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NEWS FROM THE  
**Bridge**  
COVERING DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

VOL. 13 No.3 2010

### Community Day: September 25th

Bring the whole family out and join your neighbors for Community Day on Saturday, September 25th, 2010 from noon until 5p.m. at Dilts Farm Park on Buchanan Road. There is no rain date.

As in previous years, representatives from local businesses, volunteer organizations and government agencies will be on hand to share information about their services. Community Blood Council of New Jersey will be bringing their bloodmobile from noon to 4pm. People may sign up in advance or walk-ins are encouraged. The Delaware Township Police Department will be bringing their D.A.R.E. vehicles and the State Police Helicopter will be on site. The Delaware Township School, Education Foundation, PIE, Athletic Association, the Great Crate Race, and other local groups also will be there. The festivities will include music from local bands, food and beverages, and hay rides. Admission is free, but with a nominal charge for the inflatable rides.

During the afternoon, ceremonies will be held to present the awards for Employee of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. In addition, there will be a tree dedication in honor of Mackenzie Wright, a second grader who courageously fought and passed away from cancer last year.

Please note that there is no rain date and that dogs are not allowed at this event. For more information on Community Day, please contact Recreation Commission member Jen Gillooly at 908 782 2213.

### The Newsletter Committee

**Editor:** Susan Lockwood

**Editorial Board:** Judy Allen, Mary Coffey, Jim Drummond, Janet McMahon, Randy Norris, Alison Wehringer, Ginger Hunt, Rose Johnson, Mindi Martinez, Betsy Saja, Arlene Spotnitz, Kathy Superior, Teresa Stahl.

**Logo Design:** Christopher Dane  
**Layout and DTP:** Russ Lockwood

### Thanksgiving in the Country

This year will mark the 37th annual Thanksgiving in the Country House Tour. The tour will be held on Saturday, November 6th and Sunday, November 7th, 2010. Buses will depart each day from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. from the Delaware Township Municipal Building on the corner of Routes 523 and 604 in Sergeantsville. The tour closes each day at 5:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Facial Reconstruction Unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. During the past 36 years, the annual non-profit Thanksgiving in the Country House Tour has donated over \$500,000 to the Facial Reconstruction Unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Uniquely beautiful homes, including local historical homes, will be on display this year. And, as always, our delicious home-cooked luncheon will be served at the Sergeantsville Methodist Church for \$10.00. A complimentary tea with cookies will be served at the Prallsville Mills. Many area artisans and local crafters will also show their wares at the Mills.

Pre-paid tour tickets at \$22 for adults and \$6 for children under 12 are available between Oct. 1st and Oct. 31st. Mail your check payable to Thanksgiving in the Country to P.O. Box 267 Sergeantsville, NJ 08557. Pick up tickets at the Township Building on the day of the tour. They will not be mailed to you. Tickets at purchase on tour days cost \$27 for adults and \$8 for children, cash or check only.

This year, Thanksgiving in the Country will again sponsor a quilt raffle. Raffle tickets are available now and will also be available the weekend of the tour for \$1.00 each. All proceeds from the raffle will also benefit Children's Hospital. The quilt will be on display at the Municipal Building during the tour weekend. The quilt may also be seen on our website. The winning ticket will be pulled at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 7. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets and information: 908-996-4677 or 609-397-3427, or visit [www.ThanksgivingintheCountry.com](http://www.ThanksgivingintheCountry.com). We need many volunteers to assist that weekend, so please call if you can help. Thank you to all of our volunteers past and present!

### General Election Day

**When:** Tuesday, November 2, 2010

**Where:** Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company, Rt. 523

**Time:** 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Term Expiring 12/31/10:** George Hrehowesik

**Local Vacancy:** One Township Committee position

**2010 Republican Candidate:** Donald F. Scholl Jr.

**2010 Democrat Candidate:** Virginia Dodd Hook

**October 12:** Last Day to Register to Vote for November General Election

**October 26:** Deadline for Civilian Mail-In Ballot Application by Mail

You can vote by Mail-In Ballot in person at the County Clerk's Office on Main Street in Flemington during regular office hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or on October 30 — open between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for Mail-In Ballot voting. The Deadline for filing a Civilian Mail-In Ballot Application in person at the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office is November 1st by 3 p.m.

Voter registrations and Mail-In Ballot applications are available at the Township Building and online at [www.njelections.org](http://www.njelections.org). Click on "Forms to Vote by Mail." Then go to "Vote by Mail Ballot" and click on the language desired. Mail the application to the Hunterdon County Clerk at P.O. Box 2900 Flemington, NJ 08822. She'll mail you the actual ballot. Complete the ballot and return it by mail or in person. You don't need an excuse to vote by Mail-In Ballot.

