

NEWS FROM THE

Bridge

COVERING DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

VOL. 10 No. 3 2007

General Election Day

When: Tuesday, November 6, 2007
Where: Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company, Rt. 523
Time: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Term Expiring: 12/31/07: Jim McCue
Local Vacancy: 1 Township Committee position
2007 Republican Candidate: Jim McCue
2007 Democrat Candidate: Michael Kronig

October 16: Last Day to Register to Vote for November General Election

October 30: Deadline for Civilian Absentee Ballot Application by Mail

November 3: County Clerk's Office open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for Absentee Ballot Voting

November 5: Deadline for Civilian Absentee Ballot Application in Person at the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office on Main Street in Flemington

Voter registrations and absentee ballot applications are available at the Township Building.

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Zoning Review Public Meeting Tuesday, September 11, 2007, 7:00pm

As the process of amending the Master Plan and Land Use Ordinance continues, the Township will host the third general public meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 7:00 pm. Like the first two meetings, this will be held in the Gym at Delaware Township School.

On March 24th, the Zoning Review Committee presented some initial findings. An "Agricultural Base Study" was completed, showing the significance of farming in the township's land use. Restrictions imposed by the availability of clean water were presented. Environmental restrictions were discussed and the inadequacy of the current zoning was explained. The July 14 meeting was an open forum for members of the public to share their concerns and hopes for the future of the township and these ideas have given the Committee a better sense of how to proceed. A summary of the ideas discussed at the meeting can be found on the township website: www.delawaretpnj.org

The September meeting will provide residents with several different concepts of how the township might be able to accomplish these goals and how new development might look. The Zoning Review Committee will present these concept plans in a generic fashion, designed to elicit input from the public. This important stage of the process will help to craft a guiding vision to support the development of the new master plan and land use ordinance for Delaware Township. Community input and feedback is very important in this process so your participation is vital. Some light desserts – cookies and juices will be provided. Come and participate in the future of your township.

Open Space Preservation Update

On June 25th, the Township closed on the purchase of the 65-acre "Brown Farm" on Sandy Ridge Road for permanent preservation as open space. At 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 20th, the Township will auction off the preserved farm to the highest bidder and off-set the cost of preserving the farm.

On Monday, October 15th, 7pm at Town Hall, the Delaware Township Open Space Committee will sponsor its annual Open Space Information Night to discuss progress, the State's upcoming referendum for open space funding, and other topics.

School Essay: Community Improvement

by Sonya Kowalczyk

Editor's note: Each year, 8th grade students at Delaware Township School submit essays on a community topic and the members of the Delaware Township Committee selected the best essay. The winner receives a \$250 U.S. Savings Bond and their name is engraved on a plaque displayed at Delaware Township School. This year's topic was "what you can do to improve your community" and the winning writer is Sonya Kowalczyk, daughter of Tom Kowalczyk and Jane Roosa.

Delaware Township is a wonderful community filled with kind and caring people. It has breath taking views with beautiful farms and long stretches of healthy, green grass. Delaware Township School has thoughtful teachers and positive students. All of the students are phenomenal and we know that our future is safe with them. Can any thing be done to make this great community even better?

The answer is yes. To start, some of the stunningly beautiful areas are being developed and turned into row after row of identical houses with hard concrete sidewalks and paved roads. Nobody wants our township to become another Raritan Township. To stop this, you must protest and save open space. You can write letters to committee members convincing them to prevent development. Try to support the local farmers and buy their produce. For instance, visit our township's farm market and buy fresh produce there. You can donate money to our township to prevent us from having to sell the open space. Furthermore, you can buy the open space and preserve it, preventing any further development on that region of land.

Another option is too help clean up the litter and trash in our community. You can participate in Clean-Up Day and walk down your own road to get rid of the litter. Encourage people to recycle paper, plastic, and glass by making signs and creating recycling bins in your classes. People need to understand the importance of having a clean environment and what problems can occur if your environment is not clean.

Additionally, you can help the stray animals in our community. If you see a pet along the side of a road, nowhere near a house, you should call the animal control officer or take them to the ASPCA. Pets are very important to people, so doing this small service could make one family very happy. You can also volunteer at the ASPCA or other non-profit organizations, such as local food shelters, Thanksgiving in the Country, and the Women Crisis Center.

