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NEWS FROM THE Bridge

COVERING DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

VOL. 17 No. 1 2014

Farmers' Market Celebrates 10th Season

On Saturday, May 10th, 2014, the Sergeantsville Farmers' market will re-open, marking its tenth season of operation. The market provides area residents with a convenient source of farm fresh, locally produced foods and artisan goods. Products available vary by week but typically include garden plants, vegetables, fruits, eggs, cheese, meats, homemade baked goods and crafts. The market also features entertainment such as live music, pony rides, and other activities for children. The market is looking for vendors for the 2014 season. Interested? Call Jack Gaskill at 908-268-3641.

Located across from Township building, the market will be open on Saturdays, 8:30 am to noon, starting on Mother's Day weekend (May 10th) and running through the end of September. For more information, visit www.sergeantsvillefarmersmarket.com or call Jack Gaskill at 908-268-3641.

Police Building Open House: April 27

The Police Building Ribbon Cutting and Open House, postponed due to poor weather, has been rescheduled for April 27th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the police building on Route 523. The Township Committee and the Police Department are proud of the new facility and invite you to visit the Township's state of the art police facility featuring ample office space, a secure processing area, and a locker room for the officers to keep equipment, a kitchen, and storage space. Please park behind the building at the Road Department.

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Message from the Mayor: Ken Novak

Before commenting on the start of the New Year for the 2014 Township Committee, I want to stop and give thanks for all the accomplishments the committee achieved last year. And offer a special thanks to outgoing Mayor Don Scholl for all his hard work and especially following through on everything to the smallest detail. Now for 2014, I expect even greater accomplishment (though doubt if we can follow through with a better fireworks show than was provided on Community Day this past year, so don't hold that to me or the Committee to that) as I welcome Joe Vocke to the 2014 Committee. I look forward to him providing great knowledge based on him living in the Township all his life. The current Township Committee is made up of 5 unique individuals with each one providing expertise in certain areas that make the Township function smoothly. I look forward to all of them providing assistance to point our Township in the right direction for the future.

So what really makes a community and Delaware Township? As we concluded the Township's 175th year and celebrate the Hunterdon County's 300th Anniversary, I can't help but to reflect on how communities are actually made. In reading Marfy Goodspeed's newsletters and Jim Drummond's book on the history of the Township, I read so many times individuals coming together and helping others for the betterment of the community. So I would like to take a quote from John F. Kennedy, though changing the word "country" for "township" and challenge all the residents to see if they can apply it. "My fellow Americans, ask not what your Township can do for you, ask what you can do for your Township". Remember, one act of kindness to a neighbor is a blessing to a community. So this year, beside the normal activities of the Township, I have been hearing about grassroots efforts from a few individuals about starting up some aid group to assist those in need in our community and I hope to make this one of my priorities to help them with. Let's make Delaware Township a GREAT place to live. If you have any suggestions or want to volunteer for anything, you can contact me at my email: outlawfarms@sprintmail.com

And in closing, when I reviewed the above mentioned JFK quote to make sure I had it correct, I also found another quote of his that I would like to share. "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democrat answer, but the RIGHT ANSWER. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future." So lets all work together for the future of Delaware Township.

Recreation Commission Basketball and Volleyball

Adult Men's Basketball, Adult Co-ed Volleyball, and Teen Basketball/Volleyball continue at Delaware Township School. These 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 on 3/4, 3/6, 3/11, 3/13, 3/18, 3/25 and 3/27 when the season ends.

Adult women's basketball on Monday nights has been cancelled due to lack of participation. If you want to play in the 2014-2015 season, please contact Tracy Wright.

Adult coed volleyball on Wednesday nights, 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on 3/5, 3/12, 3/19 and 3/26 when the season ends.

Teen coed basketball and/or volleyball on Friday nights, 7 to 9 p.m. at DTS cafeteria on 3/7 and 3/14 when the season ends.

When school is closed, there are no evening activities.

The Newsletter Committee

Editor: Susan Lockwood

Editorial Board: Judy Allen, Mary Coffey, Bob Hornby, Alison Wehringer.