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### Township Adopts 2010 Budget

Delaware Township has adopted a budget for 2010 of \$3,845,564. That is an increase of \$66,035 from the 2009 budget of \$3,779,529. This year, the Township lost \$114,000 as a result of State cuts to aid to municipalities.

As a result, despite the Township's best efforts, the Township Committee was forced to raise the tax rate from \$2.060 per \$100, to \$2.069 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

So where do your tax dollars go? The average home in Delaware Township is assessed at \$482,730. At \$2.069 per \$100 of assess valuation, the average homeowner this year will pay \$9,987.68 in property taxes. The distribution of that tax money is as follows:

Delaware Township School:	\$4,059.76 = 40.65%
Hunterdon Central School:	\$2,606.74 = 26.10%
Hunterdon County:	\$1,564.05 = 15.65%
Delaware Township:	\$1,173.03 = 11.74%

Taxes dedicated for a specific use

Delaware Twp Open Space:	\$289.64 = 2.90%
County Open Space:	\$159.30 = 1.59%
County Library:	\$135.16 = 1.35%

Total: \$9,987.68 = 99.98% (due to rounding)

For an average homeowner's payment of \$1,173.03 per year, Delaware Township provides 24-hour police protection and road maintenance. It makes a significant contribution to our volunteer fire departments and emergency medical services, ensures that housing in the township is built in accordance with zoning and building safety codes, and provides the staff and leadership needed to comply with a myriad of Federal, State, and County requirements like emergency management, social services, affordable housing, and stormwater management.

With an average homeowner's payment of \$289.64 per year, Delaware Township has been able to preserve 6043 acres of farmland and open space out of 23,707 total acres in the township -- a significant contribution toward the goal of preserving the character of the township and the residents' way of life.



## Meet Your Neighbor: Anna P. Wyman

By Mary Coffey

An energetic 81-year-old woman dressed in safari gear met me at the gate. She welcomed me and led me down the driveway at a pace at which I had to scramble to keep up. And she introduced herself as Anna P. Wyman.

I asked her about her remarkable life but she wanted to first talk about the work of her son, William, who came to Delaware Township as a real estate agent from Massachusetts during the real estate "boom" of the late 1980's. William bought a 16-acre parcel of ground, which Anna described as "a wilderness forest. You couldn't put one foot in front of the other, or even put your hand out" she said. "Trees were being strangled by vines everywhere..." William, she says, dedicated himself to changing the random overgrowth one plant at a time, to bring the forest back to its native healthy balance of trees, plants, birds, and insects. Today, he is still working at it, "every day from morning 'til night" his mother attests, and he "does good deeds with his love of nature".

She says that he has so far planted or rescued at least 600 valuable native trees (including one 250-year old beech), native grasses and shrubs, and rare and endangered species of plants, making this one of the healthiest and cleanest forests now existing in NJ. He also recorded with the PSI (Plant Steward Index) 425 native plants and trees, and opened his home to 60 people from Rutgers University. The re-established forest has become known as the William T. Wyman Private Native Preserve. "William is a Steward," she says, "a caretaker who loves the forest".

Anna is Head Docent at the Prallsville Mill, and when they have their Progressive Dinner each year, William endorses a silent auction in the name of his Private Native Preserve. Last year the auction brought in \$1200 to be used for the preservation of the Mill and its surrounding properties.

Anna has done community service for many years. According to Paul French Jr, who wrote her biography in the Hunterdon County Democrat seven years ago, Anna is a person who has lived her life "with all the passion and spunk" life could possibly muster. Born and raised in Boston, she went to Hollywood, California for art school. There she met a singing coach who thought she had an interesting voice, and before long she was working on her vocals and trying out for a USO tour group. She was accepted, and flew to Korea to entertain alongside famous people like Bob Hope. Her troupe did eight shows a day and visited 22 war sites during her three months in Korea. Sometimes the troupe was within two miles of battle sites, allowing the performers to hear the gunfire and explosions.

While being interviewed by Mr. French, she flipped through a diary preserved from that time. "We couldn't show fear," she read. "The men's morale was low, and we had to keep our emotions to ourselves. When we got back to our quarters, that's when we broke down. She visited soldiers who were on the war ship USS Hope and who were missing limbs, but who still looked forward to her troupe's show. The sight of war made some of her troupe sick. "I lost 30 pounds by the end of that year" Anna says. For her efforts in the USO, she was awarded a medal, "In Appreciation of Headquarters Far East Command." She looks at it on her keychain and says,

"this represents the hardest three months of my life..."