Another way to improve our community is to become more involved in our school. I, for instance, help tutor younger students. These students try harder in the presence of middle school students and their tutors become responsible role models for the students. The tutors are able to learn more about other grades and connect with younger students. Tutoring is a great way to help our school and both students are able to benefit from the experience. I am also a student council officer. As an officer, I help out at local events in the school, such as the talent show and middle school dances. I also helped out with Red Ribbon Week, in which we promoted anti-drug messages and collected canned goods for families who are in need of food. In addition, the student council will be running "Play Your Favorite Song Week" and "Gum Day." All the money earned from these events will be donated to a cancer fund. These events will be fun and help a good cause. Even if you are not an officer, you can still help out in these events and be a

member of the student council. Every person can help participate and think of new ideas for student council.

Even just going to school with a positive attitude can help our community. One smile might change a person's outlook on a day. Encourage your peers and younger students to do their best and work hard. Give confidence to your fellow students and make sure they know that nothing is impossible. Prevent people from making fun of one another and if you see any teasing, stop it right away. Every person can help our community; I hope that you are one of them.

March on Litter Day: October 6

The Delaware Township Environmental Commission's 16th Annual March on Litter starts and ends at the Dilts Farm. 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.

The March will be held on October 6, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Dilts Farm Park, Rain or Shine.

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.

PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY AND WATCH FOR CHILDREN ON OUR ROADS!

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

Thanksgiving in the Country

The 34th annual Thanksgiving in the Country House Tour will take place on Saturday, November 3rd and Sunday, November 4th, 2007. Buses depart each day from 9a.m. until 4p.m. from the Delaware Township Municipal Building in Sergeantsville. Proceeds benefit the Facial Reconstruction Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Tickets/information 908-996-4677 or 609-397-3571, or visit our website at www.ThanksgivingintheCountry.com.

Several uniquely beautiful homes, including one with magnificent views of the Delaware River, will be on display this year. And, as always, our delicious home-cooked luncheon will be served at the Sergeantsville Methodist Church for \$8.00. At one of the stops along the tour, a complimentary tea with cookies will also be served.

This year, Thanksgiving in the Country is sponsoring 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 4. You do not need to be present to win.

Over \$400,000 has been donated to the Hospital over the last 34 years.

We need many volunteers to assist that weekend, so please call if you can help. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Historic Designation Update: The Next Chapter

The final draft of the formal nomination for Sergeantsville's inclusion in the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places is rapidly nearing completion and will soon be ready for submission to the New Jersey State Review Board of Historic Sites. Delaware Township's historic designation consulting firm, Dennis Bertland Associates, will submit the finished document to township officials during August for final review before it is forwarded to the New Jersey Office of Historic Preservation. The township's Historical Designation Committee anticipates that the nomination for the State and National Registers will be considered at the State Review Board's first meeting of 2008.

Since the designation process began, the Historical Designation Committee, with the assistance of the Delaware Township Historical Society, conducted a walking tour of Sergeantsville on May 19, 2007, and held a public information meeting for the residents of Sergeantsville on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at the Township Municipal Building. Historic consultant Dennis Bertland made a presentation at the June 21 meeting, providing details about the historic designation process and displaying a map of the proposed Sergeantsville historic district. The map is currently on view at the Delaware Township Municipal Building and displays the boundaries of the historic district and whether each dwelling is considered to be contributing or non-contributing within the definitions of the historic designation process.

Listing Sergeantsville on the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places will:

- * Provide recognition that the area is of historic and cultural significance to the nation, state, and community.
- * Protect against projects of the federal, state, county and municipal governments that may affect the designated areas. All government projects would be subject to additional scrutiny to consider their impact on the historic, cultural, and scenic features of the properties included on the Registers of Historic Places.
- * Designation may confer tax and funding benefits to groups seeking federal assistance for historic preservation.

And again, designation on the National and New Jersey Registers does NOT:

- * Place any restraint on the individual property owner's use of their property that is not already established by current municipal ordinances. Individual property owners will still retain all their traditional freedoms of choice concerning their property's decorative and architectural features (house color, additions, porch addition or removal, barns, etc.)
- * Interfere with a private property owner's right to alter, manage, or dispose of property.

