MUSEUM

Chef Deborah Day is by Kylie Cooper of Philadelphia.

## Ellarslie Open invites artists to submit artwork

The organizers of the 2021 Ellarslie Open juried art show have issued a call for art and invite artists to submit artwork through April 30 via an online entry system.

Sidelined in 2020 by the coronavirus pandemic, the Trenton City Museum's annual juried show will return for 2021 as Ellarslie Open 37/38 in acknowledgment of its canceled year and its return.

Dr. William R. Valerio, director of Philadelphia's Woodmere Art Museum, will jury the show.

The Ellarslie Open showcases work by established and emerging artists from across the region. This year's show will open June 26 and remain on view in person and online through Oct. 3. Awards and prizes

in 10 categories include a \$1,000 prize for Best in Show.

Ellarslie Open 37/38 Curator



WILLIAM R. VALERIO

Joyce Inderbitzin said artists may submit up to six entries across a variety of categories through April 30. Through the online entry system artists can submit digital images of artwork in most media (not film or video).

Submissions are limited to six works, with a maximum of two from any of the 10 primary judging categories, as outlined at ellarslie.org/ellarslie-open-2021-call-for-art/.

“essential work” for inclusion in the exhibition.

A panel of judges, which included Ruben Christie, former vice president, African American Museum of Bucks County; Igoe and Marlene Pray, community organizer and director/founder, Planned Parenthood's Rainbow Room, selected images that range in subject matter from hospital scenes to at home learning environments.

Photo editors from The Philadelphia Inquirer selected the top

three images in the exhibition. Winners were announced March 18. This community portrait, along with stories from the photographers, is on display in the Beans Gallery at the Michener through July 11.

With over 200 entries, top three entries chosen were: “Tenderness in 2020,” by Shawn Reid of Philadelphia; “Earnest Plea,” by Jonathan Bullock of Ambler, and “The Student,” by Henry Rowan of Buckingham.

EXHIBITION CONTINUES THRU MAY 9, 2021 • PRIVATE VIEWINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

## JENNIFER HANSEN ROLLI THE SPACE BETWEEN



Jennifer will be on hand to meet and greet visitors this Saturday, April 10th from 5 to 8 pm

... and will return to meet & greet gallery visitors next Sunday, April 18th from noon to 4 pm

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# ENTERTAINMENT

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

## Broadway smash hit 'Pippin' comes to Central Bucks West

The Central Bucks High School West Harlequin Club has been waiting for six long years to finally put on the show that Club Director Jessica Bostock and Music Director Dr. Joseph Ohrt call one of their all-time favorites.

Now, Bostock and Ohrt need wait no more as the extraordinary tale of "Pippin" will take center stage at Central Bucks High School West from April 15 to 18.

"We had been waiting for the right group of students for this cast," Bostock explained. When choosing this show, she saw many different elements in Pippin's story that she knew would be perfect for her group of students. "It has all the fun aspects of a musical theater comedy while dealing with real issues of hopelessness, greed, disillusionment, and acceptance," Bostock said.

However, this show will look very different from the previous productions of Bostock and the Harlequin Club. The cast and crew of "Pippin" have to take on a new



©JESSICA BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

Cast members of the Central Bucks High School West Harlequin Club's production of "Pippin" prepare for in-person and virtual performances of the Broadway smash hit.

kind of responsibility upholding COVID-19 protocols. Every cast and crew member, both on and

off stage, is wearing a mask and following social distancing guidelines. Bostock also used the social

distancing guidelines to her advantage and incorporated it into the creative staging of the show.

## Bristol Riverside Theatre welcomes back staff; prepares for June reopening outdoors

Bristol Riverside Theatre welcomes its entire staff back from the COVID-19 furlough.

The company plans to welcome audience members back for live performances this June.

BRT has been dark since March 2020, when the COVID pandemic forced the theater to shut down its production of "Cabaret." Through a sponsorship with the William Penn

Bank, the theater will reopen with performances taking place at Bristol Township's brand-new outdoor amphitheater.

"We are overjoyed to be welcoming the entire full-time staff back as we get ready for a return to programming in June," said Producing Director Amy Kaissar. "We could not be doing it without the partnership of William Penn Bank and Bristol

Township Parks and Recreation. To have gotten through this last year with every single staff member returning, is an incredible testament to the commitment of our staff and the passion of our board."

The amphitheater will allow patrons to socially distance while enjoying live music with singers. With current COVID restrictions, the venue can safely fit up to 1,100 patrons.

The outdoor venue is a new venture for BRT and the staff can't wait to get started.

"We won't lose another summer to COVID," said Producing Director Ken Kaissar. "The Bristol Township amphitheater gives us the opportunity to welcome back our audience in a safe manner. And, listening to great music under the stars, while eating delicious food is how our Summer

Music Fest should be enjoyed. It just took a pandemic for us to realize it."

The William Penn Bank Summer Music Fest will kick-off June 10, with a special event yet to be announced. That will be followed by three BRT-produced summer concerts along with two more special events. The full line-up will be announced later this month.

