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NEWS FROM THE  
**Bridge**  
COVERING DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 12 No. 4 2009

### LIHEAP

**T**he Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is a federally funded program that provides low-income households, including renters, with assistance in paying heating bills. For eligibility, the maximum gross income levels are \$1,950 per month for a single resident and \$2,623 per month for a couple. Participants in this program are not limited in how they heat their home. Heating can include electricity, natural gas, oil, kerosene, wood, coal or propane. Call 1-800-510-3102 or call the Division of Senior Services.

### NJ Shares

**T**he NJ Statewide Heating Assistance and Referral for Energy Services is a private, non-profit corporation which provides assistance through a statewide, year round independent energy fund. NJ Shares provides a one-time grant for those who experienced a major financial setback. There is no income requirement. Recipients are asked to show other sources of assistance and that they have made a good faith effort to pay their energy bill. The program provides a one time grant of up to \$250 for natural gas and \$250 for electricity or \$500 for an all electric home. Call Senator Marcia Karrow at 908-782-5127.

### The Newsletter Committee

**Editor:** Susan Lockwood

**Editorial Board:** Judy Allen, Mary Coffey, Jim Drummond, Janet McMahon, Randy Norris, Alison Wehringer, Ann Zeloof

**Logo Design:** Christopher Dane

**Mailing Support:** Ginger Hunt, Rose Johnson, Mindi Martinez, Betsy Saja, Arlene Spontnitz, Kathy Superior, Teresa Stahl.

**Layout and DTP:** Russ Lockwood

### Active Recreational Opportunities

**I**t's not too late to join the group of residents who are playing basketball and volleyball. All skill levels are welcome, so come on out and participate.

Adult and teen recreational activities continue at Delaware Township School. They are looking for additional players. Thank you to the Delaware Township Board of Education for scheduling time for these opportunities. Play began in October and will continue through March. New players of all levels are welcome!

**Adult men's basketball on Tuesday and Thursday nights,** 7 to 10:00 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on 12/1, 12/3, 12/15, 12/22, 1/5, 1/7, 1/12, 1/14, 1/19, 1/26, 1/28, 2/2, 2/4, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 2/25, 3/2, 3/4: Beginning 3/9 – Site to be Determined. (later dates in next newsletter).

**Adult women's basketball on Monday nights,** 7 to 10:00 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on 12/14, 12/21, 1/4, 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/22, and 3/1 Beginning 3/8 – Site to be Determined. (later dates in next newsletter)

**Adult coed volleyball on Wednesday nights,** 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on 12/2, 12/16, 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, and 2/24, 3/3 (later dates in next newsletter)

**Teen coed basketball and/or volleyball on Friday nights,** 7 to 9 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on 12/4, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5 and 3/19 (last night)

When school is closed due to inclement weather, early dismissals or holidays, the facilities are not available during these dates and times.

Dates may be changed or deleted due to the scheduling of the facilities for school functions.

### General Election Results

**A**t the November 3, 2009 General Election, voters elected Roger Locandro and Ken Novak to fill two, three-year positions on the Township Committee.

### Locktown Stone Church

**M**ark Zdepski reports that the Mimi Conklin Upmeyer Concert Series just concluded another successful season.

You can view a write-up about the performers at [www.locktownstonechurch.org](http://www.locktownstonechurch.org) under the "Events" tab. The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church have had this website for several years, which was prepared by Marfy Goodspeed and her sister Dorothy Rankin, but this year it was linked to the Delaware Township website.

Moving into the Information Age hasn't come easily. We encourage you to visit the website, as we plan on increasing our presence and communication using this medium. The website gives a history of the Locktown Stone Church and the preservation efforts. We are currently engaged in repair to the stone wall surrounding the courtyard and hope it will be finished by the time you read this article.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Animal Licensing Form**

**Township History Book**

**Meet Your Neighbor: Barbara McConnell**

**Community Calendar: Events**

**Rosemont Historic Designation**

**Volunteers Wanted**

**Volunteer of the Year: Laura Darby**

**Employee of the Year: Diane McDaniel**

**Free Rabies Clinic: December 5, 2009**

### Editorial

**W**e live in a wonderful place. I'm sure you already know and appreciate that, but now and then something happens to reinforce that notion. In 2009, I had two standout incidents that made me appreciate, yet again, how unique Delaware Township is.

