

YARDLEY VOICE


Winter 2025
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O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP

All the "Good News" that's fit to print!

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Transforming Lives Through Play



This child is thrilled to have access to educational toys at her daycare located in an impoverished South African community, thanks to ASAP. See spotlight on page 5.

COMMUNITY GOOD WORKS 2025

Engage in the community. Support non-profits & local small businesses. Our featured SPOTLIGHTS will keep you In-the-Know!

A Community Stronghold: The vital contributions of VFW Post 6393

by June Portnoy

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6393 in Lower Makefield, stands as a shining example of service and community engagement. With approximately 225 members, this post dates back to 1946, founded by World War II veterans. Under the leadership of Commander Kirk Saboda, now in his third year, Post 6393 has earned the prestigious All-American Status twice. More importantly, it has become a vital part of the local community, serving veterans and fostering connections with residents of all ages.

Saboda has prioritized attracting younger veterans, including those in the Global

War on Terrorism (GWOT). Initiatives like yoga classes and a run/walk 5K club cater to this demographic. The post's remodeled space, with an industrial motif and gaming systems, reflects a modern aesthetic designed to appeal to younger members and their families. "Today's veterans want spaces where their spouses feel welcome too," Saboda said, who strives to ensure that this post provides a welcoming environment where both male and female veterans can feel at home.

As winter chills Lower Bucks County, Post 6393 gears up to serve. One significant effort is its involvement in the Code Blue initiative through AHTN (Advocates for the Homeless



Scene from Scout Night

and Those in Need), which provides aid to the homeless during dangerously cold weather. "Whether they are veterans or not, we help ensure no one is left in the cold,"

Saboda shared. Members assist by donating coats, driving buses, and collaborating with local churches that manage the program

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The Friends of the Yardley-Makefield Branch Library

The Friends of the Yardley-Makefield Branch Library is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support for the services and resources of the library.

We are a group of residents who believe that an excellent library is an essential community asset that reinforces life-long learning and provides access to information for all.

Funding for our mission comes from membership contributions, donations, estate gifts, and our annual book sale. The Fall Book Sale is our most anticipated and best-known event, and the primary source of funding. It features a wonderful selection of books, audio books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and specialty items, all at bargain prices.

The Friends fund special programs at the library, which are offered throughout the year. These programs are free and open to the public. The popular 2 pm Saturday programs cover a wide variety of subjects. Dates and topics are

listed on our website. Tai Chi sessions are offered on Wednesdays at 2 pm, and Chair Yoga sessions are offered on Thursdays at 2 pm.

We also support various library programs and renovations that improve the

library experience.

If you would like to get involved, there are many options:

Preparation for the book sale goes on throughout the year and involves organizing donated books and other items. We also need help with setup, work at the sale, and clean-up afterwards.

Publicity opportunities include being a media contact, managing our website and social media, helping with programming and membership, and more!

Scheduling is flexible; all help is appreciated, and some help can be provided from home.

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

To find out how you can get involved, join us at an informational meeting on March 18 from 10 – 10:30 am in the library conference room. Learn more at ymfriends.org or email us at yardleyfriends@yahoo.com.



"When in doubt go to the library." J.K. Rowling

Creative Summer Camps

Individual art intensive weeks for aspiring young artists



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Local Girl Scout advocates for the welfare and humane population control of community cats

By June Portnoy

Yardley's Olivia Hutchison, a Girl Scout from Troop 21327 and a senior at Pennsbury High School, is making a significant impact on her community through her Gold Project. Partnering with the nonprofit organization Stray Cat Project, Olivia is advocating for the health and welfare of community cats. Her initiative focuses on the importance of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the spay and neutering of cats, as well as fostering kittens born to community cats, addressing the overpopulation of community cats, and promoting humane solutions.

Olivia explained that "community cat" is an all-encompassing term to include all unowned outdoor cats, regardless of whether they are stray or feral (unsocialized to humans). She strives to correct the misconception that all outdoor cats are feral. In fact, the term applies to the cat's disposition/temperament, and not where it lives (indoors or outdoors).