When she came home from Korea she toured the United States, and eventually went home to Massachusetts, where she worked as a professional singer for the next fifteen years. She then met William T. Wyman, the man who was to become her husband for the next forty-three years. By 1963 they had married and started a family, but her good deeds continued. She walked the Boston Marathon, and volunteered for senior citizen organizations and local schools, including the Perkins School for the Blind, where she recorded books for the blind and raised thousands of dollars for the school.

When she was 60, her son introduced her to mountain climbing, and she climbed a 5,800-foot high peak in New Hampshire. Even this turned into a community offering, as she climbed other mountains as a benefit for her local parish hall. She kept climbing until she was 72.

About ten years ago she and her husband moved from Massachusetts to New Jersey on invitation from their son. After moving to Rosemont, she began to volunteer once again, donating her time as an art instructor and as a "Storyteller at the Delaware Township and Stockton schools." Like her son and his stewardship with the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, she became a steward for the Prallsville Mill complex. She became a storyteller again when she became a Docent at the Mill, and continues to give tours and solicit donations for the historic buildings.

The residents of Delaware Township are indebted to Anna and William for their leadership in historic and land preservation in Hunterdon County.

### Thank you to Muffie Geissler

The Township thanks Muffie Geissler for the time, effort, and obvious care she put into relandscaping the garden area around the Town Hall. Muffie made the project a community effort, by reached out to local businesses for the purchase of plants and other materials. With financial assistance from Gordon Darling (Salon G), she purchased perennials from Kristen and A.R. Willey (Stony Brook Gardens), plants for the wrought iron pots from Barbara and Mike Mills (Lily Home and Furnishings), and annuals from Toni and Ernie Wolff (Ace Greenhouses). Charlie Sheaf of CJS's Landscaping donated perennials.

The Township Road Department removed landscape screening that was placed on the area previously, and moved some shrubs that were too large for the area.

On the Rt. 523-side of the building, she planted several varieties of hostas, with red impatiens to add a splash of color. On the Rt. 604-side, she planted marigolds, zinnias and other plants that are colorful, long blooming and relatively hardy during dry periods. Each morning, she waters as needed, and "deadheads" the plants (removes dead flowers so the plants will continue to bloom instead of going to seed). Her efforts have paid off because all of the plants have survived despite one of the hottest July's on record!

Delaware Township is fortunate to have Muffie.

### Amwell Church of the Brethren

40 Sandbrook Headquarters Rd., Stockton, NJ 08559 Phone 609-397-4842 Fax 609-397-9445 www.amwell.com More info? Call Blanche Carl – 908-996-4086 Services broadcast on WDVR – 89.7 FM Sundays at 7:30 a.m.

**September 17 and 18** Rummage sale 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Something for everyone. Lunch available. Call 908-782-6206.

**November 24** 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service. Come join us for an evening of Thanksgiving.

### Friends of the Locktown Stone Church

The Friends of Locktown Stone Church are pleased to announce their schedule for the Fall 2010 Mimi Conklin Upmeyer Concert Series. All concerts begin at 4 PM and last approximately one hour with no intermission. For subscription and ticket information, please call (908) 996-3087.

### Sunday October 17, 2010, Eric Mintel Quartet

The Eric Mintel Quartet consists of Eric Mintel (keyboard), Nelson Hill (saxes and flute), Dave Antonow (acoustic and electric bass) and Dave Mohn (drums). Members of the Quartet have extensive experience in jazz performance throughout the country. Their program will include a mix of originals, standards and the music of Dave Brubeck.

### Sunday October 24, 2010, Carol Thompson, Harp

Carol Thompson, one of America's foremost players of the Celtic harp, has performed in much of the United States, and in England and Ireland; she has been on the teaching staff at Augusta Heritage Workshops in Elkins, West Virginia, for more than a decade, and currently teaches harp privately, and at the Eastern Conservatory of Music and Arts in Oldwick, NJ.

### Sunday November 7, 2010 Due Solisti

Due Solisti features Kathleen Scheide on harpsichord and Zofie Vokalkova on the flute. They will perform music by women composers, including: Sylvie Borodova, Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Marguerite Roesgen-Champion and Maria Theresia von Paradies.

### Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead

The Holcombe Jimison Farmstead is open on Sunday afternoons until October 30, 2010. Admission fee \$5 adults, \$3 students. www.holcombe-jimison.org

**September 11th and 12th** – Farmstead Festival – In addition to the museum, come to see the farm animal petting zoo, antique tractors and cars, draft horse demonstrations, colonial crafting such as flax breaking, wool spinning, pottery making, quilting and blacksmithing. Hay rides and light lunch are available. 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission Fee.