Logo Design: Christopher Dane

Layout and DTP: Russ Lockwood

Household Clean-Up Days 2014 Pre-Registration Required

WHERE: Delaware Township Garage, 816 Sergeantsville Road (Route 523)

WHEN: Saturdays: April 19, June 21, August 16, October 18, November 15, 2014 — 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Fifty permits will be issued for each clean-up day and will be sold at the Township Municipal Building, 570 Rosemont-Ringoes Road in Sergeantsville. For more information go to www.DelawareTwpNJ.org under "News and Announcements."

Student Recycling Presentation

Delaware Township School students from the Environmental Congress presented at the Delaware Township Committee meeting on Monday, December 9th guided by their advisor Kathleen Klink.

Students Samantha Lewczak and Maria Ferello presented a power point interview with Alan Johnson called "Saturday Recycling Program."

Alan Johnson and James Schupsky were presented with certificates of appreciation for work in starting the Saturday morning recycling program in Delaware Township in 1984.

The DTS Environmental Congress students have a bottle cap program to save wildlife, are working on a possible trip to help restore the shore, are working with younger children to embrace recycling, and maintain local trails for the community's use.

Meet Your Neighbor: Locktown Stone Church

By Mary Coffey

Are you into professional jazz, concert music, classical guitar, or beautiful Christmas music? Do you want to know more about the history of the area? Would your kids enjoy a historical treasure hunt? Then you might enjoy going to the Locktown Stone Church (LSC), which has evolved into a local cultural center.

No longer used as a church, the building, in which these events now take place, has an interesting history. The church was built around 1819. Around 1839, according to local history, Baptist parishioners went to the stone church for their Sunday meeting, only to find the doors all locked, possibly by a rival church group. In those days almost no one, and certainly not a church, locked their doors. The tavern keeper in the village, intrigued by the situation, made a sign for his pub which featured locks. The pub was a popular watering place, and by the time the post office was set up in 1856, "Locktown" had become the formal name of the village, the church, and of course the pub.

Initially, the congregation filled the church. However, as members moved away or died over the years, the membership slowly declined. The church closed in the 1960's. In 1986, in order to save the building from being sold and turned into a residence, The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church formed. A local resident and philanthropist, the late Donald Jones, bought the structure and leased it to Delaware Township, and with the help of the NJ Historic Trust and the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, the building was restored.

The LSC is no longer utilized as a church, but as a beautiful antique structure, with fanlight windows and a vaulted ceiling, reserved for public use. Every year different activities are offered at this charming site. Because the building is heated, parking facilities are available, and it seats 125 people, weddings and memorial services are a popular year-round use. In the spring, book discussions and history talks are given.

Last November, in partnership with Delaware Township School, the Friends of the LSC held a historical treasure hunt at the church building. Forty-four Middle-School students learned the history of the church, and were shown such things as graffiti on the backs of pews from long-ago kids and the "carriage steps" for people who had to climb down from their horse and wagons. They went to the graveyard, examined the names and dates on the tombstones, and matched them with the names of the founders inside the church.

On Sunday afternoons in autumn, the Friends of the LSC sponsor a series of concerts to take advantage of the beautiful acoustics inside the stone structure. Last fall the concert series included the jazz trio "Luminous," with flute, saxophone, and bass. Also, "The Crosswinds Trio," played classical to jazz and everything in between-- orchestral music, jazz club, recital hall--on trumpet, horn, and piano. Finally, the Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo were featured, which has appeared world-wide with such artists as composer Marvin Hamlisch and the Pittsburgh Symphony Pops. Once a year, Christmas brings the beautiful carols of the Lambertville Traditional Carol Society.

Tickets to each concert event are \$15 for adults, \$5 for students, or \$40 for the series of three. If you are interested in attending any of the spring or fall events, or want more information, email at FLSCconcerts@gmail.com, or call 908-996-3087. If you might be interested in becoming a LSC Friend or Board Member, or just want to help continue the preservation of this beautiful building, please email Mark Zdepski at jmzgeology@embarqmail.com.