Once the formal nomination is forwarded to the State, Sergeantsville property owners will receive further information on the historic designation process and be invited to a public meeting for further discussion of Sergeantsville's inclusion on the National and New Jersey Registers. More information about the Historic Designation process is available at the Delaware Township Municipal Building or at New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's web site in an article entitled "Historic Preservation" at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/4sustain/hparticle.pdf>

In September, the township Historic Designation Committee will begin to plan for the inclusion of the Rosemont Ridge area on the National and State Registers. With the continuing support of Delaware Township's residents, the Historic Designation Committee will continue the effort to ensure that historic designation works to protect our shared historic, scenic and cultural heritage.

Well Water Test Kits

Available September 17th through October 1st

Water test kits will be available to Township residents from September 17 through October 1. The home well-testing program, which has been conducted for the past several years, is co-sponsored by the Environmental Commission and the South Branch Watershed Association. The program allows homeowners to collect a sample of drinking water in their homes. The South Branch Watershed Association will coordinate the collection analysis of the samples and provide homeowners with the results.

Testing your well for chemical and biological contamination is important, since many contaminants can be harmful even though they are tasteless and odorless. Public health authorities recommend annual testing. If your well has not been tested for the past several years, now is the time. Last year, of the 35 tests completed, eight wells tested positive for coliform bacteria and one tested positive for fecal coliform.

Coliform is a bacterium present in the human gut. It enters drinking water through septic systems that may be too close or malfunctioning, or through a damaged well casing. Coliform contamination is colorless and odorless, and can only be detected by sampling and analysis. Coliform is an indicator organism, and is easily and inexpensively detected.

Arsenic contamination is another potential cause of concern. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is compiling a database of public wells where toxic metal arsenic has been detected. Since the geological formations where arsenic occurs are present in some parts of the Township, testing for arsenic is also recommended.

Residents who live near old dumpsites or industrial areas, where drinking water may be at risk, may want to purchase additional tests in addition to the Basic Kit. The test for volatile organics measures 32 different toxics, including solvents. Residents who are concerned about pesticide spraying near their homes may want to purchase tests for pesticides.

Please note that the test kits are not as comprehensive as the testing required by the Private Well Testing Act. They CAN NOT be used for this purpose if you are selling your home.

Test results are strictly confidential between the South Branch Watershed Association and the homeowners who submit the samples. The Township will not receive detailed results of the testing.

Water test kits will be available at the Township Building from September 17 through October 1. The kits may be purchased by a check payable to the South Branch Watershed Association — cash not accepted. Township Building office hours are 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and Wednesday evening 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Collection of filled sample containers will be at the Township building on Wed. October 3rd and Mon. October 8, from 8 to 9 A.M. on both days. Residents should follow the instructions that come with the sample kits and drop them off together with the completed paperwork.

For info: Call the town hall: 609-397-3240

Test kit prices are:

Basic kits, coliform bacteria with fecal coliform confirmation and nitrates \$50

Lead \$25

Volatile organics (including arsenic) \$90

Pesticides \$130 Iron \$15 Manganese \$15

Meet Your Neighbors: David Rago and Suzanne Perrault

By Deborah Sussna

For a few brief minutes of each episode you may see David Rago on the PBS series, "Antiques Road Show." This may or may not happen after he has spent twelve-hours on a Saturday sitting at a table appraising the pottery and ceramics of people who brought their treasures to determine their value. These sessions are held at two-week intervals during the summer as several episodes are filmed in six locations around the country. David calls them "antiques summer camp." He enjoys it although it is hard. He has become close friends with the people who put on the show and with the other dealers as they all work together.

When not working on the show David and his wife, Suzanne Perrault, run the Rago Arts and Auction Center in Lambertville. Here they and their staff appraise items on a walk-in basis on Monday afternoons. In addition, ten weekends a year, they call out the auctions of fine and decorative arts, furniture and jewelry. These items range in price from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of dollars. As many as four hundred lots may be sold on a given day to absentee bidders or to others who call in bids as staff answer a bank of phones. Bids also come in through eBay, and are placed by those in the audience.