Early in the year, my very sick pet needed special food and it was just turning to evening. I mentioned that to a friend who suggested I call the Sergeantsville Grain and Feed even though it was closed. Sure enough, Jim McCue was still there and when I told him my problem, he said he would leave food outside the store. I immediately went over and caught him just as he was leaving, but I was touched by his kindness and the knowledge that something like this could only happen in a small town like Delaware Township.

Later this year, I was collecting well test kits early in the morning at the Town Hall. With 20 minutes left for kit return, the majority of folks had not yet arrived and I began making phone calls to remind people. While I was making a call, a resident, Virginia Mickle, came in with her kit. I finished the call, and checked her in. Then she offered to call the rest of the folks on my list! We set her up with a phone and she proceeded to make all the rest of the calls while I checked people in as they arrived. Thanks to her help, all but one person returned their kit. I thanked her profusely and again marveled at what a wonderful place this is with special people like Ms. Mickle, who volunteered on the spot to help fellow residents of the Township.

Finally, I want to say thank you to Rich Madden, Alan Johnson, and Jim McCue as they leave the Township Committee. Each has been an asset to the Township, and has governed with honesty and integrity. It has been a pleasure to serve with them.

From me and the Township Committee, to all the volunteers who give so much, to all the employees who make the Township function, and to each of you who make Delaware Township the wonderful place that it is, Happy Holidays and best wishes for a safe and healthy 2010!

— Susan Lockwood



## Update: Rte. 523 Bridge in Sandbrook

The replacement of the bridge on Route 523 in Sandbrook has been a learning experience and a trial of patience for everyone involved. Although the Township was aware of the timing of the bridge work, the Township and County underestimated the magnitude of the inconvenience and issues that would accompany the bridge work.

For example, the County informed the Township about the selected detour intended to keep the several thousand cars that daily use Route 523, on County Roads where they could move at higher speeds and with greater safety. However, the road was closed and no detour signs were posted by the County on the first day which caused thousands of cars to find it necessary to turn around on Route 523 and to drive down Sandbrook-HQ Road.

When the detour was posted, the signs were still unclear and residents of Sandbrook continued to fear for their safety as hundreds of cars attempted to commute on Sandbrook-HQ Road. If you cannot imagine the danger and inconvenience experienced by Sandbrook residents, imagine several thousand cars traversing your driveway every morning and evening. Homes in Sandbrook are very close to the road and have short, if any, driveways. Sandbrook-HQ Road provides direct access to their homes.

The residents of Sandbrook appeared before the Township Committee at the first meeting after the detour was posted and requested additional assistance. There were many near-accidents, and mailboxes were knocked down by commuters travelling too fast on the narrow, curvy road.

Residents made several suggestions ranging from completely closing Sandbrook-HQ Road, making it one way, posting a policeman in Sandbrook, making the detour signs clearer, and the use of speed bumps.

The Township Committee met with the County Road Department and the Township's Police and Roads Department-heads to consider what could be done quickly and efficiently. The Township agreed to purchase and install speed bumps, and assign a police officer to Sandbrook-HQ Road. The County agreed to revise the signage to better direct commuters to follow the detour.

Although things improved, commuters began to use additional shortcuts, for example, through Britton Road. Consequently, residents of Sandbrook and residents of Britton Road appeared at the Township Committee's next meeting to express their concerns.

Suggestions were again forthcoming from the residents and the Township Committee considered for the second time, the possibility of closing Sandbrook-HQ Road entirely until the construction was finished. However, after discussing this option with the school bus drivers, this suggestion was again rejected. More speedbumps were ordered and installed on additional roads.

The contractors working on the bridge have been working quickly. The County contractors have promised completion by the end of the year. Clearly, the sooner we can remove commuter traffic from Township roads, the better.

## Free Rabies Clinic: December 5th

Delaware Township will sponsor a free rabies clinic on Saturday, December 5th at the Delaware Township Garage on Rt. 523 between 10 a.m. and Noon. Please bring your dogs and cats for a free vaccination. All pets must be in a carrier or on a leash. Remember – your pet's rabies vaccination must be valid through December 2010 for the 2010 license/registration period.

If you can not make the December 5th clinic, please go to the Hunterdon County Department of Health's website at [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.htm) or call at 908-788-1351 for dates and times of other free clinics in the county. On the county's website, go to Environmental Health and then click on Free Rabies Clinics. Should you choose to attend one of these free clinics, that municipality will send the township a certificate with the updated rabies information. Anyone may go to any municipal rabies clinic in the State.