From a young age, Olivia developed a deep affection for cats, having grown up with six feline companions over the years. Her empathy for community cats in need inspired her to take action. "Whenever I saw a cat outside in the cold with no food and no shelter, it hit me hard," she shared. Recognizing the challenges faced by community cats, she decided to dedicate her Gold Project to creating awareness and encouraging solutions.

According to Olivia, the statistics are alarming: about 80% of kittens born outdoors do



Olivia holds her cat, Cash, who she adopted in 2023 as a kitten from a foster home.

not survive past their first year. This sad reality emphasizes the importance of Olivia's work. By educating the community on TNR, a humane approach to controlling the community cat population, she aims to prevent unnecessary suffering and improve the lives of both cats and people.

Olivia's partnership with the Stray Cat Project, founded by Mariann Matarese, has been instrumental in advancing her goals. The organization provides local resources, including TNR

services and fostering support. "When my family worked with the Stray Cat Project to TNR a feral cat in our area, I realized how impactful their work was and knew I wanted to collaborate with them," Olivia explained.

She described how the benefits of TNR are far-reaching. Neutered cats are less likely to exhibit problematic behaviors such as aggression or territorial fighting, reducing disruptions in neighborhoods. Additionally,

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spot
light

Adopt a South African Preschool

Adopt a South African Preschool celebrates 5th birthday!

This Valentine's Day marks the fifth birthday of Adopt a South African Preschool (ASAP), a Yardley-based nonprofit which makes early childhood education accessible in disadvantaged South African communities. Founded in 2020, ASAP has established eight educational toy library training hubs in areas still impacted by the legacy of apartheid.

These libraries provide vital resources to informal day-cares, helping them evolve into proper preschools. Each

library supports 30 facilities with games, puzzles, musical instruments, puppets, books, Legos, phonics programs, and sports equipment. Daycare owners receive weekly curriculum-based training and visits to their settings by preschool coaches from ASAP's nonprofit partner.

The initiative addresses a critical need: 80% of South African fourth-graders struggle with reading comprehension, and 40% cannot read at all. Research shows that early

childhood development and first-grade performance are crucial predictors of future success. ASAP's innovative and scalable model is addressing this crisis by giving children the foundation needed to thrive.

Donors have enabled ASAP to have remarkable impact in just five years: eight toy libraries in three provinces now serve 223 preschools, empowering 1,162 women to become educators, and enabling 10,790 children to learn through play.

As ASAP celebrates this mile-

stone birthday, the volunteer-run organization welcomes community support and Valentine's Day—ASAP birthday gifts! Interested parties can make tax-deductible donations (Tax ID #87-2630897) mailed to ASAP, 156 Pine Lane, Yardley, PA 19067, or through the website adoptasouthafricanpreschool.org. For networking opportunities and volunteer information contact, Nancy Schongalla at nancy.schongalla@gmail.com.

NON-PROFIT

Tucker Chiropractic Center hosting free workshop

The Tucker Chiropractic and Wellness Center, located at 402 Middletown Blvd, Suite 210 in Langhorne, hosts a free virtual trigger point workshop.

Online attendees will learn how to apply these techniques in the comfort of their own home.

Have a partner ready if you'd like, as this application is interactive. According to Dr. Tucker, the trigger point technique is great for achy joints and muscles.

Visit the link: www.DrDavidTucker.com/TriggerPointWorkshop.

Anyone with further

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1920

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5

Explore 'The Revolutionary World of a Free Black Man'

The Lower Makefield Historical Society welcomes historian Larry Kidder for a revealing look at Jacob Francis, a free Black man who fought for American independence as well as equal rights for all.

At a time when American colonists struggled against long odds to gain their freedom from Great Britain, Jacob Francis, a free Black man, fought not only for American independence, but also for equal rights for all people in our newly formed nation. A native of nearby Amwell, N.J., the patriot joined Gen. George Washington's Continental Army in October 1775—despite Washington's efforts to prevent Black men from enlisting—and fought heroically in the Battle of Trenton.