For information, visit [brtstage.org](http://brtstage.org).

## Town & Country Players take to outdoor stage this summer

Town & Country Players presents "Theater in the Park," three live outdoor shows, this summer, in partnership with Buckingham Township.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. All performances will be held outside at Hansell Park, 5069-5165 Hansell Road, Doylestown (Buckingham Township).

Bring a low chair (like a sand chair), a blanket, a picnic lunch, some sunscreen, and cash for raffles and fun, and join in for an afternoon or evening of live theater.

Town and Country Players will

follow all recommendations by the CDC to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing will be required.

A handicapped seating area is available upon request. Email [tandcbox@gmail.com](mailto:tandcbox@gmail.com) for information.

The first show is "12 Angry Jurors," adapted by Sherman L. Sergei, based on the Emmy award-winning television movie by Reginald Rose.

Shows are scheduled for 1 and 5 p.m. Saturday, June 19 and 1 p.m. Sunday, June 20, with rain dates to be announced later.

The second production is "(Two

Act for Young Wizards), Puffs, Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years At A Certain School of Magic" by Matt Cox.

Shows are scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday, July 17 and 1 p.m. Sunday, July 18; rain dates are July 24 and 25.

The third show is "The Miracle Worker" by William Gibson. Show times are 5 p.m. Saturday, July 31 and 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1. Rain dates are Aug. 7 and 8.

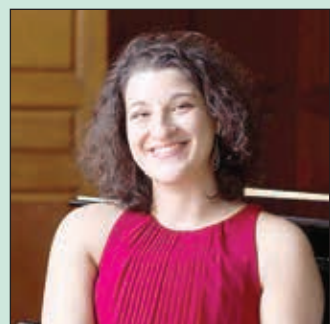
Visit [townandcountryplayers.org](http://townandcountryplayers.org) for tickets and information, and to donate to the theater's "The Show Must Go On" fund.

## RVCC virtual benefit concert features award-winning pianist

The Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) Arts & Design department presents "Poetical Tone Pictures," its next selection in a virtual concert series launched to help defray the cost of private instructional lessons for RVCC music majors.

The virtual concert, featuring a performance by award-winning pianist Margarita Rovenskaya, will be streamed live from RVCC's Edward Nash Theatre at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 11, and also will be available for later viewing.

The concert will feature a performance of Antonin Dvořák's "Poetical Tone Pictures," a musical cycle that includes 13 individual pieces. The concert is part of the department's MOZAIKA Concert Series, created to promote multicultural dialogue through the performance of music from the classical canon through the



MARGARITA ROVENSKAYA

21st century. To watch the performance, visit [facebook.com/RVCCMusic](http://facebook.com/RVCCMusic).

A post-performance, online discussion with the artist follows the program. The concerts in the series are free but donations are accepted and will go to the RVCC Applied Music Fund to help the college's music majors pay for private lessons on their primary instruments.

## Touchstone presents drag show, history lesson, visual art exhibit

Touchstone Theatre announces "An Imagined America," a living museum bringing history to life through a re-imagining of what America is, was, and can/may be.

Live, socially-distanced performances will take place on Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10, in Allentown at the Fine Art Galleries at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center in Allentown.

Created by Moravian College MFA candidate, Touchstone Theatre apprentice, and queer theater

artist Adam Ercolani, "An Imagined America" is a drag show, a history lesson, and a visual art exhibit, all on the same ticket.

The performance takes place over the course of 45 minutes with five guests allowed into the gallery at a time and features two regionally known drag queens, Majestee Crowne Le'Vixenn and Rogue-Star Givenchy.

"From the get-go, I knew I wanted this project to focus on the medium of drag performance, since it provides a unique way

to recontextualize the historical moments we're looking at," said Ercolani. "Plus, drag performers are notorious for their ability to capture a room..."

Performances will take place between 5 and 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 9 and 1 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 10 at 21 N. 7th St., Allentown. Space is limited. Tickets are free with donations accepted.

For reservations and information, call 610- 867-1689 or visit [touchstone.org](http://touchstone.org).

## Music Mountain Theatre premieres 'Songs for a New World'

Music Mountain Theatre in Lambertville, N.J., will continue its 2021 Spring Season with "Songs for a New World," premiering April 9.

The show will run for six performances ending on April 19. The theater will continue at 50% indoor capacity while also offering the option to stream at home. For the safety of patrons, the theater blocks off seats to allow for social distancing between groups.

"Songs for a New World" is about one moment. It's about hitting the wall and having to make a choice, or take a stand, or turn around and go back. It's also about surviving those moments. It's about the way people regroup and figure out how to survive in a new set of circumstances even against seemingly overwhelming odds...a new world.

With a score that blends elements of pop, gospel and jazz, featuring "tight harmonies and darling vo-

icals," "Songs for a New World" transports its audience from the deck of a Spanish sailing ship bound for a new land, to the ledge of a New York penthouse. Characters range from a young man in the Bronx who dreams of becoming a famous basketball player, to a forlorn and neglected Mrs. Claus lamenting as Christmas approaches.

