

Primary Election Day

When: Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Where: Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company

Time: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Terms Expiring: 12/31/15:

Roger Locandro and Ken Novak

Local Vacancies: Two Township Committee positions

Township Committee Primary Election Candidates:

Republicans: Roger Locandro, Ken Novak and Alan Johnson

Democrat: John Kuhlman

Tuesday May 26th is the last day to apply by mail for a Mail-in Ballot for the June Primary Election.

May 27th – June 1st by 3 p.m. File Civilian Mail-In Ballot Application and vote in person at the Hunterdon County Clerk's office at 71 Main Street in Flemington during business hours. The County Clerk's office is open for voting in person on Main Street, Flemington on Thursday, May 28th until 7 p.m. and on Saturday May 30th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Voter registration and Mail-In ballot applications are available at the Township Building or on the internet at www.co.hunterdon.nj.us. Click on "Voter & Election Information" at top right corner, then click on "Register to Vote" and/or "Vote by Mail application. Mail your application to the Hunterdon County Clerk. After receiving your application, the County Clerk provides you with the actual mail-in ballot. After marking your choices, you mail the ballot to the County Clerk in the envelope provided or hand deliver it.

If you are voting for the first time in Delaware Township, you may be asked to show a photo ID.

Voters whose records are not in the voting books may be asked to vote by paper Provisional Ballot. The County Board of Elections will check your registration later at its office in Flemington.

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Budget Annual Report

On April 27, 2015 the Delaware Township Committee approved the 2015 budget, which includes an increase of 2.1 cents per \$100,000 of assessed value - an increase of \$92.25 on \$439,308.00, the average assessed value for a home in Delaware Township. The need for an increase in the budget mainly resulted from a \$49,000 decrease in revenues coupled with the need to make payments on the Township's debt service.

The Township's debt service payments increased by \$44,745 this year. The Township occasionally bonds for "large-ticket" items, for example, to assist in paying for the last fire truck purchased with the Sergeantsville Fire Company, to purchase trucks for the Road Department, or cars for the Police Department. The rigorous repayment schedule assists in maintaining the Township's economic health.

Other changes of note: the Township shifted its contribution from the Stockton Rescue Squad to the Stockton Fire Company. In the past, the Township was served by the Stockton Fire Company (in mutual aid with the Sergeantsville Fire Company, and several neighboring fire companies as needed) together with the Stockton Rescue Squad. The Stockton Rescue Squad has virtually disbanded. The Township Committee voted to provide the Stockton Fire Company with the donation previously provided to the Rescue Squad in addition to the Fire Company donation in order to help the Stockton Fire Company maintain its budget. The total contribution provided by Delaware Township's budget to all volunteer fire companies serving us is \$83,000.

Finally, in order to prepare for the potential need for expert assistance to continue to fight the proposed PennEast pipeline, the Township has budgeted \$15,000. Several neighboring Townships including Hopewell and Kingwood have also set aside funds for this purpose.



Meet Your Neighbor: Seymour Mondsheim and Lisa Martin

By Mary Coffey

Hidden inside one section of The Cane Farm is a showcase and a studio for a very successful little company producing beautiful purses, backpacks, and fanny packs -- GreatBags/Maple Leather Co.

Seymour Mondsheim, the owner, grew up in the area around Newark as the son of a holocaust survivor who manufactured fur coats. His father's craft saved his life. As an 11-year old, Seymour recalls making little leather pouches just for fun. He graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1974, in their first class of Business Administration majors. As a "starving" student "needing a part-time job," he started a leather pouch business in his dorm room and sold them on a blanket at the student center.

He soon expanded to the Golden Nugget Flea Market in Lambertville and then to Englishtown. One of his professors recommended the Rhinebeck Craft Fair, where Seymour found a receptive market -- by the time he graduated, he had a business.

Seymour took a year to consider his options: a job or a business? He came to the realization that he was making more money in his first year of selling his pouches than he would have made as a teacher. He also found he enjoyed running a business.