Sandbrook Meadow Farm CSA Memberships Available

Now entering its fourth growing season, Sandbrook Meadow Farm has been a tremendous success, with over 200 local households enjoying a wide variety of certified organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers on a weekly basis. In the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model, members purchase harvest shares, partnering with their local farmer to share the risks and rewards of farming. Last season, Sandbrook Meadow Farm altered the traditional CSA model to a more flexible program which allows members to customize their shares. Members use farm share "credits" to choose from a selection of the week's harvest, as well as u-pick items including, strawberries, herbs, flowers, cherry tomatoes, green beans and more. Members can also participate in workshops and events throughout the season, including the Annual Harvest Fest.

Harvests will start the first week of June and go through the end of October. Shareholders may collect their produce at the farm on either Tuesdays or Fridays, from 2:00 - 7:00 pm. Memberships cost \$705 for a full share or \$420 for a partial share. Partial shares have eight credits to use per week and full shares have fourteen. Depending on individual needs and wants, members can dictate what each share looks like, as every vegetable is given a credit value. Members say they enjoy this flexibility, as well as the positive feelings that come from supporting local farming and being a part of a community endeavor. For more information, contact farm manager Alex Sawatzky at 908-782-0074, or visit the website at www.sandbrookmeadowfarm.com.

Rain Barrel Workshop April 5

The NJ Water Supply Authority along with North Jersey RC&D, Rutgers and NJDEP will hold a "build your own rain barrel workshop" for residents of Delaware Twp. Residents will learn about storm water run-off and the importance of rain barrels. This is one of many workshops that will be held as part of the Neshanic River Watershed restoration plan.

The workshop will be held at the Municipal Building on Saturday, April 5th from 8:00am to Noon. If you'd like more information in advance, please contact Sarah Helble of the NJ Water Supply Authority at (908) 685-0315 ext. 233.

Township Wide Yard Sale: September 6

Call the Township Building to register AFTER August 1st.

Recreation Commission Activities

The Delaware Township Recreation Commission has planned a number of events for Delaware Township residents during the upcoming months. PLEASE NOTE: DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT RECREATION COMMISSION SPONSORED EVENTS.

Thursday March 27: Family Skate Night will be held at the Frenchtown Roller Rink on Rt. 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person. Additional \$2 for skate rental or \$3 for inline skates. Fun for the whole family. Refreshments are available for purchase. Tell them at the door that you are with the Delaware Township group.

Saturday April 12: Clean Up Day at the Dilts' Farm Park at 9 a.m., rain or shine. Winter storms dropped a lot of branches that have to be picked up. Please come and help prepare the Park so that it will be in good shape for everyone to use and enjoy. Bring work gloves.

Saturday April 19: The Annual Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday April 19th at 1 p.m. sharp. This event never starts late! Rain or shine at the Dilts Farm Park. Bring a bag or basket. The hunt is open to children ages Toddlers through 5th grade.

Summer Recreation: The dates for the Summer Recreation Program will soon be determined. The program may be extended to 3 weeks this summer if planned construction activities at DTS permit it. Information will be available in the next Newsletter, on the Township's website, at the Township Building, and through Delaware Township School.

2014 DTAA Baseball Registration

Delaware Township Athletic Association (DTAA) is now accepting Baseball registration for the 2014 season for children ages 5-12. Games and practices are scheduled for late March through the first week of June.

Divisions are T-ball, Rookies (machine pitch), Minors, and Majors. The program introduces the game of baseball to the younger players while teaching finer techniques and strategies to older athletes. All players receive equal playing time and are taught through the coaches' leadership with emphasis on sportsmanship in athletics.

DTAA will be sponsoring batting clinics for Rookies, Minors, and Majors in the coming weeks. Please check the DTAA website for information regarding these events.

Our program's success relies on assistance from community sponsorships. The generous support from our sponsors allows DTAA to provide community children the opportunity to participate in sports through a fun, educational, and positive environment. If you personally, or through your business, would like to contribute to Delaware Township Athletic Association youth baseball program, you are invited to sponsor a team or purchase a placard of your design placed on outfield fences.