## Employee of the Year 2009: Diane McDaniel

Congratulations to Diane McDaniel who was selected as Employee of the Year for 2009. Diane is the Township's Construction Code Official Technical Assistant. Last year, when the Zoning Officer expressed concern that the workload was exceeding the number of available work hours, Diane stepped in and agreed to take on additional responsibilities to make his work time as efficient as possible. With her assistance, the Township has been able to retain well qualified Zoning and Construction Officials and provide improved service to Township residents. Diane also provides similar services to Stockton Borough. The Township Committee appreciates Diane's service to the Township and that is why it selected her as the 2009 Employee of the Year.

## Volunteer of the Year 2009: Laura Darby

Congratulations to Laura Darby who was selected as Volunteer of the year for 2009. Laura stepped in as the Chairman of the Recreation Commission when she was needed in 2006. Since then, she has overseen the completion of the resurfacing of the tennis and basketball courts, installation of the new playground equipment, reinstated the summer recreation program and provided residents with the opportunity to take tennis lessons at Dilts Farm, and continues to spearhead Community Day, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Fishing Derby, and the Township-wide garage sale, among many other Recreation Commission-sponsored activities. Laura and the Recreation Commission are very active in provided enjoyable activities throughout the year for our residents and that is why the Township Committee selected Laura as the 2009 Volunteer of the Year.

## Delaware Township School Activities

**Dec. 21** Board of Education 7:30 p.m. DTS Performing Arts Center  
**Dec. 23** 1:30 p.m. dismissal  
 Dec. 24 through Jan. 3 Winter recess – School closed  
**Jan. 4** Return to school  
**Jan. 18** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – School closed  
**Jan. 19** Board of Education 7:30 p.m. DTS Performing Arts Center  
**Feb. 11** 1:30 p.m. dismissal – In-Service  
**Feb. 12 & 15** Presidents' Weekend – School Closed  
**Feb. 16** Board of Education 7:30 p.m. DTS Performing Arts Room

## Kindergarten Registration

There will be Kindergarten registration for Delaware Township children who will be five years old on or before October 1, 2010 at Delaware Township School on February 23, 2010. Generally these registration sessions run between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. for students whose last names begin with A – O and between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. for students whose last names begin with P - Z. Please contact School Secretary Britian Slack at DTS at 397-3179, Ext. 402 to receive a registration packet.

## Opportunity to Help the Township

Delaware Township needs volunteers to serve on its many boards, committees and commissions. These boards assist the Township with reviews of various applications, land preservation, and contribute in numerous areas of interest. There is sure to be a board that interests you and/or where your talents would be both appropriate and appreciated. If you would like to volunteer, now is the time to express that interest to the Township Committee and to indicate the board on which you would like to serve. The Committee will be making appointments in December to begin 1/1/08.

Following are some of the boards that support the Township: Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Environmental Commission, Board of Health, Municipal Utilities Authority, Recreation Commission, Open Space Committee, Shade Tree Commission, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Road and Bridge Advisory Committee, Agricultural Advisory Committee, COAH Committee, Street Naming Committee, Stormwater Management Committee, Wastewater Management Committee, Stormwater Management Committee, Historic Committee, Sergeantsville Pocket Park Committee, Farmers' Market Committee, Flood Hazard Mitigation Committee, Zoning Review Committee, and Newsletter Committee. All would welcome new members!

This year, the State has passed a new law requiring volunteers to fill out a standardized form. Therefore, in addition to sending a brief note indicating your background and your interest to Judy Allen at P.O. Box 500 Sergeantsville, NJ 08557 no later than December 8, 2010, the Township will provide the form on the website ([www.DelawareTwpNJ.org](http://www.DelawareTwpNJ.org)) and at the Township Hall.

## Calendar Continued...

### Amwell Church of the Brethren

**Dec. 24th** Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

**Dec. 31st** Watch Night Service

8 p.m. meal followed by family fun and games  
 11:30 p.m. - Candlelight service to bring in the New Year

Contact: 609-397-4842

### Sandy Ridge Church

**Dec. 24th** Christmas Eve Services 7:30 p.m.

### Sergeantsville United Methodist Church

The Sergeantsville United Methodist Church will hold an Advent Study beginning Sunday, November 29th. The study entitled "Enough" will run every Sunday during Advent from 4 – 5 pm at the church led by Pastor Lin Smallwood. "Enough" (Author Adam Hamilton) is an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. In these pages are found the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. This study could change your life by changing your relationship with money.