David, a native of Hamilton, NJ, began his career as a sixteen-year-old selling at the Lambertville Flea Market. He attended Trenton State College, (now The College of New Jersey) and began learning about antiques and particularly about ceramics and porcelains by reading and experience. He started out selling to the Jordan-Volpe Gallery in New York and then worked there. In 1984 he began holding his own auctions first in the Meadowlands, the Greenwich Auction Room, and in New Haven, Connecticut. David started out selling Arts and Crafts decorative arts and furniture and later added modern pieces. He hired specialists in these and other areas and created a general auction house.

Suzanne, a native of Quebec, and a graduate of McGill University with a major in English and minor in art history, had worked as a model. She moved to NYC and began modeling but found it very competitive so she went to work at Barton Kaplan Antiques. When the owner, a client of David's, died, David helped dispose of the gallery contents and he and Suzanne became friends, marrying in 1993. They live with their seventeen-year-old cat, Laxmi in a 1970 post-and-beam house near Stockton that was designed by William Hunt.

The factory building on Route 29 at the north end of Lambertville seemed like an ideal facility for their auction house although they thought locating outside of New York would be a challenge. However, they have found that their clients prefer coming to Lambertville, rents are lower, and it is easier to unload trucks and to ship items. The Internet has helped sales grow internationally and they have clients all over the world. Suzanne's knowledge of French, her native tongue, helps her work with many of these clients.

David and Suzanne open their building for fundraisers and after 9/11 hosted a party for the police, fire and first aid squads. They also contribute to the community by calling the poster auction at the Lambertville Shad Festival. Suzanne serves on the board of F.A.C.T. (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together), an organization that handles emergency requests for financial assistance for people who have been turned down by other agencies. It supports social service agencies dedicated to educating the community about AIDS/HIV, and has raised over \$1 million to support its mission.

In their free time, Suzanne and David ski, play tennis, enjoy cooking, and travel. Their destinations have included Morocco, Japan, and Rome, but Egypt stands out as the most exotic and spectacular country that they have visited.

Rabies Clinic: December 1st

The Delaware Township Board of Health will sponsor a free rabies clinic on Saturday, December 1st from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Delaware Township Garage on Rt. 523 between Sergeantsville and Stockton. Please bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier. Pets must be rabies certified through 2008 in order to obtain a 2008 license.

ALL DOGS AND CATS must be licensed in Delaware Township NO LATER THAN February 28, 2008 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 new website www.DelawareTwpNj.org and in the next newsletter. No form will be mailed to you. Even if you miss the newsletter and the clinic on December 1st, you are still responsible for meeting the licensing deadline. Fines for late registration are hefty! Remember - a vaccinated pet is a healthy pet! Questions? Please call Danene at 609-397-3240, Ext. 10.

NOTE: If you are not available to go to the Rabies Clinic on December 1st, 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 3rd 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 from Flemington 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Clean Up Day

The Hunterdon County Utilities Authority is sponsoring a household hazardous waste clean up day on November 10, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hunterdon County Complex on Rt. 12. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to dispose of such items as motor oil, pesticides, insecticides, gasoline and kerosene, oil-based paint, and other items. In addition, the County will accept car and household batteries. It is difficult to find opportunities to dispose of these particular items, so take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of these items safely. The county will not accept electronics, tires, air conditioners, computers, monitors and propane tanks on this date. For more information email hcu@co.hunterdon.nj.us or telephone 908-788-1110.

Petroleum Underground Storage Tanks

The NJ DEP has a grant and loan program available to both home-owners and commercial property owners for funding remediation of contamination caused by leaking underground storage tanks. It also awards grants for the proactive removal and replacement of home-owner heating oil tanks. Eligibility requirements apply to both the leaking and the non-leaking tank programs. Check out www.nj.gov/dep/srp/finance/ust_fund/ and www.njeda.com/ust_funding.asp. Information: 609-777-0101.

Indian Heritage: Part One

by James Drummond, Township Historian

Delaware Township occupies one of the most important historic Native American sites in New Jersey. That Indian heritage stretches back to at least 5430 B.C., as established from carbon dating obtained in an archeological "dig" conducted a few years ago by Seton Hall University in a charcoal pit along the Delaware River not far north of the Township. Over the following hundreds of years the Native Americans in the Delaware Township locale established, evolved, and maintained a viable culture on the land occupied by the Township today.