For more information and to register your child, please visit DTAA Baseball at www.Leaguelineup.com.

Hunterdon Central Regional High School Board

Meetings start at 7 p.m. in the IMC/Library: March 17, March 24 - Budget Adoption, April 28, May 19, and June 16.

Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead, Inc.

The Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead is a museum of agriculture and life in Delaware Township and is located on Rt. 29 near Lambertville. It is a great place to visit and bring the family. The Farmstead is open every Sunday afternoon beginning in May through the end of October from 1 to 4 p.m. Special activities are scheduled throughout the year. Check for information and event details at www.holcombe-jimison.org

Amwell Church of the Brethren

March: Spring Rummage Sale - Date to be announced

April 18: Good Friday Evening Service 7 p.m.

April 20: Easter Dawn Service 6 a.m. Breakfast to follow. Second Service at 9 a.m.

May 1: National Day of Prayer 7 p.m. service. Come pray for our country. Refreshments to follow.

Youth Group every Friday night 7:00 p.m. Kindergarten to Young Adult welcome.

Wednesday night Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Come explore the Book of Matthew.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. For more info call 609-397-4842

Sergeantsville United Methodist Church

April 17: Maundy Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

April 20: Easter Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

April 5th: The Lord's Auction. Browsing starts at 10 a.m., and bidding starts at 11 a.m. Good quality items can be donated at any time between now and April 1st at the church Mon-Fri 11-2 or call 609-397-2333. Lunch available.

Sandy Ridge Baptist Church

Morning Worship -11:00 a.m.

March 15: Flea Market 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Light lunch available with homemade soups and baked goods for sale. Vendor tables for sale.

47 Sandy Ridge Road, Stockton, NJ phone:397-0371. John Valiant Jr., Pastor phone: 215-297-0236

Recreation Commission Tennis Program

Adult Tennis Program: For adults to come out and learn to play the game or sharpen their skills. The sessions typically run for 3 nights between 6 and 7 p.m. at the Dilts Park. The dates will be determined soon. Monday night clinics may also be available.

The Youth Tennis Program will be held for five weeks with morning and evening sessions. It is for children ages four through high school. Session 1 is July 7-July 11; Session 2 is July 14- July 18, Session 3 is July 21-July 25; Session 4 is July 28-August 1.

Registration forms will be available at Delaware Township's Municipal Building and School, and on the Township Website: www.delawaretpnj.org For more information please contact Laura Darby 609-397-5932.

Community Calendar

March 8 Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hunterdon County Complex on Rt. 12. No electronics, tanks, air conditioners, tires, etc. Call 908-788-1110 or email hcua@co.hunterdon.nj.us for information.

March 8/9 Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring ahead!)

March 27 Recreation Commission Family Roller Skating Night 6 – 8 p.m.

April 12 Dilts Farm Park Clean Up Day 9 a.m. Please help!

April 12 Computer and Electronics Collection Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hunterdon County Complex on Rt. 12. Call 908-788-1110 or email hcua@co.hunterdon.nj.us Electronic devices cannot be disposed of in your household trash.

April 18 Township Offices closed

April 19 Clean Up Day 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. – buy permit at Township Building

April 19 Egg Hunt at Dilts Farm 1 p.m. SHARP! Rain or Shine

April 27 Police Building Ribbon Cutting and Open House 1 to 3 p.m.

May 10 Opening Day – Sergeantsville Farmers' Market 8:30 a.m. to Noon

May 11 Mother's Day

May 17 Personal Document Shredder Day

May 26 Memorial Day – DTS and Township Offices closed

June 2 Summer Office Hours begin at Township Hall 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

June 3 Primary Election Day at the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 21 Clean Up Day 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. – buy permit at Township Building

Township Committee: Mondays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/10, 3/31, 4/14, 4/28, 5/13, Tuesday 5/27, and 6/9

Planning Board: Tuesdays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/4, 3/18, 4/1, 4/15, 5/6, 5/20, and Wednesday 6/4

Board of Health: Mondays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2

Board of Adjustment: Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, and 6/12