### Santa at Town Hall Saturday, December 4th

See Santa from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your camera and a canned good for the food pantry! Info 609-397-5932.

## 20th Annual Great Tomato Tasting at the Rutgers Snyder Farm

The 20th annual Great Tomato Tasting and Open House will take place at the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Melda C. Snyder Farm on Wednesday, September 1st from 3 p.m. to dusk. Rain or shine. \$5 per person, children under 10 are free. Taste over 60 tomato varieties, along with cucumbers, sweet peppers, apples, peaches, basil and herbs. Wagon tours showcasing the Farm's research plots will be available throughout the event.

Rutgers faculty, staff and Master Gardener volunteers will answer your gardening questions. There will be displays of deer tolerant ornamentals.

Please bring a canned food item to support the "Rutgers Against Hunger" program. 140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown, NJ. RSVP at www.snyderfarm.rutgers.edu or call 908-713-8980.

### Household Electronics Collection Day

The Hunterdon County Utilities Authority is sponsoring a household electronics collection day on October 9th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hunterdon County Complex on Rt. 12. Residents can dispose of items such as computers, monitors, speakers, televisions, VCR's, DVD and CD players, fax machines, stereo equipment, radios, cellular and cordless telephones. For more information: email hcua@co.hunterdon.nj.us or telephone 908-788-1110.

### Household Hazardous Waste Clean Up Day

The Hunterdon County Utilities Authority is sponsoring a household hazardous waste clean up day on November 13, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hunterdon County Complex on Rt. 12. Dispose of items such as motor oil, pesticides, insecticides, gasoline and kerosene, oil-based paint, and car and household batteries.

The County will not accept electronics, tires, air conditioners, refrigerators, computers, monitors and propane tanks on this date. For more information email hcua@co.hunterdon.nj.us or telephone 908-788-1110.

### Delaware Township Annual March on Litter

October 16, 2010 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Dilts Farm Park, Rain or Shine

The Delaware Township Environmental Commission's Annual March on Litter starts and ends at the Dilts Farm Park. All participants will be provided with gloves and garbage bags. Also, as a token of appreciation, you will receive an official March on Litter tee-shirt and lunch.

Adult volunteers are needed to accompany our many young volunteers. Children from Kindergarten through 8th Grade participate in this event, so adult assistance is really needed. To volunteer, call Judy Allen at (609)397-3240.

Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Clean Community Program and the Delaware Township Environmental Commission.

## Community Calendar

**September 6** Labor Day - Township Offices Closed  
**September 11** Township Wide Yard Sale 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
 Maps for sale at 8:30 a.m.  
**September 25** Community Day Noon to 5 p.m. at Dilts Farm Park on Buchanan Rd.  
**October 9** Computer and Electronics Collection Day  
**October 11** Columbus Day – Township Offices Closed  
**October 16** March on Litter Day 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Dilts Farm Park  
**October 31** Halloween Party at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company. Parade starts at the School at 2 p.m.  
**November 6&7** Thanksgiving in the Country Annual House Tour  
**November 7** Daylight Savings Time Ends – Fall back!  
**November 2** Election Day 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Vote at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Co.  
**November 11** Veterans Day – Township Offices Closed  
**November 13** Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day  
**November 25** Thanksgiving Day – Township Offices Closed  
**November 26** Township Offices Closed  
**December 4** Free Rabies Clinic at Township Garage, Rt. 523 10 a.m. to Noon

**Township Committee:** (usually Mondays) 8 p.m. on 9/13, 9/27, Tuesday 10/12, 10/25, 11/8, 11/29, and 12/13.  
**Planning Board:** (usually Tuesdays) 8 p.m. on 9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, Wednesday, 11/3, 11/16 and 12/7.  
**Board of Health:** (usually Mondays) 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 9/1, 10/4, 11/1 and 12/6.  
**Open Space Committee:** (usually Mondays) 7:30 p.m. on 9/20, 10/18, 11/15 and 12/20.  
**Board of Adjustment:** (usually Thursdays) 7:30 p.m. on 9/9, 10/14, 11/11, and 12/9.  
**Recreation Commission:** (usually Tuesdays) 7:30 p.m. on 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, and 12/14.  
**Environmental Commission:** (usually Wednesdays) 7:30 p.m. on 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, and 12/15.  
**Agricultural Advisory Committee:** (usually Tuesdays) 7:00 p.m. on 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, and 12/7.  
**Historical Advisory Committee:** (usually Wednesdays) 7:30 p.m. on 9/8, 10/6, 11/10, and 12/8.  
**Shade Tree Commission:** (usually Thursdays) 7:00 p.m. on 9/23, 10/28, 11/18, and 12/16.  
**D.T.M.U.A.:** 7:30 p.m. on 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, and 12/2.