In 1975, he bought a building in Hopewell, NJ and set up a small open studio in a former upholstery shop. In 1984, he moved into a factory space in Lambertville, then saw a for rent sign in 1985 and moved his budding industry to Cane Farm. He bought a house on Raven Rock Road that same year -- "a wreck," he recalled with a smile, "but that's all I could afford then." It took six months to get it habitable, then he and his family moved in.

He met his wife Lisa Martin, a basket maker, at the WBAI craft fair in 1980 at Columbia University, NYC. It was her first craft show. He stole an apple from her basket display and apparently also stole her heart, because five years later they were married at the first wedding held at the Prallsville Mill.

Their first daughter, Abbey, was born in 1988 and their second daughter, Rebecca, was born in 1989. Both girls went to Delaware Township school and Hunterdon Central. Abbey went to Tyler School of Art as an oil painting major and Rebecca majored in communications at NYU. "But they grew up in this business," he says. "I figure my kids have the equivalent of an MBA. They have been to most of the great craft shows in the country and to most of the suppliers; to the mill which weaves our fabric; and to the tannery in California which supplies our leather." Abbey works on the website and both girls work the shows when they can. "It is a family thing, our customers love our family."

He started with purses because he wanted some-

thing that the average person could buy. Originally, he made hand-tooled belts, Greek sailor caps, and men's wallets. But handbags proved the most successful item. From an internship at a tannery while still in school, he would travel with the reps to handbag companies in NYC where he picked up some of his expertise in manufacturing. He then realized he needed to know more about handbag design, so he went to the New School in NYC and then to the Fashion Institute of Technology, where he refined his design skills.

Principally, however, for the ultimate ideas on design of bags, he talks to women. "Women aged 12 to 80 tell me what they want. I listen. I make it. They tell me what's wrong with it. I make it again. I keep on making it until I get it right. My best ideas come across the counter."

"Most handbag designers are men who don't listen to women. Most bags today have all this extra weight and hardware for no reason. Many bags do not have enough pockets or zippers. I design handbags that are lightweight, indestructible, and safe, so that the contents cannot be stolen or purse-snatched. I design for a woman who rides the NYC subways or public transit anywhere. I make backpacks with pockets that are up against your back so that a thief cannot get to them. It's my theme: Keep it safe."

Though his customer base is very broad, his typical customers for his handbags are professional woman. Smaller bags sell to younger women and fanny-packs for men.

How does he keep up with the volume? "Typically, we have four boxes of orders waiting to be made at any one time. We are always working. We're not really a big business and I have just one stitcher. People can sometimes wait six weeks for an order, but they are willing to wait, because they will get what they want."

I asked how does he spread the word that his bags are here? He laughed. "You mean in a chicken coop in downtown Rosemont? Well, first of all, every product that I make has a tag on it with my name, the 800 phone number, and my website. Then, I maintain a client base through a mailing list of anyone who ever bought from me -- right now it is at 60,000 people. And we also have 12,000 email addresses of customers which we email to often. In addition, I attend 20 plus regional craft shows a year across the country. And because of this I have a lot of customers in a lot of places."

So, if you are in downtown Rosemont in search of the perfect bag, his studio is at 14 Raven Rock Road - call for an appointment in advance at 800-826-1199 as he travels a lot. You can also visit www.greatbags.com

Recreation Commission Activities

Summer Recreation Program

The Delaware Township Recreation Commission will hold a Summer Recreation Program for three weeks beginning Monday, July 6, 2015 through Friday, July 24, 2015. It will run daily from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., rain or shine, at Delaware Township School. An exciting program of arts, crafts, sports, games, and assorted activities has been planned. All children who are residents of Delaware Township and who are 5 years old by July 6, 2015 through eighth grade are invited to participate in the program.