Recreation Commission: Mondays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, and 6/2

Environmental Commission: Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/19, 4/16, 5/21, and 6/18

Historic Advisory Committee: Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, and 6/4

Open Space Committee: Mondays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/17, 4/21, 5/19, and 6/16

Agricultural Advisory Committee: Tuesdays: 7:00 p.m. on 3/4, 4/1, 5/6, and Wednesday 6/4

Shade Tree Commission: Thursdays: 7:00 p.m. on 3/27, 4/24, 5/22, and 6/26

D.T.M.U.A.: Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. on 3/6, 4/3, 5/1, and 6/5

Newsletter Committee: Monday: 6:45 p.m. on 4/14

VFW

VFW – March 26, April 30, May 28 and June 25 at 8:00 p.m. at the Delaware Township Municipal Building.

Senior Citizens

Delaware Township Seniors meet monthly and take great trips together!

March 10: Monday “St. Patrick’s Festival.” Show and Luncheon, one hour open bar. Li Greci’s Staaten, Staten Island, NY. Bus departs at 9:30 a.m. Arrive Home around 5 p.m. Members \$48.50; Guests \$53.50.

April 15: Tuesday “Busybody” Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Choice of Menu provided when signing up. Everyone provides own transportation. Lunch begins at 11 a.m. Members \$50.50; Guests \$50.50.

May 14: Wednesday “Memories of Meadowbrook” Show and Luncheon. Two comp. drinks. La Neves, Haledon, NJ. Bus Departs 9:00 a.m. Arrive Home 5/5:30 p.m. Members \$48.50; Guests \$53.50.

All bus trips leave from the Firehouse in Sergeantsville, NJ on Rt. 523. No food allowed on bus. For trip information call Dottie Kurzenberger at 908-782-0635 or Dorothy Gilde 609-397-2097.

Meetings:

March 5: Regular Monthly Meeting at 1 p.m. at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company

April 2: Regular Monthly Meeting at 1 p.m. at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company

May 7: Regular Monthly Meeting at 1 p.m. at Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company

June 4: Covered Dish Lunch at Noon at the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company

Senior's Yoga Class

The Hunterdon County Division of Senior Services offers yoga classes at the Township Building. Two classes are offered each Friday beginning at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$25 for an eight week session. Call Kim at 732-690-4000 for more information.

Delaware Township School Activities

March 4 Board of Education 7:00 p.m. DTS Perf. Arts Center

March 15 Partners in Education (PiE) Pancake Breakfast

March 20 PiE Science Night

March 21 Early Dismissal–Conferences/In-Service

March 25 Board of Ed. 7:00 p.m. DTS Perf. Arts Center

April 14 - April 21 School closed – Spring Recess

April 22 Classes Resume

April 29 Board of Ed. 7:30 p.m. in DTS Perf. Arts Room

May 8 and 9 PiE Spring Plant Sale

May 23 School closed – In-Service

May 26 Memorial Day – School closed

May 27 Board of Ed. 7:30 p.m. DTS Performing Arts Room

May 29 PiE Fine Arts Festival

June 17 Board of Education 7:30 p.m. DTS Performing Arts Room

Clean Water NJ Fertilizer Tips

What’s the problem with fertilizers and pesticides? Fertilizers help plants grow by adding nutrients to the soil. Pesticides (including herbicides) are any toxic substances used to kill insects, animals or plants. If fertilizers or pesticides are improperly applied, they can wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and directly to our lakes, rivers, and the ocean. These chemicals can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. Too much fertilizer washing into a lake can cause algae to bloom in lakes, which will affect swimming, fishing and boating.

Why should you care about clean water? Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to New Jersey’s clean water supply. Clean water provides safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots, and lawns into storm drains, then directly to our streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean. Did you know more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater.