The show features the voices of MMT favorites Jenna Parrilla Alvino, Katie Rochon, Jared Williams and Shan Williams. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays, and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The theatre strives to provide a safe environment for all with rigorous cleaning procedures and more recently, the installation of state-of-the-art air scrubbers to increase indoor air quality and reduce contaminants. For information or to purchase a ticket, visit [musicmountaintheatre.org](http://musicmountaintheatre.org) or call 609-397-3337.

## Princeton Symphony Orchestra releases video of Copland performance

To celebrate spring and provide hope against the coming of the tax man, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra (PSO) will release a free video premiere of the orchestra's outdoor performance of Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" at 5 p.m. on April 7. Filmed live in Princeton's downtown Palmer Square, the performance showcases the PSO's brass and percussion sections led by Rossen Milanov, the Edward T. Cone music director. The four-minute video was produced and edited by PCK Media.

Aaron Copland's seminal fanfare was written in 1942, at the onset of America's entrance into WWII. It

was commissioned by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Eugene Goossens, who wanted to continue the orchestra's tradition of starting concerts off with a fanfare during wartime. It was partly inspired by Vice President Henry A. Wallace's speech proclaiming the start of an anti-imperialist era he dubbed "the century of the common man."

The premiere took place on the orchestra's YouTube channel. The link can also be accessed on the orchestra's website and social media. No registration is required and the video remains available for viewing following the premiere.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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## Old Barracks Museum showcases New Jersey World's Fairs



The Old Barracks Museum's newest online exhibit is "A Symbol of New Jersey to the World: The Old Barracks at the World's Fair."

The three times the State of New Jersey selected the Old Barracks to represent the state was an honor never repeated for any other site. There are also three other online exhibits: "Collection Highlights," "When Women Vote: The Old Barracks and the Anti-Suffrage Movement" and "Necessary and Proper for the Public Good: How the American Red Cross and the Old Barracks Association partnered to contribute to the World War I effort at home." Visit [barracks.org/exhibits](http://barracks.org/exhibits).

World's Fairs made it possible for people to experience cultures and history from places they would otherwise not be able to visit. Countries and states, including New Jersey, allocated considerable funds to ensure they represented their most significant contributions

The Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, N.J., has opened a new online exhibit titled "A Symbol of New Jersey to the World: The Old Barracks at the World's Fair." The exhibit is live at [barracks.org/exhibits](http://barracks.org/exhibits). The exhibit details the importance of World's Fairs to the global community and the role of the Old Barracks as a symbol of New Jersey at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, the 1926 Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Exposition, and the 1939-40 New York World's Fair "World of Tomorrow."

## Sesame Place kicks off Elmo's Eggstravaganza



Sesame Place, the only theme park in the U.S. based entirely on the award-winning show, Sesame Street and the first theme park in the world to be recognized as a Certified Autism Center, hosts its Elmo's Eggstravaganza Celebration.

al fee and reservations are required. Visit [SesamePlace.com/Philadelphia](http://SesamePlace.com/Philadelphia) to purchase your 2021 Season Pass and save up to 60 percent on single day tickets.

Sesame Place in Langhorne launches its Elmo's Eggstravaganza Celebration on select dates through April 18. The theme park will maintain enhanced health and safety measures such as increased cleaning and sanitation, temperature checks, face covering requirements, and limited capacity. Guests can visit Sesame Place for rides, shows, parades and special Easter fun with their favorite Sesame Street friends. Parents and kids can get physically-distant photos with the Easter Bunny in his all-new Bunny Picture Patch, take a spin on fan-favorite rides, participate in an interactive Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, and shake their bunny tails at the all-new Furry Friends Bunny Hop Dance Party. They can also snap photos with their favorite Sesame Street friends on their floats dressed in their Easter best.

Also available will be live shows, such as Let's Play Together in Abby's Paradise Theater and The Magic of Art in Sesame Place Neighborhood Theater; and dry rides and attractions, weather permitting. Visitors can also book a special Easter Dine with Elmo, Abby, and the Easter Bunny, featuring a buffet meal, photo opportunities with your favorite Sesame Street friends, and a special Easter story time with limited capacity and physically-distant seating. An addition-

## The Gardens at Mill Fleurs opens for pre-season tour

The Gardens at Mill Fleurs in Point Pleasant opens for a pre-season tour at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 10. Plants are blooming together that never do, and the fragile ephemerals are opening. Anyone interested in a tour should call 215 297-1000 for a reservation. The cost is \$25 per person for a two-hour guided tour, which includes refreshments. Mill Fleurs specializes in "against-the-grain horticulture." In 2021 Mill Fleurs will offer two different tours: the South Opening Tour, which has been its focus to

date, and includes details of the Yellow Conifer Garden, the Rhododendron Drive, the Cascades, the Bronze Bards, the Blue Rocks, the Lawn Gardens... ending in the Ice House with homemade refreshments. Mill Fleurs will alternate with tours of its demanding, more private gardens. This is the North Challenge Garden Tour. Many of the rarest plants in this challenging part of the garden have never been visited by the public. Homemade refreshments are included. Visit [thegardensatmillfleurs.com](http://thegardensatmillfleurs.com) for information.