Author and historian Larry

Kidder will detail Francis' long, meaningful life in a special Black History Month presentation hosted by the Lower Makefield Historical Society on Sunday, February 16. This free event, open to the public, will be held from 2–4 p.m., at the Lower Makefield Township Community Center, 1550 Oxford Valley Road, in Yardley.

Jacob Francis lived long enough to see an American flag with 25 stars. After the war, he purchased an enslaved woman named Mary, emancipated her, and married her in the home

of her former master. They presided over a well-respected Flemington, N.J. family, raising nine children, including Abner Hunt Francis, who spent his adult life working for the cause of abolition and equal rights for all people.

Larry Kidder is the author of "The Revolutionary World of a Free Black Man: Jacob Francis 1754–1836". He taught history for 40 years and is past president of historical societies in Ewing and Hopewell Townships in New Jersey. Kidder has been a volunteer historian, interpreter, and draft-

horse teamster at the Howell Living History Farm and is also a consultant and battlefield tour guide for the Princeton Battlefield Society. The author of five books focusing on the American Revolution, Kidder serves as an interpreter for full-day bus tours of the "Ten Crucial Days" event. Learn more about Larry Kidder at wlkidderhistorian.com.

To learn more about this and other events, visit the Lower Makefield Historical Society at lowermakefieldhistory.org/events.



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Plant a Seed Foundation awards \$5,000 scholarship

Plant a Seed is proud to announce that they have awarded their first post high school scholarship of \$5,000 to Grace Ruggerro to pursue her passion of cosmetology. Grace is a senior at Bucks Learning Cooperative where is considered to be a leader of her class.

Grace believes in giving back to the community. In the past month, she organized the Foster Share Closet at Fostering Hope Lower Bucks where foster families are provided with clothing. She also implemented a toy drive at Crosspoint Church.

Grace plans to enroll in Make-Up Designory, a 2 year

program that provides a Cosmetology license.

The Plant a Seed Inspire a Dream Foundation is a non-profit organization that awards scholarships to children (ages 10-18) whose families are struggling financially, to support their passions. Based in Bucks County, the charity has helped more than 800 children since 2008. Plant a Seed was established by Upper Makefield residents, Gene and Michele Rice.

For more information about Plant a Seed Inspire a Dream Foundation, visit www.planta-seedfoundation.org.

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Pickering Manor

Art for Your Sweetheart: Art Show & Silent Auction at Pickering Manor

Join us for a memorable evening at Pickering Manor's "Art for Your Sweetheart" Art Show and Silent Auction on February 6 from 5–7 pm at the Clubhouse at the Manor. Hosted by the Pickering Manor Auxiliary, this event will feature a stunning collection of artwork by local artists, including paintings available for auction and purchase. Admission is just \$20 at the door and includes light refreshments, including wine and gourmet cheese, offering a perfect pairing for an evening of art and community support.

Majority of the featured artists are members of the Artists of Yardley (AOY), a nonprofit art center in Yardley, known for fostering creativity through classes, workshops,



Local Artists and Pickering Manor Auxiliary Board President, Jane Mahler, meet to kick off art show planning. Pictured from left: Pat Proniewski, Jeanne Chesterton, Jane Mahler, Connie Dierks, Renee Egan, and Arlene Freed. Missing: Craig Hackett.

and exhibitions that connect local artists and art lovers. For more information on AOY, please visit www.aoyarts.org.

in landscapes, figure work, and portraiture, capturing both animals and people with vivid detail.

Connie Dierks: Working in oil and watercolor, Connie's art explores her fascination with color, reflection, light, and shadow.

Craig Hackett: A self-taught Newtown-based landscape painter, Craig is known for his bold watercolor and acrylic works, often depicting historic homes and the scenic beauty of Bucks County.