You can help! Test your soil at your County’s Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension office, or buy a self-test kit. Use natural, slow-release nitrogen, or low phosphorus fertilizers. Look into natural alternatives to fertilizers and pesticides, such as integrated pest management (IPM). If you need to use fertilizers or pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply. Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides before it rains. This will not allow the fertilizers or pesticides to penetrate through the soil. Use drought-resistant native plants in gardens; they require less fertilizer and less water. Use a mulching mower instead of bagging grass clippings. For more information visit www.cleanwaterNJ.org

Document Shredder Days: May 17 and Sept. 20

This year, Township residents will have two opportunities to take advantage of free personal document shredding services — Saturday, May 17, 2014 and Saturday, September 20, 2014. They will be held rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Township Garage, 816 Sergeantsville Road.

The shredder is operated from a large truck with the capacity to shred sizeable quantities of documents. It is easier than using an ordinary home shredder that has to be fed in small quantities.

Assure Shred uses a Pierce-and-Tear shredding system. This system tears the paper at the fiber instead of cutting it. This results in a random and more secure shred size than standard strip-cut shredders. Certificates of destruction are issued to every client certifying that the materials have been completely destroyed.

If you wish, you may also view the shredding process through a closed-circuit monitor mounted on the truck. NO need to remove staples, paperclips, or small fasteners. Paid for by the Delaware Township Recycling Trust Fund.

The History of the Reading School: Part 1

Editors note: This article is a brief excerpt from an interesting and well-researched article written by Marfy Goodspeed. Read the entire article at www.goodspeedhistories.com

There is an old one-room school house standing on the north side of the Rosemont-Raven Rock Road. The first schoolhouse in this location was built around 1780, according to a report issued by County School Superintendent Cornelius S. Conkling in 1876. It was a log building, as many of the first schoolhouses were. Log schoolhouses did not last very long. In 1796, a new building was constructed, this time of stone, being 20-foot square. The most likely builder was Joshua Stout.

According to the Conkling report, one of the earliest teachers was John Kitchen. Earliest trustees were Samuel Wolverton, John Reading and John Huffman. There were six John Kitchens who lived in Amwell Township, from 1755 to the 19th century. Unfortunately, there’s not enough information to determine which one was the first teacher. Samuel Wolverton (1779-1841) was a well-known figure in the neighborhood of Rosemont. He was the son of John Wolverton and Rachel Quinby, and served in the Hunterdon militia during the War of 1812.

Another trustee, John Huffman, owned land adjacent to the school lot. John Huffman (c.1765-1843) was married to Catharine Trout (1766-aft 1836). The third trustee, John Reading, is a little harder to place because there are many John Readings (the author has found 26). Assuming he was a contemporary of Samuel Wolverton and John Huffman, the most likely John Reading was born 1789 to Joseph Reading and Lucy Emley, and married Martha Sergeant (daughter of Loman Sergeant and Lydia Wolverton) in 1808.

Following enactment of the Common Schools Law in 1838, schools were organized by district with boundary lines established. The Reading School was identified with District No. 97, which can be seen on the old Beers Atlas of 1873. The District was bordered by a line somewhat east of Route 519, running from Prallsville up to Kingwood, and extended west to include Raven Rock. It also included part of Strimples Mill Road.

It is unclear what prompted the trustees to replace the schoolhouse again in 1861. Either the old one had fallen into disrepair or a larger schoolhouse was needed. The new building, which is the one still standing, was constructed 25 feet from the earlier one, according to Conkling’s report. According to James P. Snell, it was also a stone structure, measuring 27 by 33 feet. Although it was meant for 60 pupils, by 1897 there were 69 in attendance.

By 1897, the school district numbers were simplified, and Reading School became District No. 8. The teacher that year was Rosa Linda Brink, daughter of William and Margaret Bellis Brink of Stockton. She was born in July 1873, and taught in various places until she married Albert D. Seward around 1915 and returned to Stockton to live with her elderly parents. **Next time: The school in the 20th century and an interview with residents who attended the Reading School.**

All meetings are at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

Winners of the Holiday Decorating Contest

The Delaware Township Recreation Commission would like to congratulate the winners of the Holiday Decorating Contest. They did a spectacular job of decorating, as did many other residents. The Grand Prize went to the Siliverdis Family. Runners Up included Stacey McDonald, the Baldwin Family, and the Fisher Family. The winners received restaurant gift certificates.