**Recycling Depot:** Saturdays – 9/25, 10/30, and 11/27 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Delaware Township Garage on Rt. 523. Closed on Christmas Day.

### Senior Citizens

For membership info, call Jeanette Smith at 609-397-3472.  
**September 1** Covered Dish Picnic at SVFC at Noon.  
**October 6** at SVFC at 1 p.m.  
**November 3** at SVFC at 1 p.m.  
**December 1** Holiday Party for members with paid up dues and 3 attended meetings at YMAC in Lambertville at Noon.

**All meetings are at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.**

### Senior Trips:

All activities require a reservation by calling Dorothy Kurzenberger at 908-782-0635 or Dorothy Gilde at 609-397-2097. Please make all checks payable to “Delaware Township Seniors Group.” Bus leaves from Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company in Sergeantsville.  
**September 29** Wednesday “Showboat” – Atlantic City, NJ Details to be announced. Bus departs 8:45 a.m. Leave for home 5 p.m. Home 7 p.m. Members Free and \$15 for Guests.  
**November 17** Wednesday – “The 2010 Christmas Show” 10:30 a.m. American Music Theatre Lancaster, PA Family Style Luncheon at Bird in Hand – 1 pm. Bus departs 8 a.m. Arrive home 5:30 p.m. \$55 for Members and \$60 for Guests.

### Classes for Seniors

Call 908-788-1359 for information about upcoming senior citizens’ activities and classes or check its website at [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging)

### Yoga for Seniors

The Hunterdon County Division of Senior Services offers yoga classes at the Township Building. The cost is \$25 for 8 sessions. There is a class at 9:30 a.m. and a second class at 11 a.m. You need a mat and comfortable clothing. Kim Karsh is a certified personal trainer and registered yoga teacher. Call 732-690-4000 to register for the next session.

### Delaware Township School Calendar

**September 2** Faculty/Staff report  
**September 7** Students report: first day of school year  
**September 9** School Closed. Staff Development  
**October 15** School Closed. K-5 Conferences 6-8: In-Service  
**October 22** School Closed. 6-8 Conferences K-5: In-Service  
**November 3** Early Dismissal. In-Service  
**November 4&5** School Closed. NJEA Convention  
**November 24** Early Dismissal  
**November 25 & 26** School Closed – Thanksgiving Recess

**DTS Board of Education** – Meets in Performing Arts Room Center at 7:30 p.m. on 9/28, 10/26, 11/23, and 12/14.

**Hunterdon Central Regional H.S. Board of Education** – Meets in IMC/Library at 7 p.m.: 9/20, 10/18, 11/15 and 12/20.

### Delaware Township Historical Society

The Delaware Township Historical Society usually meets on the third Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Delaware Township Municipal Building. New members are always welcome.

### [www.DelawareTwpNJ.org](http://www.DelawareTwpNJ.org)

Be sure to check the Township’s website for information about Delaware Township, board and committee agendas and minutes, and special notices and announcements.

## 8th Grade Essay Award Winner: Taylor Mast

*Editor’s Note: Eighth grade students at Delaware Township School submitted essays about a person they would memorialize. Members of the Delaware Township Committee selected the best essay written and presented the winner with a \$250 U.S. Savings Bond at the promotion ceremony. The winner’s name is engraved on a plaque displayed at Delaware Township School. This year’s winning essay was written by Taylor Mast, daughter of Bruce and Reath Mast.*

When you think of the people who try to make Delaware Township a better place to live, the first people that cross your mind are probably policemen, firefighters, the mayor, and the township committee. Although it is true that these people do make Delaware Township a better place to live, it’s impossible to ignore the local people around you. Herbert Culberson, commonly referred to as Herb or Herbie, was one of those local people that made Delaware Township a better place to live. Herb was a simple, well-known man who was born and raised in Delaware Township. He was a kind, hardworking, and devoted man that did all he could to make our community a better place to live, and he always did it with a smile on his face. He was a founding member of the Delaware Township Police Department, and one of the first policemen there; he was an Army veteran of World War II; and he was the crossing guard at the Delaware Township School for ten years. These are just a few of the things that he accomplished in his lifetime, but he should be honored for everything that he did.