## Concordia Chamber Players celebrate ArtYard exhibition

The virtual film premiere of Concordia Chamber Players' celebration of the recent ArtYard exhibition "Shelter Is" takes place at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 11. Filmed at ArtYard in Frenchtown, N.J., the concert will feature musical selections that confirm and celebrate the relevance of the recent exhibition "Shelter Is," which explored the issues of sanctuary and community through a variety of media. The concert includes pieces by Carlos Simon inspired by the gospel music that shaped his youth; a new composition, "Mystery for solo cello" (commissioned by Musica of the Bay) by Milad Yousufi; Stravinsky's Élégie for solo viola; an arrangement of "Amazing Grace" for solo violin; and works by J.S. Bach, Kodály, Mozart, Dohnányi, and Enescu. Artistic Director and cellist Michelle Djokic is joined by violinist Siwoo Kim and violist Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt for this performance. The video recording will premiere on Concordia's website, [concordiaplayers.org](http://concordiaplayers.org), and will be available for viewing anytime after the premiere, also on the website.

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# Police News

## Central Bucks Regional

**Charged:** John Hoffacker, 41, of Perkasi, with driving under the influence following a traffic stop for an illegal turn March 8, in the tens block of West Butler Avenue, Chalfont. Hoffacker had slurred speech and failed field sobriety tests, police said. Blood was drawn at Doylestown Hospital.

**Cited:** Andrew Joseph Wisniewski, 23, of Doylestown, with the disorderly conduct after police observed him urinating in public outside a business in the 300 block of south Main Street March 10.

**Charged:** Theodore Sak, 28, of Doylestown, for driving under the influence following a traffic stop for erratic driving on South Main Street in Doylestown March 13. Sak presented with an odor of alcoholic beverage and his actions were slow with slurred speech. Sak failed sobriety tests and was transported to Doylestown Hospital for blood draw, police said.

**Charged:** Two juveniles with criminal trespass and loitering March 15, in the 300 block of North Street, Doylestown, following a report of possible burglary and attempt to gain access to a residence on Feb. 19.

**Charged:** Tristan Allen Cosner, 19, of Doylestown; Trystan Stiles Field, 20 of Pipersville; and a 17-year-old male juvenile, of Chalfont, after controlled substances were found during a vehicle search following a traffic stop for a non-functioning brake light in the 400 block of North Main Street, Doylestown March 20.

**Cited:** Samuel Ixtos, 29, of Doylestown, PA was cited for public drunkenness after police arrived at Oak Garden Apartments in the 300 block of North Street, Doylestown March 25, for the report of an intoxicated man roaming the buildings. Police observed Ixtos stumble and fall. He had slurred speech and was barely able to keep his eyes open, police said. Ixtos was transported to Doylestown Hospital for medical attention.

**Cited:** Samuel Anastasio, 29, of Doylestown, for public drunkenness after police were dispatched to Oak Garden Apartments in the 300 block of North Street, Doylestown, for the report of an unconscious man on the stairs. Police observed Anastasio sleeping in the stairway with a bottle of alcohol next to him. When police woke Anastasio, he appeared to be confused and unresponsive. Anastasio was transported to Doylestown Hospital for medical attention.

**Charged:** Dean Erik Toothman Jr., 30, of Feasterville, with stalking and harassment, for sending frequent harassing text messages, the victim reported to police on March 21. The victim said Toothman also drove around the victim's neighborhood several times and texted he possessed a weapon. An arrest warrant was issued for Toothman and he was taken into custody on April 2. He was arraigned, bail set at \$25,000 and remanded to Bucks County Prison.

## Hilltown

**Charged:** Vincent Ventresca, 44, of Conlin Way, Perkasi, with driving under the influence of alcohol, after police responded to the 1800 block of Limekiln Pike, at 8:08 p.m. March 6, to investigate the report of a single vehicle traffic accident.

**Charged:** Robert Reno, 35, of Smithtown Road, Pipersville, with illegally operating a vehicle without ignition interlock and related summary charges, after police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on Main Street in Silverdale Borough at 12:33 a.m. March 7.

**Charged:** Joseph Patrick Walsh, 31, of the 1300 block of Route 113, Blooming Glen, with public drunkenness and similar misconduct after police responded to the CVS, at 700 Route 113, at 3:59 p.m. March 9, to investigate the report of an intoxicated subject. Officers found Walsh under the influence of a controlled substance, police said. He was found to have an outstanding arrest warrant out of Montgomery County and was later released to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department.

**Charged:** Elizabeth Bickel, 20, of the 700 block Walnut Street, Perkasi, with driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance after police responded to Baringer Avenue in Silverdale Borough to investigate the report of a traffic accident with overturned vehicle at 7 p.m. March 12.