There were about 12,000 native inhabitants in what is now New Jersey when the Europeans first came to America in the late 1400's. A prime focus of aboriginal life during that period was the Delaware River as well as other major New Jersey rivers and tributaries since there was such an abundance of fish in the waters and game in the surrounding territory. The Delaware Township location was a particularly active Indian area because of the Delaware River and its many tributary streams but also because important Indian trails passed through and near the Township. For example, two of the main east coast Indian trails followed routes that were very close to present day Route 202 and nearby Route 95.

A series of archeological digs over the past forty years conducted quite near Delaware Township at Byram and Flemington as well as just upriver at "Harry's Farm" and downriver at "Abbott's Farm" near Trenton unearthed a great deal of material that has given new insights into how these early people lived. Local lore is also a strong source of data concerning the Indians. Some local people give accounts of many artifacts having been unearthed over the years in fields around the area. Two longtime residents tell of the field that lies just south of Lambertville between the Mercer County prison and the Delaware River yielding a constant treasure trove of Indian artifacts when it was farmed by inmates from the Mercer County workhouse. Early Hunterdon County settlers also left a great deal of anecdotal evidence concerning Indian life in the Township and surrounding environs. Those accounts all pointed to the Raven Rock area in the Township as being an important Indian settlement. Another large "band" of Indians was said to have lived along the Wickecheoke Creek just below the present site of the covered bridge. These were only two of the prime areas of Indian settlement because virtually every stream of whatever size had significant villages at various points along the flowing water.

The native people of the larger New Jersey area belonged to the tribal group called the Lenni-Lenape. The Route 202 Indian trail mentioned above, for example, was called the Lenni-Lenape Path and is a strong indicator of the local Indian connection to the larger tribal group. The meaning of the word Lenape (Lenni has the same meaning and is in effect a redundancy) was defined as a "real person" or an "ordinary person"-the connotation being "common" or "ordinary people."

The Lenape were looked upon by other tribes, including their enemies, as having an elevated status. They were considered the "grandfathers" in recognition that they were one of the oldest tribes. Archeologists have established the Lenape people as being among the first of the Indian tribes arriving thousands of years ago; they were the "original people."

New Jersey had three linguistic sub-groups: one in the north above the Raritan River running at an angle to the Delaware Water Gap, another in the central area from below the Raritan River to just below present day Trenton, and a third below Trenton in South

Jersey. The Delaware Township Indian bands were of the Unami group, which meant "a person down river" and they resided in the central area. The names of the smaller bands that lived in the Delaware Township area itself were called, in the Indian language, the Sankhikan and Assayunk as reported by early European explorers.

Historical Society Begins 4th Year New Meeting Night: Third Thursday

The Delaware Township Historical Society (DTHS) has accomplished much in the past three years and is busy in many new areas as well.

Our Historic House Documentation project is progressing and we have a backlog of properties for research. The One-Room School Experience oral history project is already in usable form and ready for additions. The Our Town video history is making steady progress. This spring we sponsored the first annual Antiques in the Country show and sale, which was a great success. In addition, we have received a second year matching grant and are applying for a third -- from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission. The Society is cooperating with the township and residents on the Sergeantsville Historic Designation project and began discussions with other area historical organizations to share activities.

In order to avoid scheduling conflicts with other township meetings, we will move our monthly meetings to the **THIRD THURSDAY** of the month at 8 PM in the Municipal Building, unless otherwise announced. Upcoming program plans:

Sept. 20 - Eric Knappe and others will tour us through our fabulous new website (delawaretownshiphistoricalsociety.org) and explain the many features.

Oct. (date to be announced) - **COMMUNITY BARN DANCE**

Nov. 15: Annual business meeting and election of new officers

Dec. 16 (Sunday): Christmas party for members

Feb. 21: Kenneth Cummings speaks on Agriculture in Delaware Township, in conjunction with Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead.

Mar. 20: Topic of particular interest for women, to be announced.

Apr. 17: Members Marilyn Cummings and Carla Cielo present Part 2 of their ongoing series on the dating of Old Houses.

May 3 (Saturday): Second annual ANTIQUES IN THE COUNTRY Show & Sale, Delaware Township School.

June 19: Topic of particular interest for children, to be announced.