Jeanne Chesterton: An award-winning still life artist, Jeanne is known for her realistic and meticulously crafted compositions.

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Plant a Seed Foundation

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Sandy Lee, Grace's teacher; Grace Ruggerro; and Gene Rice



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Tyler Park Center for the Arts

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At Tyler Park Center for the Arts in Richboro there are a plethora of options to enhance life through the arts from workshops and classes in glass, pottery, sculpture, fiber, fine art, jewelry and mosaic to upcoming Spring and Summer offerings for all ages.

Looking ahead to summer,

Creative Summer Camps for ages 8 through 16 offer Individual Art Intensive weeks for aspiring young artists. Mini Camps for Littles and Teens with Art Around the World, Under the Sea, and Cooking and Crafts weeks are great offerings ready for enrollment.

April brings our free Community Day for families to explore Earth Center Pottery including community sculpture, crafts and collaborations with Tyler State Park environmental education presenter Bonnie Tobin, Girl Scout offerings, and our own Ivy Hill Apiary honeybee share with observation hive and extraction demonstrations, temperature permitting.

Members of the art center enjoy perks like the opportunity to participate in the annual Members Art Show being held this year from June 6th through

8th. Everyone is invited to this weekend celebrating emerging and professional artists.

Half-price tickets, sponsorship opportunities and details are all available at

TylerParkArts.org and on Tyler Park Center for the Arts Facebook and Instagram pages. Call them at 267-218-0290 or email them at info@TylerParkArts.org



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Resurrected Life Church



Pastor Ronald Dunston

Resurrected Life Church, located in Morrisville, is a vibrant and dynamic Chris-

tian community committed to fostering spiritual growth, worship, and service. The church is known for its welcoming atmosphere, where individuals and families from diverse backgrounds come together to deepen their faith and build meaningful relationships. It is a place where people can encounter God's love, experience transformative worship, and be equipped to live out their Christian beliefs in everyday life.

One of the key elements of Resurrected Life Church is its focus on biblical teaching and discipleship. The church offers engaging sermons and Bible studies that help individuals understand God's Word and apply it to their lives. The teaching is both relevant and practical, addressing the challenges and opportunities that come with living a faith-centered life in today's world.

Worship at Resurrected Life Church is an integral part of the community's life. Through contemporary music, prayer, and times of reflection, the congregation comes together to honor God and celebrate the joy of being in His presence. The church also emphasizes the importance of prayer

and personal spiritual growth, encouraging members to engage in regular devotionals and fellowship.

In addition to its focus on spiritual development, Resurrected Life Church is actively involved in serving the local community. Outreach initiatives and volunteer opportunities are available for members to make a positive impact in Morrisville and beyond. Whether through charity drives, partnerships with local organizations, or mission work, the church demonstrates its commitment to living out the gospel through action.

Overall, Resurrected Life Church in Morrisville is a place where individuals can experience God's love, grow in their faith, and make a difference in their community. Its mission is to inspire believers to live with purpose and passion, reflecting the love and hope found in Christ. Pastor Ronald Dunston leads the congregation.

For more information on Resurrected Life Church, located at 182 Anderson Ave. in Morrisville, call 215-295-3086.

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

The broad goal of the agency is to develop and provide comprehensive services to help persons age 60+ maintain independence in their homes and communities.

Our priority consumers are those with the greatest needs and fewest resources.

The Area Agency on Aging offers more than twenty programs to help older adults and their families and is an advocate for all older persons in Bucks County.



We also directly provide information and referral, outreach, assessment and care management, as well as a county wide volunteer program. Additional services and projects are by agreement or contract with other community agencies.

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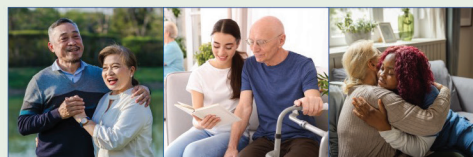
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SCORE mentors help Yardley "Mompreneur" scale infant sleep subscription business

Expectant parents are often told to enjoy their sleep before the baby arrives. For Yardley resident, Ann Marks, sleep deprivation wasn't part of her recipe for parenthood.