The registration weekly fee is \$35 for one child, \$45 for two children, and \$55 for three or more children. This fee is per week, that is: for three or more children attending all three weeks the total fee would be \$165. This will allow families to pick and choose which week (s) their child(ren) will attend. Children who qualify for the federal school lunch program should contact Township Clerk Judy Allen for scholarship assistance. The cost for any field trip will be in addition to the registration fee. Please complete the registration form and return it with your registration fee. Also, there will be a late fee of \$20.00 per child/\$30.00 per family for registration forms handed in after June 20th, 2015.

All campers should come to camp wearing sneakers, not sandals or flip flops. Wearing inadequate footwear will exclude your child from running activities.

Adult volunteers are necessary to make the program a success. We need chaperones for special activities and trips to run smoothly. Thank you in advance for that support. Please indicate if and when you are available on the registration form.

A calendar of scheduled events will be distributed on the first day of the program and thereafter as requested. Campers are encouraged to bring a snack each day as no snacks will be provided.

Please be courteous — **NO EARLY DROP-OFFS OR LATE PICK-UPS.** All drop-offs and pick-ups will be made from the parking lot on the easterly side of the school. Please do not use the driveway in front of the school. For safety and security reasons, you or your carpool member must pick up your child or children in person. Only students who have completed the sixth grade will be permitted to walk or ride a bike to and from the program with a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian.

The parent or guardian will be telephoned of any child whose behavior is inappropriate at Summer Recreation. After two warnings, we will incorporate the “three strikes and you’re out” rule. The child will no longer be able to attend the program, and no refund will be given.

The registration form is available at the Delaware Township Municipal Building and on the Township website on the Home Page under “Recreation.” Mail registrations and checks to: P.O. Box 500, Sergeantsville, NJ 08557 Att: Judy Allen by June 20th, 2015. Please make checks payable to the Delaware Township Recreation Commission.

Summer Tennis Programs

The Delaware Township Recreation Commission hopes to offer Summer Tennis classes for all ages. Look for information on the Township’s website in the next few weeks.

Miniature Golf at Pine Creek Miniature Golf

Bring the family for a fun round of miniature golf at the newly reopened Pine Creek miniature Golf located just minutes from Delaware Township at 394 on Rt. 31 in West Amwell.

When: Monday-Friday, July 20-24

Time: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. -7:30 p.m. Friday

Cost: Upper Course/Lower Course
\$11/\$12 Adults
\$9/\$10 Children (under 12)
\$10/\$11 Seniors (over 61)

NOTE: For Delaware Township residents - please print the flyer from the Township’s website and present it at the counter to receive \$3/person discounted admission on the prices listed above.

Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon

Meals on Wheels delivers hot noontime meals to homebound elderly and/or disabled clients in Hunterdon on a short-term or long-term basis. Contact Meals on Wheels at 908-284-0735 for information. If you can find one or two hours once each month to deliver meals, please call 908-284-0735 to volunteer.

Hunterdon County Division of Public Health

The Hunterdon County Division of Public Health posts very useful information on its website. www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/phn.html This link is also on the Township website.

Clean Water

If you wash your car in the driveway, you might as well wash it in the lake.

What's the problem with washing your car? Washing your car on a paved surface allows the soapy wash water and other pollutants, like oil and grease, to run off into a storm drain. Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that, in large amounts can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. The soap, together with the dirt and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains, which flows directly into lakes, rivers and the ocean. The phosphates from the soap cause excess algae to grow, which is harmful to the water quality.

You can help! Take your car to a car washing facility, rather than washing it yourself. Commercial car washes treat and recycle the water. If you can't get to a car washing facility, wash your car on an unpaved surface and use biodegradable soap. Organize a Car Wash Fundraiser for a local organization. Visit www.cleanwaterNJ.org to learn how.

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 access to 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 oceans.

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.

Household Clean-Up Days in 2015

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

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on June 20 and October 17

WHAT: Pre-registration is required.