In 1969, Herb became one of the founding members of the Delaware Township Police Department. He worked as a police officer for thirteen years after that. He devoted his time in the line of duty to keep the people of Delaware Township safe. He was born and raised here and he did all that he could to keep his hometown safe. Being a police officer isn’t an easy job. It’s hard enough to look after yourself, and adding a whole township to that doesn’t make life much easier, but Herb had the devotion to protect his township and keep it safe. Police officers, just like Herb, are basically real life superheroes.

Being an Army veteran of World War II was another accomplishment in his lifetime. It takes a great amount of courage and devotion to take a life-threatening risk and fight in a war, and anyone who takes that risk should be honored, especially Herb. He made contributions to the world, not just Delaware Township. Not only was Herb devoted to his community, he was devoted to his country. He was devoted enough to make the decision to travel to a foreign country and fight on foreign lands, always knowing there’s a chance that you won’t make it out alive. Herb was both courageous and devoted by fighting in World War II, and he should be honored for what he did because he was a fighter from Delaware Township that we all knew and loved.

Most recently, Herb was known for being the crossing guard at Delaware Township School. He was the crossing guard there for ten years, and out of all the things he did in life, this was his favorite. He took this job very seriously, and he always made sure that he was at the crosswalk every morning to get the kids to school safely. It was a very important task to him and no matter what he always made sure he was there on time to cross the kids to school. I asked one of Herb’s very good friends, my dad, Bruce Mast, about him, and he told me that he was completely dedicated to crossing the kids to school every day, and it was extremely important to him. He told me that during Herb’s time of illness, he told him that all he looked forward to was getting strong and healthy again so that he could go out and cross the kids to school every morning. Even the kids that didn’t walk to school every day knew who Herbie was. They would run up to him everyday to say a quick hello and give him a high five. Every day that Herbie stood outside waiting to walk the kids back home from school, I too would run up, say hello, and give him a big high five, and I knew that it made him happy.

After having said all this, I believe that the crosswalk in front of the Delaware Township School should become a memorial for Herb Culberson. It should be called the Herbert Culberson Memorial Crosswalk. Posted next to the crosswalk should be a plaque that have those words on it. It should also read, “This crosswalk is in honor of Herbert Culberson, a kind-hearted, hardworking, devoted man who will forever be remembered and missed.” Herb played a part in the township until the time of his illness. Officially making this crosswalk for him will allow us to honor him and everything he has done.

Herb was consistently a great joy to have in our community. He was always smiling and laughing, and being around him would always make you smile. Dedicating a plaque and the crosswalk to memorialize him will allow us to remember what a sweet, honorable man he was, and it will allow him to live on forever in our hearts, and in the community that he loved so dearly

### Township-Wide Yard Sale – September 11th

Clean out your clutter and make some money for your piggy bank! The Recreation Commission will host the Township-wide yard sale on Saturday, September 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Residents interested in participating should register at Township Hall by calling 609-397-3240, Ext. 205 no later than September 3. There is no fee to register for the sale. Maps locating participating households will be available for purchase beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the sale at Township Hall. The Township will advertise the sale in the Democrat.

### Sergeantsville Farmers' Market [www.sergeantsvillefarmersmarket.net](http://www.sergeantsvillefarmersmarket.net)

The Sergeantsville Farmers Market is open every Saturday morning from 8:30 till noon through September. New vendors are always welcome. Contact Jack Gaskill at 908-268-3641 for more information.

Sergeantsville Farmers’ Market brings you nature’s bounty, the best of your neighbors’ farms and gardens every Saturday morning! Tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, garlic, squash, cucumbers, eggplant, beans, peaches, melons, chicken, grass-fed beef, pork, sausage, bread, eggs, honey, and raw milk cheese are just some of the delicious selections, all grown locally, picked fresh.

## The Out Farm Buildings of Delaware Township: Part I

By Jim Drummond

The many functional buildings surrounding the farmhouses of Delaware Township tell a story of life in the township over the centuries. It often takes some thought to ascertain what particular buildings were designed to achieve, but virtually all of them did serve a functional purpose. The very placement of the structures was dictated by their functional use; the barn, for example, was often placed at a distance from the house to avoid sparks from the chimney. Many of these buildings are examples of "folk architecture" and used local materials and often built by the farmers themselves with no plan but just tradition and use as a guide.

Usually, the barn was central to farm activities. Many times, however, particularly in Delaware Township, there might not have been a central barn, but rather a smaller structure that was used as a wagon shed, carriage house or stable that today serves as a garage.

In a series of recent "field observations" and interviews in the township, I identified the following structures surrounding some of the historic farmhouses and buildings in the community: Smoke houses, Summer cooking houses, Slave or servants houses, Chicken coops (sheds), Privies or outhouses, Corn cribs, Carriage houses, Horse shelters, Root cellars, Woodsheds, Springhouses, Wagon sheds, and barns.