To Join: Fill in the application and mail with check to:

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 500, Sergeantsville, NJ 08557 (Ph. 609-397-9317)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/E-mail: _____ / _____

___ Individual or Family \$25

___ Supporting Member \$100

___ Corporate \$500

Community Calendar

- September 3** Labor Day - Township Offices Closed
September 8 Township Wide Yard Sale
September 29 Community Day Noon to 6 p.m. at Dilts Farm Park on Buchanan Rd.
October 6 March on Litter Day
October 8 Columbus Day - Township Offices Closed
October 28 SVFC Halloween Parade 2pm
October 31 Halloween
November 3 & 4 Thanksgiving in the Country Annual House Tour
November 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends - Fall back!
November 6 Election Day 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Vote at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Co.
November 10 Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day - Hunterdon County Library from 9a.m. to 1p.m. Info: 908-788-1110
November 12 Veterans Day - Township Offices Closed
November 22 Thanksgiving Day - Township Offices Closed
November 23 Township Offices Closed
December 1 Free Rabies Clinic at Township Garage, Rt. 523 10 a.m. to Noon
December 1 Recreation Commission Trip to Radio City Music Hall

Township Committee: (usually Mondays) 8 p.m. on 9/10, 9/24, Tuesday 10/9, 10/29, 11/12, 11/26, and 12/10.

Planning Board: (usually Tuesdays) 8 p.m. on 9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, Wednesday, 11/7, 11/20 and 12/4.

Board of Health: (usually Mondays) 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 9/5, 10/1, 11/5 and 12/3.

Open Space Committee: (usually Mondays) 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 9/5, 10/1, 11/5 and 12/3.

Board of Adjustment: (usually Thursdays) 7:30 p.m. on 9/6, 9/27, 10/11, 11/8 11/29, and 12/13.

Recreation Commission: (usually Tuesdays) 7:30 p.m. on 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, and 12/11.

Environmental Commission: (usually Wednesdays) 7:30 p.m. on 9/19, 10/17, 11/21, and 12/19.

Agricultural Advisory Committee: (usually Tuesdays) 7:00 p.m. on 9/18, 10/16, 11/20, and 12/18.

Shade Tree Commission: (usually Thursdays) 7:00 p.m. on 9/27, 10/25, 11/29, and 12/27.

D.T.M.U.A.: 7:30 p.m. on 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, and 12/6.

Recycling Depot: Saturdays - 9/29, 10/27, and 11/24, and 12/29 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Delaware Township Garage on Rt. 523.

Senior Citizens

Membership info: Mary Hoff 609-397-2505.

Sept. 5 Covered Dish Picnic at the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company at Noon.

October 3 at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company at 1 p.m.

November 7 at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company at 1 p.m.

December 5 Holiday Party for members with paid up dues at YMAC in Lambertville at Noon.

Senior Trips:

All activities require a reservation by calling Dorothy Kurzenberger at 908-782-0635 or Jeanette Dilley at 908-788-9435 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.

October 4 Thursday: October Fest at Doolans in Spring Lake, NJ. John Stanky "The Bavarian Coalminers" 1 hour open bar, wine and soda with lunch. Bus departs 9:30 a.m. Arrive home around 5:30 to 6 p.m. \$42 for Members and Guests.

November 27 Tuesday: Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - Show "A Playhouse Christmas" Choice of menu provided when signing up. Everyone provides own transportation. Lunch begins at 11 a.m. \$52 for Members and Guests.

December 5 Wednesday: Free Christmas party for members (dues paid up and attended 3 meetings) Y.M.A.C., 65 Wilson St., Lambertville, NJ 12 Noon

Classes for Seniors

Information: 908-788-1359 or check the website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging

Delaware Township School Calendar

- Sept. 4** Faculty/Staff report
Sept. 5 Students report for first day of 2007-2008 school year
Sept. 13 Staff Development - School Closed
October 9 1:30 p.m. Dismissal - In-Service.
October 16 School closed. K - 5 Conferences 6 - 8 In-Service
Nov. 6 Early Dismissal - In-Service.
Nov. 7 School closed. 6-8 Conferences K-5 In-Service
Nov. 8 School Closed NJEA Convention
Nov. 9 School Closed NJEA Convention
Nov. 21 1:30 p.m. Dismissal
Nov. 22 & 23 School Closed - Thanksgiving Recess

DTS Board of Education - Meets in Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on 9/25, 10/23, 11/27, and 12/18.