SEE: Township website for details about registration, fees, items that are accepted, and items that will not be accepted. Permits sold at Township Building.

Community Day

The annual Delaware Township Community Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd at the Dilts Park. Check the Township's website and the September newsletter for more information.

Accessory Apartment Ordinance: Financial Assistance Offered

Delaware Township adopted an accessory apartment ordinance to assist with providing affordable housing in the Township. Property owners can create an affordable housing accessory apartment and/or convert an existing accessory apartment into an affordable housing accessory apartment.

The Township will provide home improvement grants to owners of properties in which accessory apartments are to be created. The subsidy must be utilized to create the accessory apartment. Grants of \$20,000 are available to subsidize the cost of creating an accessory apartment. In order to receive financial assistance from the Township, the owner of the unit submits a Financial Assistance Application and certifies the following:

- a. Rent on the family and moderate accessory apartment will be consistent with Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) regulations;
- b. The tenant(s) to occupy the moderate accessory apartment will meet the established income limitations for a moderate income household(s) for Delaware Township's housing region; and
- c. A 10-year affordability control will be imposed via a deed restriction.

For detailed information on this program, please see the Township website and contact Municipal Housing Liaison Judy Allen.

Document Shredder Days

On Saturday, June 6, 2015 and on Saturday, September 12, 2015, the Delaware Township Environmental Commission, with funding from the NJ Recycling and Clean Communities Programs, will host free document shredder days for Township residents.

The Shredder Truck will be parked at the Township Garage located at 816 Sergeantsville Road between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. You may bring paper documents in cardboard boxes. Please remove paper clips, binder clips, rubber bands, and any plastic covers. Staples are permitted. You will be able to view your documents being shredded, if desired. All shredded paper will be recycled. Take advantage of this opportunity to dispose safely of outdated, confidential and personal files.

No Grass Clippings on Roads

Mowing season is here. Please remember that a Township ordinance prohibits mowing or blowing grass clippings onto roads. They clog ditches, culverts and drains causing serious flooding issues. Please cooperate.

Sergeantsville Inn Owners Say “Thank You”

At 2:05am, March 9th, the phone calls started, rousing owners Joe and Lisa Clyde from a deep sleep. They drove out to find their restaurant in flames. Due to an electrical problem, the 300-year-old Sergeantsville Inn was destroyed by fire.

Residents were shocked by the loss of this historic icon and popular gathering place in the heart of the Township. “It impacted the entire community,” Lisa said.

Just days later, a “Go Fund Me” site, set up by residents of the Township, began accepting donations to help finance the rebuilding of the Inn and help families financially hurt by the fire. A “Sergeantsville Inn T-shirt” sale in March was successful, with another planned for Saturday, May 30th. Joe's tomato bisque soup and t-shirts will be on sale after the close of the Farmer's Market.

“The support of community and friends and family has been...amazing” Lisa said. They include their restaurant staff in their definition of “family.” In April, they had a “pizza night” for staff at their house. Though the bartenders, waiters and waitresses have had to find interim jobs, the Clydes have told them they will keep everyone together when they re-open.

“In only seven weeks,” says Joe, “we have our builder, architect, and engineer. We will probably start actual rebuilding in May. We want to get it re-built and re-opened for everyone.”

Joe notes that their insurance company, the bank, and everyone involved with re-building has been fantastic. They want to see it happen. “I think people will start to be at ease when they finally see the restoration begin,” Lisa said.

As much as they can, they plan to keep the same footprint and bring the Inn back to the way it was. The famous stone walls will be cleaned and will be part of the structure. They hope that the restaurant will be ready for business by this coming winter, and are keeping their fingers crossed that they can re-open by then. Lisa says, “We just want to thank every single person who has helped us and the Inn,” Joe added. “This outpouring of support has been deeply appreciated. We are incredibly grateful to be a part of a community such as this ... thank you all so much...”