**Charged:** Matthew Scott Fuller, 34, of 3000 block Line Lexington Road, Hatfield, with burglary, de-

## New Hope plans Bridge Street restrictions for utility installation

New Hope Borough is planning a weekday lane closure with flagging on Route 179 (Bridge Street) between Stockton Avenue and Route 32 (Main Street) in New Hope Borough, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, April 12, through Friday, April 30, for roadway improvement, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) said.

Motorists are advised to allow extra time when traveling through the work area because backups and delays will occur. The schedule is weather dependent.

New Hope Borough will complete this project under a PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit.

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles by visiting 511PA.com.

flant trespass, criminal mischief, and possession of a controlled substance, after police responded at 1:55 a.m. March 13, to the 100 block of Fairhill Road to investigate the report of a disturbance and an unwanted subject. Officers discovered a man had forced entry into the residence and was located inside. He was in possession of a suspected controlled substance, they said. Fuller was arraigned in front of District Judge Lisa J. Gaier of Bucks County and remanded to the Bucks County Correctional Facility in lieu of posting 10% of \$100,000 bail.

**Charged:** Vincent Hope, 31, of 6th Street, Perkasi, with driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance after police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 3400 block of Bethlehem Pike at 3:40 a.m. March 14.

**Charged:** Alexander Lewis Koger, 39, of Birchwood Avenue,

Abington, with driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance after police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on Route 113 near Moyer Road at 10:58 p.m. March 17. The driver refused a blood test.

**Charged:** Alexander Smith, 34, of Washington Place, Telford, with driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance after police investigated a suspicious occupied vehicle in the parking lot of the Wawa located at 3520 Bethlehem Pike at 4:45 a.m. March 18.

**Charged:** Pamela Schroeder, 51, of East Orvilla Road, Hatfield, with driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia after police responded to the area of Route 309 at Route 113 to investigate a single vehicle traffic accident at 10:15 p.m. March 19. The driver refused a blood test.

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# Are 'sight unseen' offers here to stay?

Whether they're trying to get ahead of the competition or have concerns about COVID-19, more buyers are still choosing to purchase a home without ever stepping foot inside. Clients are relying on virtual tours or video walkthroughs from their real estate agent to help decide which home is right for them.

"I see virtual deals as a trend that will only grow," writes Ryan Serhant, CEO of the real estate brokerage Serhant and Star. Prior to COVID-19, "people were already getting used to seeing homes through their phones and computer screens – not just in person."

Over the past month, Serhant says he has sold four properties in South Florida for more than \$10 million each without a single in-person showing. The deals occurred completely virtually. In July 2020, the real estate brokerage Redfin reported 45% of its consumers who purchased a home in the past year made an offer on a property without first seeing it in person.

Video walkthrough tours may continue to grow in popularity, saving buyers a trip to view the home themselves. Virtual tours may provide a competitive edge in markets with limited inventory, allowing



Video walkthrough tours have increased in popularity during the pandemic.

buyers to act more quickly. These tours could also grow more common among those shopping for investment properties or house hunting due to job relocation in a different state.

Real estate professionals have become

virtual agents, notes Serhant. They're leveraging technology to showcase homes virtually to make buyers more comfortable without having to step foot inside the home. For example, house hunters are using Google Maps "Street View"

and exterior shots, as well as 3D listing photos, panoramic room shots, and full-house video tours.

With the help of technology, real estate professionals are able to stretch beyond their local area to appeal to buyers relocating from other markets and countries.

"We have clients who don't live anywhere near us and showing to out-of-state and foreign buyers over the phone has become increasingly common, pandemic or not," Serhant writes for Forbes.com. "As agents, we are here to fill in any gaps that technology hasn't closed; if my client can't fly in from across the country to see a home, I can be there to see it for her and take her on a tour via FaceTime. If my client wants to buy a home in another country, I can make it happen virtually without requiring him to get on a plane or even leave his home. Serving foreign and out-of-state purchasers is easier than ever before because we can do it without any travel and minimal interruption to the client's life."

Source: "More People Than Ever Are Buying Homes They Haven't Seen In Person. Here's Why," forbes.com (March 30, 2021)

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The Hugh A. Marshall Landscape Contractors, Inc. team a.k.a. Hughman Power (get it ...Human Power) has always taken a green approach to Clean out Services. Our goals, to recycle, reduce and reuse, play an integral part in our disposal process. We want to give our customers the peace of mind that their items are not heading straight into a landfill. We work hard to make the transition as efficient and cost effective as possible. We have years of experience in estate liquidation and clean outs of sheds, garages, attics, barns and entire homes.



Our team consists of top-quality members who truly enjoy and care about their work. They take pride in each job, are respectful to homeowners, other contractors, and anyone else they come into contact with. The tradesmen on staff keep their work area organized throughout the building process so their job is done efficiently and correctly.

Since 1976, J.R. Maxwell Builders has been serving Bucks County and the surrounding areas with exceptional residential and commercial building and design. Jay, his son James, and their team are classic custom craftsmen with an eye for every detail, committed to continuing their "Tradition of Excellence." Additionally, James' dual degree in construction management and operations management with a background in engineering adds a level of expertise to every job. Renovations, new constructions, interiors, exteriors and additions, including commercial renovations, historic renovations and restaurants are just some of the many projects in which we have extensive experience.