Amwell Church of the Brethren

40 Sandbrook Headquarters Rd., Stockton, NJ 08559 Phone 609-397-4842 Fax 609-397-9445 www.amwell.com

September 28 and 29: Rummage Sale/Flea Market 9a.m.-1 p.m.

October 4: Limited Church Auction 6:30 p.m.

November 21: Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 p.m.

Youth Groups: Call the following for schedules:

Olympians - K through 5th grade:

Susan at 908-782-3604 or Tanya 908-996-6494

6th grade through High School:

Pastor Bob at 609-397-3351

Sergeantsville Farmer's Market

Open every Saturday morning from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm, across from Town Hall. Jersey Fresh tomatoes, peaches, corn, blackberries, raspberries, beans, cucumbers, garlic, honey, scallions, eggplants, squash, peppers, and more! Picked fresh and brought right to the market. Kissimmee River Pots and Hey Pony Lady have joined our craftspeople.

All Meetings are at the Town Hall Unless Otherwise Noted.

Recreation Commission Activities

New Playground for Sara Dilts Park

A group of local parents is spearheading an effort to raise funds for a new playground at Dilts Park. The current playground, installed more than 15 years ago, will be demolished in October due to new and costly state safety standards. Local financial support is a key element in the effort to raise the nearly \$40,000 required for a new playground. Please mail your tax deductible donation payable to the Delaware Township Recreation Commission with a note on the memo line that your check is for the new playground. Address: Delaware Township Recreation Commission P.O. Box 500 Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

Anyone interested in joining this effort to improve Dilts Park for all residents should call Recreation Commission Vice Chairperson Chris Antar at 908-782-7885.

Township Wide Yard Sale: September 8th

The Recreation Commission will host the Township-wide yard sale on Saturday, September 8 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. 13 no later than August 31. 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.

Community Day: Saturday, September 29th

The Township will hold its annual Community Day on Saturday, September 29 from noon to 6 pm at Dilts Park on Buchanan Road. This year's attractions will include music, hay rides, hot air balloons, fire trucks, rides, and games. Representatives from local government, businesses, volunteer organizations, and other community groups will be on hand to share information about their work. Admission to the event is free. There will be a small admission fee for rides. There is no rain date for this event. The Recreation Commission is in need of volunteers who can donate two hours of their time that day to keep this event fun and safe. Please call Community Day Coordinator Chris Antar at 908-782-7885 for more information.

Holiday Trip to Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall

Kick off your holiday season with the 75th Annual Christmas Spectacular Show on December 1. This year's production features three new numbers by the world-famous Rockettes, snow falling inside Radio City Music Hall, and a brilliant onstage fireworks display.

A coach has also been chartered to take our group to and from Manhattan. It will pick up and drop off passengers in the Township Building parking lot leaving at 1 p.m., returning between 9 and 10 p.m. The total cost for this trip is \$90/person, which includes a seat on the chartered bus and a Christmas Spectacular ticket. We only have a limited number of tickets. To secure your place(s), please give your check payable to Delaware Township to Judy Allen at the Township Building ASAP. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Your check holds your place. If you have any questions about the trip, please contact Kristen Devlin at 609-397-5610.

Holiday Decorating Contest

Get out your holiday lights and decorations. The Annual Delaware Township Holiday Decorating Contest will take place a week later this year. The initial judging will be on the weekend of December 15 and 16, with the final judging happening on the night of December 18. Please remember to turn your lights on. Call the Township Building if your house is off the beaten path and you want it considered in the judging.

Basketball and Volleyball Recreation

As of press time, the Recreation Commission requested permission from Delaware Township School Board of Education to hold the following recreational activities.

Approval from DTS is first required. These dates and times are tentative only. These activities are not held when there is no school that day. DTS activities take precedence over Recreation Commission activities. These recreational activities are available to Township residents only.

All skill levels are welcome! The games are friendly and lots of fun. Come once or come every time.

Adult men's basketball on Tuesday and Thursday nights, 7 to 10:00 p.m. at DTS cafeteria 10/3, 10/2, 10/4, 10/9, 10/11, 10/16, 10/18, 10/23, 10/25, 10/30, 11/1, 11/6, 11/13, 11/15, 11/20, 11/27, 11/29, 12/4, 12/6, 12/11, and 12/13.