"It was born out of a need of my own," Marks said of her subscription-based and one-on-one consultation business, Full Feedings. "A lot of people want sleep, need sleep. This is possible naturally when you meet

your baby's needs."

She began offering one-on-one consultations in 2019 and launched her online programs in March 2020 with the goal of helping parents "enjoy parenthood more fully." She has since amassed thousands of subscribers seeking insight on infant and toddler sleep programs.

The former model and actress developed her research-

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SCORE

continued from pg. 10

based sleep training method when her now 9-year-old daughter was born. Once she saw success with her daughter, and later, with her 6-year-old twin boys, she began sharing her insight with other families.

Her doula convinced Marks that she was onto something life-changing for sleepy parents of young children.

"Every parent has the same issues," Marks said, adding that the guides she began developing as part of Full Feedings all followed the same routine based on the child's age. "I think what I do is common sense. I explain it in a very digestible sleep-deprivation format."

The subscription has drawn a global audience with customers throughout the U.S., as well as Asia, Australia and throughout Europe. Marks hopes to have her program translated into Spanish and eventually envisions Full Feedings being a component of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

In fall 2023, Marks and her team of three began developing an all-encompassing "virtual village" of affordable and effective professional support for children and parents from birth to age 3 for feeding, sleep, mental health and community/connection.

Not sure where to begin, Marks sought help from SCORE Bucks County mentors Leah Cianfrani and Steve Wolfson. "I've never run a business. I don't have a business degree. I was just going from month to month. I wasn't paying attention to spending," Marks said. "Getting all of that in order is ultimately where SCORE

knocked it out of the park."

Her mentors helped her create a business plan, set strategic goals, and served as a sounding board for ideas and act as unofficial "co-founders" in alleviating some of the pressure of entrepreneurial life.

"To just be able to have

people that show up consistently and have great ideas and help me see things that I can't see has been invaluable," she said.

Marks' mentors are proud of her success now—a 7 percent growth in subscription revenue—and future plans, which include a training program for birth workers.

"In addition to revitalizing her core business, Ann is exploring diverse growth avenues," Cianfrani said.

"With SCORE's mentorship, she's set to achieve her growth goals and build a legacy that empowers families."



Ann Marks enjoys one-on-one time with her children.

NON-PROFIT

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For four decades, Rosenello's Windows, Siding and Roofing has been a trusted name in the home improvement industry. As the company celebrates 40 years in business, it reflects on its journey from humble beginnings to becoming a household name for high-quality craftsmanship in windows, siding, and roofing.

While Rosenello's is widely recognized for its exceptional window installations,



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roofing has always been at the heart of its legacy. "Roofing is how we started," says the team. "It's the foundation of our company's reputation for reliability and expertise." Over the years, their roofing services have evolved to include modern techniques, premium materials, and innovative solutions that provide homeowners with long-lasting protection and peace of mind.

From replacing aging shingles to installing energy-efficient roofs, Rosenello's takes pride in offering personalized solutions tailored to each client's needs. Their commitment to excellence has not only earned them the loyalty of their customers, but also fueled their growth into a full-service provider of windows, siding, and exterior renovations.

As they mark their 40th anniversary, Rosenello's is proud to celebrate its rich history while continuing to innovate for the future. With deep roots in the community and a steadfast dedication to quality, they remain the go-to choice for homeowners looking to enhance and protect their homes. For more information, call 215-244-3993 or visit rosenelloswindows.com.

NEXT EDITION

mailed Feb. 25th

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

Offering services for seniors since 1973

Support, respect, and advocacy are the foundation of the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging and the services it provides. The Agency's services support older adults aged 60+ and their families, enable residents to remain in their homes as long as possible, keep them connected to the community, and protect them from abuse and exploitation.