Whether your project is large or small, located in a town, city or rural area, or you need customized service, J.R. Maxwell Builders is up to the task. Our attention to detail doesn't stop when the building is done. We are always available to go over any details about your job, even after construction. J.R. Maxwell is a family-run custom building company, winner of multiple home building accolades, and our quality work cannot be matched.

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# 2021 HOUSING FORECAST

Experts forecast an optimistic year for the housing market.

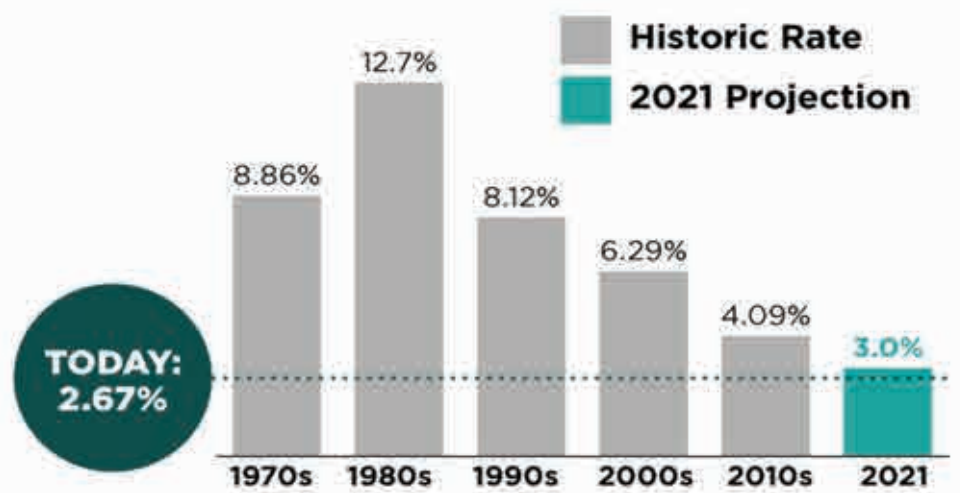
## MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

Interest rates are projected to remain at or near 3% in 2021, fueling strong buyer activity.

### 2021 PROJECTED RATES

Fannie Mae	2.8%
Freddie Mac	3%
MBA	3-3.3%
NAR	2.9-3.2%

### RATES BY DECADE



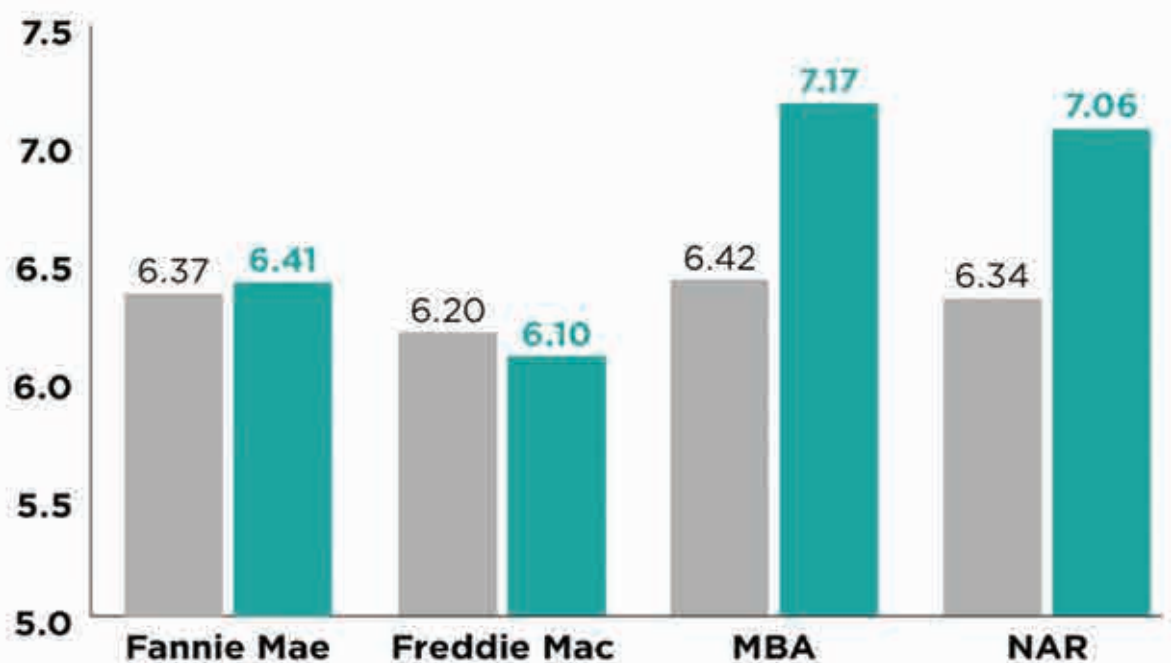
## HOME SALES

Home sales are forecasted to increase in 2021 while interest rates remain low.