The Sergeantsville United Methodist Church Advent Season welcomes the community to a performance of the Senior Choir's Christmas Cantata entitled "Silent was the Night" by Lani Smith on Sunday, December 20th at 11 a.m. A Christmas Eve Candlelight service will take place at the church at 11 p.m. on December 24th.

## Attention Landlords and Tenants

If you are a residential landlord in Delaware Township, you are required to register your rental property every year with the Township by filing a Landlord and Tenant Registration Statement. It is a very simple form that is available on the Township's website, [www.DelawareTwpNJ.org](http://www.DelawareTwpNJ.org). Tenants – you can call the Township Building to see whether your landlord is registered.

## Snow Removal

Please note: A Township ordinance prohibits the placement of snow on roads. When you plow or shovel snow, please keep it off Township, county and State roads. It creates additional hazards for motorists and pedestrians.

Also – please keep your garbage cans and recycling cans off of the road cartway when the Road Department is plowing. Thank you!

# Community Calendar

**Dec. 5** Free Rabies Clinic for Cats and Dogs from 10 a.m. to Noon at Township Garage on Rt. 523 Bring pets on leash or in carriers.

**Dec. 5** Santa Comes to the Township Building 10 a.m. to Noon

**Dec. 24** Township Offices Close at Noon

**Dec. 25** Township Offices Closed

**Dec. 31** Township Offices Close at Noon

**Jan. 1** Happy New Year! Township Offices Closed. Township Committee Reorganization – All are welcome.

**Jan. 18** Martin Luther King Holiday – Township Offices Closed

**Feb. 14** Valentine’s Day

**Feb. 15** Presidents’ Day – Township Offices Closed

**Township Committee:** 8 p.m. on 12/14; 12/28; Friday = Reorganization 1/1/10; Monday, 1/11, Monday, 1/25, 2/8; 2/22; 3/8

**Planning Board:** 8 p.m. on 12/1, 12/15, 1/5, 1/19, 2/9, 2/16, and 3/2

**Board of Health:** 7:30 p.m. on 12/7, 1/4, 2/1, and 3/1

**Board of Adjustment:** 7:30 p.m. on 12/10, 12/17, 1/14, 2/11, and 3/11

**Recreation Commission:** 7:00 p.m. on 12/15 – Holiday Decorating Road Trip, 1/12 at 7:30 p.m., 2/9, and 3/9

**Environmental Commission:** 7:30 p.m. on 12/16, 1/20, 2/17, and 3/17

**Open Space Committee:** 7:30 p.m. on 12/21, 1/18, 2/15, and 3/15

**D.T.M.U.A.:** 7:30 p.m. on 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, and 3/4

**Agricultural Advisory Committee:** 7:00 p.m. on 12/15, 1/19, 2/16, and 3/16

**Historical Society:** 8:00 p.m. on 1/21, 2/18, and 3/18

**Shade Tree Commission:** 7:00 p.m. on 12/17, 1/28, 2/25, and 3/25

**Newsletter Committee:** 7:00 p.m. on January 19

**Recycling Depot:** Saturdays – 12/26, 1/30, 2/27, and 3/27 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Delaware Township Garage on Rt. 523 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## Senior Citizens

For information call Jeanette Smith at 609-397-3472 New members are welcome!

Meetings: at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Co. unless otherwise indicated.

**Dec.2** 12 noon Christmas Party for members (dues paid up and attended 3 meetings). Eat at 12 p.m. Noon YMAC in Lambertville

**Jan. 6** 1 p.m. at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company

**Feb. 3** 1 p.m. at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company

**Mar. 3** 1 p.m. at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company

Contact Dottie Kurzenberger at 908-782-0635 for upcoming trip information.

## Yoga Classes for Seniors

The Hunterdon County Division of Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services offers free Yoga classes at the Delaware Township Municipal Building on Friday mornings beginning at 9:30 a.m. as follows:

December 4, 11 and 18; January 8, 15, 22 and 29; February 5, 12, 19 and 26

Classes run between 1 and 1 ½ hours. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Beginners are especially welcome!

## VFW

Meetings: Wednesdays at the Delaware Township Municipal Building on: 12/30, 1/27, and 2/24 at 8:00 p.m. New members are welcome! Call Commander Charles Pierman at 609-397-2075.