The Agency's offerings include: information and referral to answer questions about available senior services and resources; health and wellness programs supporting older adults in making lifestyle changes to improve health, cope with chronic illness and recognize health and safety risks in and outside the home; the annual Senior Games event; nutrition services, including home delivered meals, congregate meals, and education; personalized counseling on Medicare insurance options and other issues (PA MEDI), and financial assis-



*Bucks County Area Agency
on Aging's Director,
Kathy M. Bennett*

tance to pay Medicare and prescription drug insurance premiums; assistance with concerns about quality of services at adult day centers, assisted living and nursing care facilities (Ombudsman); subsidy for transportation by Bucks County Transport;

employment referral; legal counseling; socialization and recreational activities available through its senior center partnerships; caregivers financial support; and Long-Term Care services.

Long-Term Care services include: determining a person's eligibility for adult day care, in-home care or nursing facility services; assisting in the development of care plans; coordinating in-home care services; and arranging for financial assistance for eligible consumers in need of adult day care, personal care tasks, adaptive equipment, or home modifications.

Through its Protective Services unit, the Agency investigates confidential reports of need for all adult victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and abandonment. Reports of abuse are accepted 24-hours-per-day every day at 1-800-243-3767.

For more information on Bucks County Area Agency on Aging, located at 55 E. Court St., 3rd Floor, in Doylestown, call 267-880-5700 or visit www.buckscounty.gov/aging.

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VFW

continued from pg. 2

On January 22, the post hosted its annual awards dinner at the Continental Tavern in Yardley. This invitation-only event celebrated young essay writers who participated in the VFW's essay contests, which encouraged students to reflect on themes of Americanism and patriotism. High School essay winners included: 1st place, Hayden Tarantino from Council Rock South (also taking 2nd place at the District level); 2nd place, Andrew Prasanth from Pennsbury High School; and 3rd place, Aidan Johnston from Bucks County Technical High School.

Middle school essay winners included: 1st place, Sierra Babcock, Maple Point Middle School (also taking 3rd place at the District level); 2nd place, Joanne Tierney, St. Ignatius of Antioch (also taking 1st place at the District level); and 3rd place, Allesandra Stamato, St. Ignatius of Antioch.

Winners were presented with financial awards. In addition, Post 6393 recognized Anthony Vizzini of Carl Sandburg Middle School as their nominee (also placing 1st at the District level) to receive the VFW's Smart/Maher National Citizenship

Education Teacher Award, which recognizes America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students.

Saboda emphasized the dinner's unique atmosphere, enriched by restaurant proprietor Frank Lyons, also a Revolutionary War reenactor, and a strong turnout from local and state representatives.

The post also provides year-round advocacy and assistance. Its Thursday "office hours" program exemplifies its dedication to veterans' welfare. A state VFW representative is available weekly at the post to assist veterans with filing claims for VA healthcare benefits, including disability claims for conditions like Agent Orange exposure. "This service helps about five to six veterans weekly," Saboda noted. Post volunteers oversee the pre-screening process ensuring efficiency, preventing veterans from needing multiple visits to gather necessary documentation.

All of these services are free—a sharp contrast to predatory services that exploit veterans by charging exorbitant fees. "We navigate the bureaucracy so veterans can focus on healing and

rebuilding," Saboda said.

The post's home repair initiative, spearheaded by a retired member with a background in handyman services, has become a lifeline for older veterans. "From fixing uneven flooring to replacing broken toilets, these repairs restore dignity and safety to veterans' homes," Saboda shared. Since its inception, the program has completed approximately 60 home repairs, saving veterans an estimated \$15,000 in labor costs. For those unable to afford materials, the post steps in to cover expenses, ensuring no veteran goes without essential repairs.

In another effort to make the post itself more inclusive, members recently remodeled the bathrooms to accommodate wheelchair-bound veterans. This project underscores the post's commitment to creating a welcoming environment for all.