### 2021 TOTAL HOME SALE FORECASTS

Home Sales in Millions

2020  
2021 Forecast



## HOME PRICES

Home prices are also expected to continue appreciating as more people buy in the coming year.

### 2021 HOME PRICE FORECASTS





# New York residents seek old homes, drawn to 'character'

While many home buyers are moving away from city centers during the pandemic, New Yorkers specifically are showing an interest in rural locations with older homes that have character and charm. Sales of homes built more than 100 years ago in the New York area climbed 16% between 2019 and 2020, according to data from realtor.com. The median sales price of these types of homes is \$236,000.

"The biggest ask right now is 'something old with character.' Newer homes have none of the richness or the stories of something built in 1814," said Adam Carroll, a real estate professional with Compass in New York.

Buyers are finding that an older home in need of improvements may be a better deal financially. For example, a trending Instagram account called @cheapold-houses, which is run by Elizabeth and Ethan Finkelstein, spotlights historical properties on the market for less than \$100,000.

However, remodeling experts warn buyers to be aware of the costs of renovating older homes. For example, restoring floors, fireplaces and windows in older homes can cost hundreds of thou-

sands of dollars. Robert Khederian, a real estate professional who is renovating an 1821 brick rowhouse, said that every historic home has different needs, but many people budget about \$300 to \$400 per square foot and \$10,000 per fireplace when renovating.

Home buyer Stephen Simcock was drawn to older homes and purchased a 170-year-old waterfront property in the Hudson Valley area about four months ago. "You have to go in understanding that the [mortgage] payment, taxes, insurance—they're just the starting point," Simcock told the Post. "It's a five-year project, probably, though I'll get it 80% of the way there in a couple of years. The last 20%? Oh, you never quite finish that."

*Source: "An Old House Sales Boom Means Expensive New Headaches for Buyers," The New York Post (April 1, 2021)*

*An old home, like this one located in Easton, includes the type of rustic charm that many New Yorkers are seeking.*



## Bucks County Furniture Restoration New life for your furniture



Furniture, especially well-built furniture, is meant to stand the test of time. Not only is it beautiful, often offering expertly-interlocking, hand-carved wood, custom stitching, and artistic accents, but it serves a purpose in your home. Furniture provides rest when you need it, conversation with friends and a space to create what you love.

Why would you give that all up because its exterior looks a little worn?

At Bucks County Furniture Restoration, we provide a better alternative. Our local, family-owned company serves all the repair, restoration and furniture revitalization needs for our customers in Bucks, Montgomery and Hunterdon counties. Our professionals work with all types of furniture pieces to give them a new look, new life and the former place

that they held in your home.

Bucks County Furniture Restoration uses a mix of time-honored refinishing methods and the most modern technology to provide you with services our competitors can't match. We have experience and expertise in: stripping, reupholstery, glass bending, marble and metal polishing, furniture repair and finishing, refinishing, lamp and seat repair, conversions and knife sharpening.

We invite you to visit our showroom and take advantage of more than 30 years of professional experience and see our difference for yourself. Using our outstanding attention to detail, we can work with both new and antique items to give them a country feel that you will love.

*Submitted by  
Bucks County Furniture Restoration*

## Alpha Genesis Homes are architecturally interesting and comfortable for modern living



Finding beautiful and interesting homes in Bucks County that also meet modern living standards is difficult. Many people invariably struggle to find property with traditional Bucks County characteristics that also has modern living amenities. Most older homes have small rooms, low ceilings, outdated kitchens, and poor use of space. While many newer homes can be large in square footage, they tend to waste space and lack architectural appeal and identity.

Alpha Genesis is keenly aware of this dilemma. They develop and execute unique concepts to align with the aspirations and lifestyles of their clients. With focus on both aesthetics and functionality, their homes are meticulously designed and crafted with clear intentions. They consider

elements such as use of space, interior furnishings, lighting, and artwork early in the design process to produce homes that are architecturally interesting and comfortable for modern living. They believe that the best designs should echo your personality, enhance your lifestyle, and convey the essence of you.

Being a single design-build entity allows them to artfully direct all aspects of the architectural, design, and construction process from inception to completion. Their work, whether new construction or large-scale renovations, can be seen throughout Bucks County.

*— Submitted by Alpha Genesis Design*



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4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 3,476 sqft,  
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**ACTIVE / UNDER CONTRACT**



**Warwick Twp. \$900,000**  
4 Bedrooms, 5 Baths, 4194 sqft,  
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**ACTIVE / UNDER CONTRACT**



**Buckingham Twp. \$617,500**  
4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 2,818 sqft,  
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**Plumstead Twp. \$1,149,000**  
4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 4,130 sqft,  
New Construction, Call 215-438-5600