## Recreation Commission Activities

### Santa Visit at Township Hall

The annual visit by Santa will be held at Delaware Township Hall on Saturday, December 5, 2009 from 10 am to 12 noon. Please bring a canned good for the Food Pantry. The Delaware Township Recreation Commission and Girl Scout Troop 474 will be assisting Santa. There will be light refreshments and don't forget to bring your Camera!

### Holiday Decorating Contest

Ho Ho Ho

The annual Delaware Township Holiday Decorating Contest will take place the weekend of December 12 and 13 with final judging to take place the evening of Tuesday, December 15. Please remember to have your lights turned on from 6pm to 9pm on those evenings so that your house can be judged. Call Judy Allen at Township Hall if your house is off the beaten path and you would like to be included. Prizes will be awarded to the best decorated houses.

### Holiday Tree

If you have a live balled and burlapped tree that you would like to donate to the Township for the Santa event on December 5, contact Judy Allen at 609-397-3240, Ext. 205. The VFW will string lights on the tree. The Township Road Department will plant the tree at the Dilts Farm Park in 2010, so the live evergreen decorates not only the Township Building in December, but also the Township Park for years to come.

### Summer Recreation

The Recreation Commission ran a very successful Summer Recreation Program this year. It will run the Program again in 2010. See the next newsletter for more information.

### DTAA Activities

Call Matt Baldwin at 609-397-1040

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

# Animal Licensing Form Must be Renewed each January

**After January 1, 2010** and not before, please return form, fees and proof of current rabies vaccination to:

Delaware Township Board of Health

Attn: Danene Gooding

P.O. Box 500

Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

(609) 397-3240 x202

Check payable to: Delaware Township or exact cash.

**\*\*Rabies Vaccination MUST be valid through 12/2010 or your forms and payment will be sent back to you.\*\***

## DOG LICENSE APPLICATION

\_\_\_\_ New dog \_\_\_\_ Renewal

Please check one

OWNER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

STREET LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above)

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # \_\_\_\_\_ DOG'S AGE \_\_\_\_\_

DOG'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ HAIR \_\_\_\_\_

(short, med., long)

SPAYED/NEUTERED? \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR/MARKINGS \_\_\_\_\_ Microchip ID # \_\_\_\_\_

BREED \_\_\_\_\_ RABIES EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_\*\*

(Must be good through year end, need to see proof)

\$8.00 per spayed or neutered dog

\$11.00 per unspayed/non-neutered dog

## CAT REGISTRATION APPLICATION - \$7.00 per household for cats

\_\_\_\_ New cat \_\_\_\_ Renewal

Please check one

OWNER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

STREET LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above)

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # \_\_\_\_\_ CAT'S AGE \_\_\_\_\_

CAT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ HAIR \_\_\_\_\_

(short, med., long)

SPAYED/NEUTERED? \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR/MARKINGS \_\_\_\_\_ Microchip ID # \_\_\_\_\_

BREED \_\_\_\_\_

RABIES EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ (Must be good through year end)

**Beginning March 1, 2010, please include an additional \$30.00 late fee per dog or per household in the case of cat registration. Only exact cash or check is accepted as payment. Please provide a self addressed stamped envelope for return of license by mail. If proof of rabies is not included or is not valid through entire licensing period, your form and payment will be sent back to you. State and Municipal Law Requires Rabies be VALID through ENTIRE Licensing Period.**

## Meet Your Neighbor: Barbara McConnell

By Mary Coffey

Barbara McConnell is a Democrat who served in the New Jersey General Assembly and in the cabinet of Governor James Florio. She was born in Livingston, Tennessee, one of three children (and the only girl) to Carson and Mildred Wright. Her father was a builder and cabinet maker and her Mother was "an incredible homemaker." The family was happy but money was tight. So when Barbara won the Miss Putnam County beauty contest, and later competed in the Miss Tennessee pageant, she was glad to receive college money which helped her attend the Tennessee Technological University. In 1957 she graduated with a B.S in Business Education.

After graduating from college, she married Terry McConnell from Chattanooga, who worked for the U.S Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. Barbara worked for U.S Representative Joe Evins, first as secretary, then as his administrative assistant. She met John and Robert Kennedy, Senator Lyndon Johnson, and Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn. She recalls with great humor the time she was told by her boss to take to lunch the eminent scientist Werner Von Braun, a brilliant refugee from Nazi Germany who had come to this county to take over the U. S. Space Program. Temporarily alone with him, the naive 21-year-old assumed her most political polish and asked, "And what do you do?" He graciously informed her, "I make rockets!" "Oh that's nice," she said.