The barn was often the first building constructed and, though sturdy in construction, was deliberately designed to allow a free flow of air in order that fresh air would be available for the health of the animals. Most of these buildings were consequently very cold in winter.

Chicken coops were some of the last buildings put in place since chickens could fend for themselves and had plenty of shelter in other surrounding structures. Delaware Township has a wide variety of chicken shelters from the smaller "coop" with a shed roof and a couple of windows to the industrial-sized monoliths that were built in the 20th century to facilitate the huge egg production for the egg auction of the period.

Although, with today's refrigeration they have been converted to other uses, smokehouses were vitally important in the first centuries of life in our area. Pork from pigs was readily preserved over smoke from damp green wood and stored in the smokehouse, a small shed near the farmhouse. These buildings can be spotted by the overhanging vented roof eaves.

A number of corn cribs of various designs and styles are sprinkled throughout the township. Because of the need for a great deal of ventilation, they were "cribbed" (slats of wood along the walls with space between them). They were built long and narrow with an inward tilting shape toward the bottom; this, partly, so that the heavier load is on top with a small door at the bottom allowing the ears of corn to easily slip out. However, one farmer in town told me that the inward tilt was also meant to keep rain off the exposed grain.

There are also some existing "springhouses" today. This was a small structure built at the point of a fresh water source, a spring, and it not only provided drinking water for the family but also served as a place to keep milk, butter, and other perishable items. These emplacements were built of stone in Delaware Township with stone floors and white-

washed walls. Root cellars are very similar structures with a dirt floor below the frost line, little ventilation, and a constant temperature. These were mostly built into hillsides; there is a wonderful example of one in a hillside halfway between Sergeantsville and Ringoes on Route 604. There is also one along Route 523 going north at the old John McPherson farm.

Perhaps the most arresting example of "out-buildings" that still stand in Delaware Township are a number of structures that were probably slave or servants' houses. I initially assumed that they might be spring houses or even smoke houses; but on closer research they were obviously used as habitations since they have fireplaces, windows, and are quite secure from the outside elements. Many people today are unaware of the fact that New Jersey did have slaves before the Civil War with an intense concentration in Hunterdon County and particularly in Delaware Township. Two of these structures I am most familiar with are of stone construction and are solid edifices even today. One of these buildings was built over 200 years ago (1737) and appears to be ready for the next 200 years. They have served as "summer kitchens," storehouses, and other sundry uses over the years since slave and servant days.

*Next issue: carriage houses and outhouses.*

### Free Rabies Clinic

The Delaware Township Board of Health will sponsor a free rabies clinic on Saturday, December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Delaware Township Garage located at 816 Sergeantsville Road (Rt. 523) between Sergeantsville and Stockton. Please bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier. Pets must be rabies certified through 2011 in order to obtain a 2011 license. This clinic is for vaccinations only. We will not be accepting licensing information and payment at the clinic.

ALL DOGS AND CATS must be licensed in Delaware Township NO LATER THAN February 28, 2011 in order to avoid late fees. It is your obligation and your responsibility to license your pets. There will be a license form on the Township's website [www.delawaretpnj.org](http://www.delawaretpnj.org) and in the next newsletter. No form will be mailed to you. Even if you miss the newsletter and the clinic on December 4th, you are still responsible for meeting the licensing deadline. Fines for late registration are hefty! Remember – a vaccinated pet is a healthy pet! If you have questions or you no longer own a dog or cat, please let us know so that we can remove them from our system. Call Danene Gooding at 609-397-3240, Ext. 202.

NOTE: If you are not available to go to the Rabies Clinic on December 4th, other municipalities hold rabies clinics, and they are free to all NJ residents with their pets. Flemington Borough is having a free rabies clinic on Saturday, November 13th from 1-2 p.m. at 38 Park Avenue. Please call 908-782-8840 to confirm that Clinic. You will receive the required proof of vaccination at other rabies clinics to attach to your Delaware Township license application. For other Rabies Clinic dates and locations, please call the Hunterdon County Health Department at 908-788-1351.

## Planning Board Recommendations

In June 2010, the Planning Board unanimously passed and sent to the Township Committee a recommendation to change the zoning in Delaware Township to facilitate the Master Plan changes that were adopted in 2009.

One of the key provisions of the Master Plan is to continue to facilitate open space and farming. The new zoning has several provisions to encourage builders to permanently set aside open space within the development and to design the development to keep the open space contiguous with preserved lands and/or existing farmland.