**PENDING**



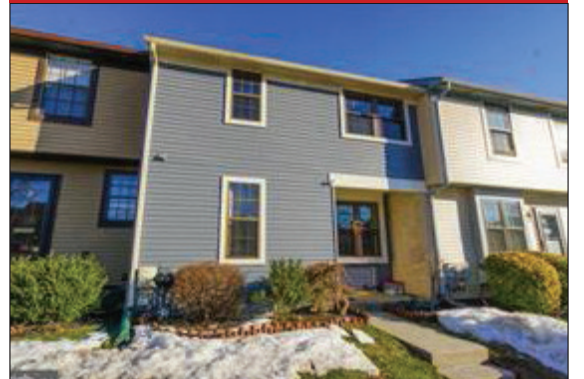
**Buckingham Twp. \$465,000**  
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**CUSTOM BUILD**



**SOPHISTICATED COUNTRY \$1,875,000**

Rare opportunity to own a new build in Solebury. This 3,700 sq ft home, sited on 2.1 acres, offers single floor living at its best. Features hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen w/ granite counters, custom cabinetry, and a large center island.  
Evan Walton 215.327.4709 or Art Mazzei 610.428.4885



**SUNNYSIDE COTTAGE \$825,000**

Sitting on over 1 acre, this home full of history, charm and character. Historically a steam saw mill in the 1800, this home borders the Delaware Canal Towpath. The ultimate "work from home" dream house awaits you!  
Bert Reczenske 609.462.8338 or Daniela DeLuca 267.614.4345



**BUCKINGHAM GREEN \$1,435,000**

One of the last large parcels of land (57 acres) is now on the market. The zoning is R-1 and the geological study permits septic mounds and spray irrigation. Located on Route 202 in Buckingham, just minutes from Doylestown Proper and 15 minutes to New Hope. Explore the possibilities.

**WATERFRONT**



**HESSIAN WATERS \$495,000**

This rare 13 acre building parcel is a hidden gem. The parcel has it's own private entry bridge that traverses the Locketong Creek. Kingwood Twp, NJ.  
Sharon Pratt 215.820.6301

**MOVE-IN READY**



**RABBIT RUN \$1,695,000**

This property is turnkey with a quick close. Walk to town and don't worry about parking. Includes high-end kitchen including Wolf appliances, custom closet built-ins, storage, custom cabinetry, private elevator, custom window treatments, stone patios w/a water feature, and a full house gas generator.



**PAXSON RIDGE \$2,295,000**

Bucks County estate home located in Solebury Township is a winner of the Pinnacle Award for Custom Homes over \$2 million. This five bedroom home is beautifully appointed featuring a series of covered porches, decks and balconies.  
Margo Busund 215.801.2977 or Art Mazzei 610.428.4885

**SOLD**



**CORNERSTONE \$250,000**

This 2 bedroom, 2 bath 2nd floor condo has an open floor plan and plenty of natural light. The spacious living room with walls of windows has a fireplace and dining area. Access to a private deck just outside the dining area.  
Margo Busund 215.801.2977

**56 ACRE LOT**



**INDIAN HILLS \$1,150,000**

Sited between River Road and Cafferty Road, in Point Pleasant, PA., is a pastoral 56 acre parcel waiting for your dream home. Here is a rare opportunity to acquire an even rarer parcel of land that is 20 minutes from New Hope and 1.2 hours from N.Y.C.

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**RIVER CROSSING \$1,175,000**

Beautifully appointed 4BR, 4.5 bath estate home, approximately 6550 finished square feet on a 1.36 acre manicured lot just a few minutes outside of New Hope Borough and equidistant to NYC and Phila.  
Jay Ginsberg 215.431.1199



**THE DUANE HOMESTEAD \$1,795,000**

Sited majestically, at an elevated location amidst 67 fertile farmland acres. The Bedminster countryside moves in all directions and the open land provides ample opportunity for agrarian pursuits and/or a serious equestrian facility.



**ELY ROAD RETREAT \$1,499,000**

If you are seeking a private, and tranquil atmosphere, look no further. An impressive wrap-around porch complete with a jetted hot-tub overlooks a babbling brook, making this 4+ acre property a true Bucks County retreat.  
Revi Haviv 845.492.1315



**STONEY HILL \$2,500/MO**

One bedroom guest house on Stoney Hill Road. Just a short walk from downtown New Hope. Private guest house with attached 1 car garage. High end finished throughout.  
Nick Esser 646.745.5460



**CANAL-SIDE COLONIAL \$699,900**

New construction opportunity in Palisades school district. Sited on a canal front, 2 acre lot in the quaint borough of Riegelsville. Walking distance to restaurants, and the Delaware river. Call for details and floor plans.  
Megan Waits 215.264.9144



**FRENCH COUNTRY HOLLOW \$1,595,000**

With a well executed design and superior craftsmanship this custom built French Country style home, by premium builder John Arrow, is located on a private cul-de-sac surrounded by Lookaway Golf Club.  
Laurie Madaus 203.948.5157



**GREENWICH FARM \$1,200,000**

EQUINE ENTHUSIAST: Greenwich Farm is a rare find, combining 20 acres of pastures, a modern custom post-and-beam home, a 13+ stall barn with an indoor riding arena and spectacular panoramic views.  
Megan Waits 215.264.9144

For additional information or a private tour,  
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