Her husband received a job offer with the Hunterdon County National bank in Flemington. When arriving in Flemington, they looked for a place to live, and settled at the Hunterdon Arms. A few housing developments were going up at the time, but because coming from a rural farm area, she preferred a place in the country. After two years of searching, she was driving home from Stockton and saw a charming home for sale. It was built in 1760 and owned originally by the Moores who settled in Sandbrook and owned all the land in the surrounding area. It was the Moore family that donated the land and built the church on Sandbrook -Headquarters Road. She told her husband and they drove to the house to speak to the owners. An hour later, they had bought the house which has been "home" for the past 40 years. Once, she and her husband took occupancy she was appalled at what they had bought. "There were crumbling walls, bug and rodent infestation, and strange plumbing. After wondering, 'what have I done,' I called for my father to come!" After many repairs and much hard work, the house is a charming, attractive historical house admired by many. Barbara's daughter, Abigail, was born in 1970.

Barbara became active in the local Democratic Party, and in 1977 was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly. She worked on legislation to champion the rights of women; to combat discrimination against women in the lending industry (for example, women could not get loans without their husband's permission in the 1970's), and helped to pass the first law to protect women against domestic violence. She also sponsored the Displaced Homemakers Act (DHA), for women who had not worked after marriage and found themselves divorced or widowed with little or no work experience

and often children to support. The DHA was designed to re-train women, and has been very successful. She was also president of "Women's Crisis Services" for the transitional safety of abused women and children, now known as SAFE in Hunterdon. Under her Chairmanship, the organization established a Transitional House, where residents could live with their children until they were able to work and live financially on their own. She also sponsored legislation on tax policy, and environment and solid waste, and was known as one of the most effective legislators of her time.

In 1981 she gave up her Assembly seat to run for Governor. However, the race was crowded, and she finished with only 3% of the vote. After this defeat, she became president of a lobby group representing the food industry. In 1991 she returned to government under Jim Florio, where she was the first woman appointed to the NJ Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development. She oversaw business development, international trade, and travel and tourism. She also served as chair for the Economic Development Authority. Following Florio's tenure, she established the McConnell Group, a public affairs firm where she represents such notable companies and organizations as The Coca-Cola Company; New Jersey Forestry Association; Association of Professional Land Surveyors; New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association; and the National Association of Food Industry Executives.

Barbara, who speaks in a charming, soft southern accent, admits that her southern style may have been an advantage when she ran for public office at a time when women were expected to stay home and raise their children. The voters were surprise to find that underneath that soft, gentle facade, was a woman with a determination of steel, and one with great compassion and intelligence.

She "loves" living in Delaware Township, and speaks of her neighbors and friends as "family." She continues to devote much volunteer time to her community on such projects as the restoration of the Sandbrook Church. A new undertaking has been to Chair the Capital Campaign for Anderson House where she hopes to raise \$1.5 million to build a half-way house for women with drug or alcohol addiction. "There is such a need for more treatment facilities in the state, as well as in our regional area. There are thousands of women with addiction problems, and only 400 beds in the entire state! There are only 12 beds at Anderson House. This new project will help them to double their capacity."

Mention "volunteering" and she laughs. "About every ten years, I learn to say 'no.' You need to get someone younger. You need to get someone with new ideas and energy. Then, I think, 'whew... got that off my plate.' And then, within a year I'm right back in the thick of things, volunteering for some new project."

If there is anything Barbara wishes she could do that she hasn't already done, it would be to drive a motorcycle! "They are so cool. Wish I could jump on a Harley and get on down the road with the wind at my back."

What is her youthful secret? "Laughter. Every day I laugh out loud. I have been blessed with the ability to laugh at myself and to enjoy the humor and laughter in others."

## Delaware Township History Book

By Jim Drummond

On January 25, 2010, Arcadia Publishing Company will begin selling the book concerning Delaware Township's history. This work has been in the process of development for the past two years and has proven to be an engrossing project for me as it was researched and written. The editor, who was productively quite "hard nosed" as she pushed the book along to completion, was also pleased with the finished product. In her final acceptance letter on August 7, 2009, she stated that she "had the pleasure of reviewing all the book materials for Delaware Township... The book looks wonderful." She also further said "Thank you again for all your great work. I'm thrilled about the future of this book." Hopefully, the citizens of Delaware Township will also be as pleased with the finished work.