Dilts Park Use Requests

Applications to use Dilts Farm Park are on the Delaware Township website www.DelawareTwpNJ.org or can be obtained at the Township Building.

The Great Crate Race

The Delaware Township Recreation Commission will hold The Great Crate Race on Saturday July 4, 2015: Registration at 7am, Parade at 8:45am, and the Race starts at 9am. Start thinking about dusting off your car or building a new one! If you are looking to purchase a car or looking to sell a car please contact us.

July will be here before you know it so plan on participating/attending this fun filled community tradition. Registration forms and details can be found on the township website www.delawaretwp.org. If you have any questions please contact Kathleen Herman at 908-399-4164/ kah7999@hotmail.com or Steve Smotrich at 908-255-5358/ stevesmotrich@gmail.com

Sergeantsville Farmers' Market Supports the Sergeantsville Inn

Sergeantsville Farmers' Market vendors are donating a percentage of their proceeds to Save the Inn on all purchases made at the Market on Saturday, July 11. Join the Market to Save the Inn while also supporting local farmers and your local economy.

The Market opened for its 11th season on Saturday, May 9 with farm-fresh, locally grown vegetables, pork, lamb, chicken and eggs, as well as flowers and artisan goods. Some of their vendors include Sweet Valley Farm, Blue Mist Hollow Farm, Keona Farm, Q's Cookies, the VanNess Farm, Croton Farmers Cooperative and Mt. Salem Farm. The market also features entertainment such as live music, pony rides, and other activities for children.

Located across from the Township building, the market is open every Saturday from 8:30 am to noon through the end of October.

For more information check out www.sergeantsvillefarmersmarket.com, like them on Facebook, and visit the market! Interested in becoming a vendor? Call Jack Gaskill at 908-268-3641.

Barbers Burying Ground

The Barbers Burying Ground Association held its annual spring cleaning day at the cemetery, removing branches, twigs, and other debris from around the grounds.

Also, a new historical marker was erected -- if you are on Lambertville-HQ Road, stop by for a 15-second read.

Hunterdon Helpline

Go to www.helplinehc.org for information on assistance in many areas or call 1-800-272-INFO

Community Calendar

June 2: Primary Election Day from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company
June 6: Shredder Day at Township Garage 8 to 10 a.m.
June 20: Clean Up Day – Purchase permit at Township Building
June 21: Fathers' Day
July 3: Township offices closed
July 4: Great Crate Race
July 6: Summer Recreation Program starts
July 20-24: Delaware Township at Pine Creek Miniature Golf
September 7: Labor Day - Township Offices closed
September 12: Township-Wide Yard Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rain or shine!)
September 12: Shredder Day at Township Garage 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
October 3: Community Day at Dilts Farm Park - Volunteers needed!

Township Committee: Mondays: 7:30 p.m. on 6/8, 6/29, 7/13, 7/20, 8/24, and 9/14.
Planning Board: 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 6/3, Tuesdays: 7/7, 8/4, and 9/1.
Board of Health: Mondays: 7:30 p.m. on 6/1, 8/3; Wednesday: 9/2.
Open Space Committee: Mondays: 7:30 p.m. on 6/15, 7/20, 8/17, and 9/21.
Agricultural Advisory Committee: 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday 6/4, Tuesdays 7/7, 8/4 and 9/1.
Board of Adjustment: Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. on 6/11, 7/9, 8/13, and 9/10.
Recreation Commission: Mondays: 7:30 p.m. on 6/1, 7/6, 8/3, and 9/14.
Environmental Commission: Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m. on 6/17, 7/15, 8/19, and 9/16.
D.T.M.U.A.: Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. on 6/4, 7/2, 8/6, and 9/3.
Shade Tree Commission: Thursdays: 7:00 p.m. on 6/25, 7/23, 8/27, and 9/24.
Historic Advisory Committee: Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m. on 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, and 9/9.
Newsletter Committee: Monday, July 14th at 6:45 p.m.

All residents are invited to attend any and all Township meetings. Your participation and input are very important.