Barbers Burying Ground Update

As previously reported, a group of residents have come together to support Barbers Burying Ground on Lambertville-HQ Road. Named for the Barber Family, and final resting place of residents who lived in Delaware Township beginning in the 1700's and up through today, the group is trying to raise \$10,000 for needed repairs and protection for historic stone walls and rare architectural monuments.

The group happily reports that it has successfully obtained its official, non-profit 501 c 3 charitable status. The group also intends to seek National Historic Designation for the cemetery. Do you want to help or to know more? Please contact Ralph Hooven, Treasurer at (609) 397-5541.

2014 Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Hunterdon County Library will hold their Annual Used Book Sale on Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 at the National Guard Armory, 422 State Highway 12 in Flemington. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Hunterdon County Library system. Free parking on premises and free shuttle service to parking at the County Complex.

Check the website below for items that you can donate and items that will not be accepted. Bring donations to one of the following Saturday Book Collections between 9:00 a.m. and 2 p.m.: March 15th, 22nd and 29th at National Guard Armory, Route 12, Flemington.

To volunteer and for more information about Sneak Previews and membership in the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library, call 908-638-4784, email foh-clfriends@gmail.com or visit www.hclibrary.us (click on "Friends" in the top headline, then "Annual Book Sale").



DTS PiE

To "have your finger in the pie" means to have a role in something or to be involved in something.

Delaware Township School Partners in Education, or DTS PiE, is family, faculty, and community creating opportunities for Delaware Township students. Our innovative programs enrich the curriculum and support the faculty at DTS for the benefit of the students. Even if you no longer have kids at DTS, we invite you to volunteer and attend our events.

Community members are welcome to visit the annual Book Fair, usually held during October. This November, we held our first Holiday Market that featured local craftspeople and vendors, and music by DJNYCIS Nigel Francis. We plan to repeat Holiday Market in 2014, so remember to include us in your holiday shopping plans!

We also held our Soup and Chili Cook-off, where parents, guardians and community members entered their best recipes and the favorites were chosen by guest tasters. Check out our website for recipes and to see the winners!

Upcoming events open to the community include:

- * Pancake Breakfast March 15
- * Science Night March 20
- * Spring Plant Sale May 8 & 9
- * Fine Arts Festival May 29

Some events and programs require submission of order forms or registration forms, so check our website for event postings.

We are a very busy group and, for a small school, have a lot of volunteers! Last year, over 175 adults or students volunteered for at least one DTS PiE event. We are just now gearing up for our annual spring fundraiser, and welcome volunteers to help with food, decorating and fundraising. To find out more, check out our website www.dtspie.webs.com to view our calendar of events and learn more about DTS PiE. From there you can connect to our Facebook page. Email us at dtspie@gmail.com with any questions.

Get involved! Stick your finger in the pie!

The Great Crate Race Tradition

The Great Crate Race will celebrate its 26th anniversary on Friday, July 4, 2014. (No Rain Date). For more details or design requirements, or if you have a used crate looking for a new home, please call Tammy Wiszniewski at 908-246-8731.

There will again be an antique car and tractor display. To get involved with the day's activities or to volunteer your help or vehicle, please contact Tammy. Registration forms can be picked up at the Township Building or "backpacked" home through DTS by request. Celebrate this 26 year-old Delaware Township tradition, The Great Crate Race. See you at the races!

Food Stamps

To apply for Food Stamps, contact the Hunterdon County Board of Social Services. Food Stamp Information Line: 1-800-687-9512 www.njfoodstamps.com

Who's Who in Delaware Township 2014

The first order of business for the Township Committee each year is to select the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and to make committee assignments. This year, Ken Novak has been chosen as Mayor, to be assisted by Roger Locandro Jr. as Deputy Mayor. Joseph Vocke joins the Committee as the newest elected member, and Susan Lockwood and Kristin McCarthy continue to serve. The Township Committee meets the second and last Monday of each month.