Researching the book was quite productive in getting me into the inner workings and history of the community. At least two Delaware Township worlds became evident with those whose families had sometimes been here for generations as one facet and those of more recent residents as another facet. I found that ultimately the prime insights came from carefully meeting and listening to a spectrum of many citizens but particularly to those who had lifelong roots in the community.

This came home to me quite vividly as I met weekly with a local farmer who had a striking collection of vintage photographs as well as an encyclopedic knowledge of the community. We often met at the Amwell Church of the Brethren, and meeting in the same room were the "Busy Bees," an organization of church women who have been getting together to do "good works" for many decades. They would sometimes come in on our conversations with a wide-ranging knowledge of very minute aspects of life in Delaware Township over the centuries. Perhaps the most indelible experience for me happened as I left that meeting one day and was observing the nearby historical stone bridge and stream; one of the ladies stuck her head out the side door of the church and called to me saying, "I was baptized in that stream." Somehow this just summed up life in the Township over the centuries for me as we interacted there alongside Dunkard Church Road. A number of similar incidents occurred as people took me through their gorgeous historical homes and shared scrapbooks and anecdotes of life in the Township.

The book specifically deals with the Township's towns, churches, farms, schools, people, and the overall environment of the place. More generally, New Jersey and local history elements are also part of the study. Certain factors of transportation, housing, infrastructure, natural history of the land, and the environment are also emphasized. Finally, the cultural development and religious evolution of the churches figure in this telling of the Township's story.

The book will be available at a number of local retail stores and museums as well as Barnes & Noble and Border's national bookstores. It can also be obtained online with the book number (ISBN 978-0-7385-7215-4). The proceeds from the book sales will go equally to the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum, the Delaware Township Historical Society, and for funding of storage materials for the Township's archives.

## Rosemont Historic Designation Approved Unanimously

On October 27, 2009, the State Historic Sites Council unanimously approved inclusion of Rosemont on the Register of State Historic Sites. The Council was impressed with the juxtaposition of preserved farmland with the large number of historic homes and buildings in Rosemont. Committeeman Alan Johnson described the commitment of the Township Committee to the designation project and the outreach conducted by the Designation Subcommittee, and Historical Society Secretary Jim Borders expressed the support and participation of the Historical Society. Milt Smith described the great value that residents place upon the Township's historic heritage. A member of the State Historic Sites Council stated that Rosemont was a great example of the wonderful places remaining in New Jersey yet to be recognized with historic designation.

Thanks to all the residents of Rosemont for their support, to the Designation Subcommittee for their hard work, and to consultant Dennis Bertland for a flawless application and presentation to the Council.

### Home Heating Assistance Lifeline

The New Jersey Lifeline Credit Program is a state funded program that provides a \$225 yearly credit to qualifying electric and natural gas customers. To qualify, customers must be 65 years or older, or disabled age 18 or older who receive Social security disability benefits. The annual income must be less than \$24,432 if single and \$29,956 if married. For information on Lifeline, call 1-800-792-9745 or call the Hunterdon County Division of Senior Services for an application at 908-788-1361.

### Universal Service Fund

The NJ Universal Service Fund is a program to help low income households pay for electric and natural gas service. The maximum annual benefit of NJ USF is \$1,800 which appears as a credit on a customer's utility bill. To be eligible, customers must have a total household income equal to or less than 175% of the federal poverty level (approx. monthly income range of \$1,590 for single person, \$2,100 for couple, and up to \$5,400 for a family of 8) and spend more than 3 percent of their income on electric or natural gas. For electric heat homes, customers must pay more than 6 percent of the household income on electricity. For eligibility call 1-800-510-3102.

### NORWESCAP Inc.

This program provides funds to assist eligible Hunterdon County residents meet their heating and cooling costs. Assistance payments are made directly to the fuel vendor or utility company on behalf of the eligible applicant. The Housing and Energy Services that NORWESCAP offers include: LIHEAP, NJ Shares, weatherization, and other program to assist low income individuals and families with their heating and cooling costs. NORWESCAP Energy Services at 1-888-454-4778. See NORWESCAP's website at [www.norwescap.org](http://www.norwescap.org)