Adult women's basketball on Monday nights, 7 to 10:00 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/3 and 12/10.

Adult Coed volleyball on Wednesday nights, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/28, and 12/5.

Teen Coed basketball and/or volleyball on Friday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on dates to be announced. Please call 397-3240 for dates.

State Ballot Question to Fund Farmland and Open Space Preservation

The November ballot will contain a question asking voters to authorize the State to borrow \$200 million to continue funding the State Farmland and Open Space Preservation Programs. Delaware Township relies heavily on this funding in its farmland and open space preservation program. The State programs provide a significant portion (often 50% or more) of the money used to purchase development rights and properties in the township. Without the State funding, the township's program will be severally limited and may have to stop altogether. You can help Delaware Township continue its open space program by voting "yes" on the State Ballot Question.

Halloween Parade

The Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company Halloween Parade is October 28th starting at Delaware Township school at 2 p.m. Come out and see the costumes!

Sump Pumps and Floods

A year ago, on July 21st, we had a deluge that dramatized the drainage problems in Sergeantsville and the erosion and flooding of Rose Brook. In response, the Township is undertaking a feasibility study with Princeton Hydro, a local engineering firm, to identify opportunities to mitigate the flooding. Because the entire watershed of Rose Brook is within Delaware Township, we have the chance to address many residents' concerns about drainage, including flooding from local roads. This study will serve as a prototype for solving watershed management throughout the Township.

As part of this study, the Stormwater Committee is working with the Road and Bridge Committee to map the Townships drainage issues, including the extent of flooding in the past. If you have information you would like to have included or would like to help with this effort, please contact Leslie Sauer at (609)397-8248 or via e-mail at bluestem@patmedia.net or Gary Hinesley at (609)397-6472, or via e-mail at ghinesley@comcast.net.

Township Web Site

The Delaware Township website is up and running. Find out about upcoming community events, access quick links to municipal phone directory, get copies of forms and permits, view agendas and minutes from the local boards, view pictures taken from around the Township, read resident advisories, and look at the monthly calendars.

www.DelawareTwpNJ.org

The Newsletter Committee:

Editor: Susan Lockwood

Editorial Board: Judy Allen, Mary Coffey, Jim Drummond, Deborah Sussna, and Ann Zeloof.

Logo Design: Christopher Dane

Mailing Support: Carol Aron, Betty Fleming, Kiersten Frenchu, Linda Gage, Mindi Martinez, and Teresa Stahl

Layout and DTP: Russ Lockwood

Tree Tips

Joyce Kilmer once said: "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree..." And it is true. Trees provide us with cool shade in the summer, and cords of wood for heat in the winter. Less apparently, trees are also instrumental in water retention, cleaner air, and the improvement of property values.

We sometimes do not think about the value of trees until they disappear. Unfortunately, the health of trees in many New Jersey communities is in obvious decline. Budget cuts, lawsuits, diseases, improper tree maintenance, and lack of awareness have all contributed to the loss of trees.

The NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Act, passed in 1996, reflects the importance of trees. Under the Act, a local community Forestry Management Plan has been put into place, and trained volunteers work with local or county employees to help decrease tree maintenance costs and hazardous tree situations (such as a tree on public land falling across a road). The Plan also gives localities the opportunity to apply for grants. These grants may include community plans for public education about trees, insect and disease control, and especially for tree planting and maintenance. The Plan also calls for a renewable five-year plan focusing on community trees (on public, not private, property) and requires the community to have a vision as to where they would wish trees to be planted.

The Delaware Township Shade Tree Commission applied for and received two grants; one for trees bordering the road to the elementary school; the other for trees to be planted along Rt. 604 in front of the to-be-built low-income senior citizens housing (NORWESCAP). Previous grants have supported tree planting in Dilts Park, as well as pruning out the dead trees and wood in the woods surrounding the trails to make the park safer.

Shade Tree Commission officer Les Alpaugh reports that they will be re-doing the Plan this fall, funded by a third grant. He encourages anyone with a visionary idea about the planting of future trees on public lands to attend their meetings.

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Township Yard Sale: September 8
Community Day: September 29
March on Litter Day: October 6
Halloween Parade: October 28
Thanksgiving in the Country: Nov. 3,4
RabiesClinic: December 1