Scores of volunteers, township employees, and advisors support the more public work of the Township Committee. Sixteen Boards, Committees, and Commissions debate and advise on the small decisions that define everyday life now and for the future of Delaware Township. They are appointed by the Township Committee and serve terms of various lengths. Most have a chairperson and many have advisory members to aid in decision making. All meetings welcome the public. Meeting times, dates, agendas, and previous minutes are all available on the newsletter calendar and on the township website.

Most of the Boards, Committees and Commissions have asked the Chairpersons from 2013 to continue in 2014. David Bond continues as chairperson of the Planning Board and Charles (Chuck) Cline will continue as the chairperson of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Cline is also serving as the liaison to the Planning Board. Jim Dowd continues as chair for the Open Space Committee, while the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be chaired by Charles Fisher. The Quarry Compliance Committee, that aims to facilitate communication between Delaware Township and licensed quarries, and the Environmental Commission which protects and educates about environmental concerns and issues, are both chaired by George Hrehowesik.

The Recreation Commission has a new chairperson for 2014. Tracy Wright, who served on the 175th Anniversary Committee last year has been selected to Chair the Recreation Commission which sponsors a myriad of enjoyable activities each year. Jack Gaskill returns to chair the Farmers Market Committee, providing a fresh local source of all good things. The Board of Health will again be chaired by Jorge Berkwitz. The Board aims to assure the protection, promotion, and monitoring of the health status and condition of the citizenry. Robert Chamberlain continues as the chairperson of the Historic Advisory Committee, which monitors and maintains the history of Delaware Township. Deputy Mayor Roger Locandro chairs the Flood Hazard Mitigation Committee and the Shade Tree Commission. The Flood Hazard Mitigation Committee works to find ways to protect the Township from flooding, while the Shade Tree Commission works to protect and enhance the health of the trees in the Township. Leslie Sauer chairs the Stormwater Management Committee which addresses erosion and drainage issues. John Sterbinsky is the chairperson of the Municipal Utilities Authority which addresses water, sewer and septic issues. The COAH Committee monitors and addresses State requirements relating to affordable housing, while the Newsletter Committee, chaired by Editor Susan Lockwood, will keep the rest of Delaware Township informed.

Rutgers Day

Rutgers invites the public and university communities to attend the fifth annual Rutgers Day on April 26th – a day of exhibits, tours, performances, demonstrations, music, food and family fun in New Brunswick. Beginning at 10 a.m., the celebration of Rutgers' role as The State University of New Jersey coincides with the ever-popular Ag Field Day, Engineering Open House, and New Jersey Folk Festival. For further information visit www.rutgersday.rutgers.edu

HomeKeeper Program

The New Jersey HomeKeeper Program is a federally funded program that offers financial help to homeowners who are in danger of losing their home due to unemployment or underemployment. For information on the New Jersey HomeKeeper Program go to www.njhomekeeper.gov or call toll free at 855-NJ-KEEP-1.

Hunterdon Helpline

The Hunterdon Helpline is constantly adding new programs and services that could help you or someone you know. Call 800-272-INFO 94630 or 908-782-HELP(4357) or go to www.helplinehc.org.

Hunterdon County Consumer Affairs

Did you know that Hunterdon County has an Office of Consumer Affairs? It is a free service that evaluates, investigates and mediates consumer complaints against businesses or services located within Hunterdon County and attempts to negotiate fair and equitable resolutions of consumer complaints without prejudice. It cannot recommend a business, product or services, but it will provide helpful information to make informed decisions in the marketplace. Contact the Office at 908-806-5174 for more information.

Radon Awareness

Radon is a radioactive gas that results from the breakdown of naturally occurring uranium in soil and rock. Radon is a serious health risk. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer – and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

It enters buildings in various ways. Radon could damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer due to prolonged radon exposure. Because radon is invisible and odorless, it is easy to ignore this potential hazard in our homes.

Testing for radon is simple and inexpensive. Radon kits for sampling air are available at the Township Building from the Board of Health. Radon in drinking water can be tested on the Township's Well Test Day in October.

For information go to www.epa.gov/radon/nram or to www.njradon.org or call 800-648-0394 or call the NJDEP Radon Section 609-984-5425.