Recycling Depot: Open every week day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Township Garage on Rt. 523. Call Recycling Coordinator Kathy Klink at 609-397-3240 Ext. 208 with any questions.

Delaware Township School Activities

www.dtsk8.org
 The "DTS Dispatcher," a publication of Delaware Township School, is now available as a link on the Delaware Township website. Stay informed about activities in our school and celebrate its special mission.

May 22: Staff Development – School Closed
May 25: Memorial Day – School Closed
June 17: Early Dismissal – In Service
June 18: Early Dismissal – Last Day of School
June 19: DTS Promotion 6:00 p.m. in Gymnasium
Sept. 3: Students report for first day of school

Delaware Township Board of Education Meetings:
 6/16, 8/11, and 9/22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Room

Hunterdon Central Regional High School

The Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. in the IMC/Library. June 15th. The Annual schedule of meetings will be adopted after this Newsletter's press time. Go to www.hcrhs.k12.nj.us for confirmed dates and times.

Senior Citizens

Meetings:
June 3: 12 Noon. Pot Luck Lunch and regular monthly meeting at the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company. No meetings in July and August.
Sept 2: 12 Noon. Pot Luck Lunch and regular monthly meeting at the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company.

Trips:

July 29: Wednesday – "River Belle" – Sail on River, Canal and Bay – Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 2 hour cruise with Buffet Lunch and cash bar. Leave Firehouse 9 a.m. and arrive home around 5 p.m. \$35 for members, \$40 for guests
October 5: Monday – "Octoberfest (Ach Der Lieber)" Ligreci Staaten – Staten Island. One hour open bar, German and American food, GB's Bavarian Band. Bus departs 9:15 a.m. and arrive home around 5:30/6 p.m.

For membership information call President Sandra Krahling at 609-397-0145. For trip information call Dottie Kurzenberger at 908-782-0635 or Dorothy Gilde at 609-397-2097.

The Hunterdon County Office on Aging offers interesting recreational and educational opportunities to county senior citizens. There are shopping services,

All meetings are at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

health fairs, classes, and recreational activities throughout the year. Go to www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging.htm for information or call 908-788-1361.

Senior's Yoga Class

The Hunterdon County Division of Senior Services offers yoga classes at the Township Building. The cost is \$3 per class. You need a mat and comfortable clothing. Call Kim at 732-690-4000 to register for the next session.

Sandbrook Meadow Farm

Sandbrook Meadow Farm entered its fifth season with nearly 300 members enjoying a wide variety of certified organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers on a weekly basis. A few years ago, the farm updated its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model to give members flexibility to customize their share and use farm share "credits" to choose from a selection of the week's harvest, including, strawberries, herbs, tomatoes, green beans, kale and more. The farm also introduced more livestock, offering certified organic eggs and certified organic pork.

This year, instead of choosing a particular pick-up day like most CSAs, members may pick-up on Tuesdays and Fridays at the farm or at the Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers Market on Sundays. If you miss a week, you can come as often as you like - once a week, twice a week or every other week -- as a member, you choose.

More info: www.sandbrookmeadowfarm.com

Rescue Squad Update

As the world moves faster and lives become more complicated, the strain of finding volunteers to cover rescue squad services has been stretched thin. The Stockton Rescue squad, our primary rescue service provider, is unable to find volunteers to continue to provide coverage. Thus, the Township Committee revisited rescue services to maintain protection for our residents. The Lambertville Rescue Squad will cover a large portion of southwestern Delaware Township, Flemington-Raritan will cover a large portion of northeastern Delaware Township, and the Kingwood and Amwell Valley Rescue Squads will provide service along the western and eastern borders of the Township, respectively. By establishing these new territories, the Township Committee sought to provide the fastest response times for residents in emergencies. Some of these Squads may bill your insurance for rescue services. But all of these Squads, and our Fire companies, need the financial support of residents and municipalities to provide their services and to receive training for the next emergency. Please be generous when they ask for your donations.