Today, the Township is divided into two zones identified as "A1" and "A2." The A1 zone includes most of the prime agricultural soils and is zoned for 3-acre minimum building lots. The A2 zone includes areas where the soils do not lend themselves to farming, and is zoned for 6 acre minimum building lots. Hamlets are allowed under current zoning, with few restrictions on design or location.

The suggested changes to the zoning would eliminate the two zone division and make the minimum building lot six acres throughout the Township. It would also provide several options for development. They include: (1) A standard subdivision where all developed lots are 6 acres; (2) Lot averaging subdivisions, for tracts with a minimum of 24 acres. Homesites can be 3 acres in size, but the total number of sites can not exceed the number that would be allowed if developed on 6 acre lots; (3) Cluster subdivisions, for tracts with a minimum of 24 acres. Tracts must be developed on a site containing Statewide Important Soils and homesites can be 1.5 acres in size, but the total number of sites can not exceed the number that would be allowed if developed using 6-acres per site; or (4) Open Lands Subdivisions, for tracts that exceed 24 acres in size. Homesites can be 4 acres in size and the developer is allowed to build as though the zoning was 4 acres, provided that 75% of the tract is placed into open space.

The last proposed change would be for high density, or Hamlet housing but with greater control than under the current ordinance. For example, to build a hamlet, one needs at least 100 acres of property, would be limited to 77 units with a density based upon 3 acres per unit; 85% of the total land must be placed in permanent preservation; and the property must be located at least one mile from the center of Sergeantsville (intersection of County routes 523 and 604).

### White Oak Trail

The Delaware Township Environmental Commission thanks Joe Wiley for spearheading the creation of the White Oak Trail in Delaware Township. The Trail Dedication was held on June 12th. The Trail is maintained by the Commission with help from volunteers. It is a 0.9 mile hiking trail through approximately 140 acres of preserved woodlands. The NJ Dept of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, purchased the land from the Schuck Family of Delaware Township. The NJ State Park Service administers it.

The Trail is named for a prominent white oak tree on the property that represents the final stage of woodland evolution. The trail is comprised of two sections connected by a short walk along Quarry Road. Enter on northbound side of Rt. 29 about 500 feet south of the entrance to Bulls Island.

## Well Test Kits

The Delaware Township Environmental Commission and the South Branch Watershed Association (SBWA) co-sponsor a home well-testing program every year. The program allows homeowners to collect a sample of drinking water in their homes. The SBWA coordinates the sample analysis and provides homeowners with the results.

Water test kits will be available for Township residents to purchase from September 21st to September 30th at the Township Building and will be available at Community Day, September 25th. Please note you must use a check to purchase a kit!

Testing your well for chemical and biological contamination is very important since many contaminants can be harmful, even though they are tasteless and odorless. Public health authorities recommend annual testing.

Please note that the test kits are not as comprehensive as the testing required by the Private Well Testing Act and cannot be used for this purpose to sell your home.

Test results are strictly confidential between the SBWA and the homeowners who submit the samples. The Township only receives generic notice about the findings so that it can act in case of a public health concern.

The kits must be purchased with a check payable to the SBWA. Cash is not accepted. Filled sample containers must be returned to the Township Building on Friday October 1st between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Residents should strictly follow the instructions that come with the sample kits and drop off the kits and the completed paperwork.

Basic kits (coliform bacteria w/fecal coliform confirmation and nitrates) start at \$50. Additional tests carry additional fees: Lead: \$25; Volatile Organics: \$90; Arsenic: \$35; Pesticides: \$130; Radon: \$75; Iron: \$15; Manganese: \$15.

### Know the "Bear" Essentials

While it's not unusual to have sporadic bear sightings in the Township, this year's pattern of sightings leads Animal Control Officer Rich Kiselewsky to conclude that at least five or six bears have moved into the area. Kiselewsky reports that bears now have been spotted in all parts of the Township.

According to New Jersey's Division of Fish and Wildlife, black bears are the largest land mammal in New Jersey and a vital component of a healthy ecosystem. Bears generally are not considered a problem; but if encouraged to linger in residential areas, they can become a nuisance.

Following are some strategies the Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends:

- \* Put trash out on collection day rather than the night before and use bear-proof containers for trash kept outside.
- \* Rinse food cans and wrappers before disposal and periodically deodorize trash cans.
- \* Harvest fruit off trees as soon as it ripens and promptly collect fruit that falls.
- \* Limit using bird feeders to the coldest months of the year and hang feeders so they are inaccessible to bears.
- \* Don't keep an open compost pile.

Black bear damage or problem behavior may be reported to local police or to Animal Control at 908-507-8092.