Update on PennEast Pipeline

As of the writing of this article, the PennEast pipeline has moved to the next phase under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rules. PennEast announced that they had another "preferred route" but in comparing that route with those upon which the Township had previously commented, the Township's Pipeline Subcommittee (Subcommittee) noted that there were no changes affecting Delaware Township.

The next phase required the pipeline company to summarize all scoping comments and to use those comments as the basis for a series of reports required by FERC and ultimately to use them to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Subcommittee reviewed the summarized comments and sent follow-up letters to FERC noting that many of Delaware Township's scoping comments were not included in the PennEast comment summary and that there has been no recognition by PennEast of the listing of the Rosemont Historic District. The Township also filed a complaint with the Federal Office of the Inspector General noting that the company Tetra Tech, recommended by PennEast and approved by FERC to prepare the EIS, has a conflict of interest since they are on record as being a board member of the Marcellus Shale Coalition.

The next group of required reports provided by PennEast were posted to the FERC website throughout the month of April. These reports will provide the basis for the environmental impact statement. The Subcommittee, working with the Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline (DTCAP) had a joint meeting in May to map out future steps. Both groups are seeking assistance from our residents with the review of the PennEast reports.

Finally, the Township Committee, at the urging of the Subcommittee and DTCAP, allocated \$15,000 in the Township budget to help in the fight against the pipeline.

It's very important if you're a homeowner affected by the pipeline to know your rights. For more information, to volunteer to help, or to make a donation, please go to www.dtcap.org

Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead

For information on activities at the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead go to www.holcombe-jimison.org

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Arsenic in our Well Water: It's Important to Test

Has your water been tested for arsenic? If you only test your water for one thing – it should be arsenic. In Delaware Township private wells, arsenic exceeds the safe drinking water standard at a higher percentage than all other contaminants. This same pattern is found throughout most of Hunterdon County and other central and northern New Jersey counties where private wells are used. Arsenic bearing minerals occur naturally in some of the bedrock layers into which our wells are drilled.

One out of every five wells tested for arsenic in the Township during home sales between 2002 and 2011 exceeded the safe level for arsenic; a total of 91 wells contaminated with arsenic.

Just like the poison used for homicide years ago, arsenic in well water is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. The only way to identify its presence is to have the water specifically tested for arsenic. It is toxic and a known human carcinogen that greatly increases the risk for cancer of the skin, bladder, lung, kidney, and liver. It also causes increased risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. If these health effects are not enough

The Newsletter Committee

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

Logo Design: Christopher Dane

Layout and DTP: Russ Lockwood

Volunteers Welcome: Call Susan Lockwood 609-397-4265

to get you to test your water for arsenic, consider that a 2014 study conducted in Maine suggests that children drinking water with arsenic over the standard may be at risk for lower IQs.

Only a small percentage of Delaware Township residents have public water which is regularly tested and treated if needed. Most of us drink water from our own private wells drilled into the bedrock aquifer. Testing the quality of private well water is the well owner's responsibility and it's easy to test our water.

Every year during Community Day, water test kits are available for sale and can be picked up at Township Offices. An arsenic test will cost about \$40. But why wait until Community Day? You can call a nearby water testing lab and have your water tested for arsenic today. How can you find a lab? Google: arsenic awareness testing - and you'll find a website with labs testing arsenic in our area. Arsenic testing of well water was extremely rare in New Jersey before 2002, so if you can't remember testing for arsenic in recent years, there is little chance it was tested.

If arsenic is found in your water it is very easy to treat. There are several water treatment professionals with arsenic water filtration experience in our area and the treatment systems can reduce your arsenic below detectable levels. If you plan to sell your home someday, you will be required to test for arsenic then and if the level is above the standard (5 micrograms per liter) you will need to pay to install water treatment for the new owner. Why wait until then? It's time to test now.