Post 6393's relationship with local scouting organizations is a cornerstone of its community involvement. The post sponsors both a Cub Scout Pack (Pack 30) and a Venture Crew (Crew 6393), offering its facility for meetings and activities. "We're not just sponsors; we're their legal representatives, like a church or school might be," Saboda explained.

One of the most cherished annual events is the Cub Scout-focused Veterans Night in November. Scouts, along with their parents, gather to learn about the military, flag folding, and civic responsibilities. "It's a collaborative event that instills patriotism in young minds," Saboda said. Older scouts from the Venture Crew take leadership roles during the event, guiding younger participants in activities and ceremonies.

Scouts volunteer to help out

at the post's fundraisers like its Classic Car Show in July. With over 120 vehicles, live music, food trucks, and community booths, the event draws crowds from across the region. The post also organizes a Wrangler Fest in late September or early October, featuring Jeep Wranglers, silent auctions, and unique sponsor activities. Both events raise funds exclusively for veterans' needs, from covering heating bills to emergency plumbing repairs.

The post's poppy campaign, held around Easter, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day, raises funds for its relief fund. These proceeds are reserved for critical needs, such as heating assistance and home repairs. "The relief fund ensures we can act quickly to support veterans in crisis," Saboda emphasized.

Looking ahead, Post 6393 aims to maximize its three-acre property with additional outdoor events and festivals. "We want to create more opportunities for veterans to connect with the community," Saboda said.

VFW Post 6393 continues to evolve while staying true to its core mission: supporting veterans and fostering community. With initiatives spanning youth engagement, veteran advocacy, and public service, the post is a model of what a modern VFW chapter can achieve. As Saboda reflected, "This is a place for veterans to feel at home and know they are valued."

For more information, visit Post 6393's Facebook page or website address at www.yardleyvfw.com/ or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vfwpost6393. Post 6393 is located at 1444 Yardley Newtown Rd in Lower Makefield.



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Bucks County Community College

Bucks LIVE! Spring season in full swing

The spring season of *Bucks LIVE!* performances is in full swing at Bucks County Community College! The Zlock Performing Arts Center serves as the hub of culture in Bucks County and a perfect venue for live entertainment shows while being conveniently located on the Newtown Campus at 275 Swamp Rd. in Newtown.

January 31 at 7:30 pm: Dirk Quinn Band – Scabby Toad

A whimsically irreverent, complete top-to-bottom reimagining of the Beatles' legendary album "Abbey Road," featuring the band wielding traditional instruments for the very first time on record — acoustic guitar, upright bass,

piano, drums, and hand percussion — which brings a welcome warmth and authenticity to the reinterpretation.

February 14 at 7:30 pm: John Smitherman & Jessica Edwards – People Will Say We're In Love

Crafted for the romantic in all of us and filled with the beautiful music of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, and others, John Smitherman and his lovely wife Jessica Edwards perform romantic duets.

February 28 at 7:30 pm: John Jorgenson – J2B2

J2B2 is an all-star bluegrass supergroup featuring four legendary, award-winning musicians — John Jorgenson on acoustic guitar, mandolin, and vocals; Herb Pedersen on banjo, acoustic guitar, and vocals; Mark Fain on bass; and Patrick Sauber on acoustic guitar and



vocals. The band's live shows have received stellar reviews and have the bluegrass world buzzing.

March 22 at 3:30 pm: Moon Mouse: A Space Odyssey

Lightwire Theater is proud to present Moon Mouse, a family-friendly cosmic adventure about celebrating differences. Marvin the Mouse is constantly

bullied and picked on by the "cool" rats. As respite from the continuous badgering, Marvin retreats into his science books and a world of fantasy. He longs to have adventures and to be the hero.

TICKETS: For the full schedule of events and tickets, visit www.bucks.edu/tickets.

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In addition to our reliable fuel delivery services, we also offer a convenient Cash on Delivery (COD) option for our customers. COD is an easy and flexible payment method, allowing you to pay for your fuel delivery when it arrives. This straightforward approach gives you control over your finances, as you can pay directly for the fuel you need without any long-term commitments or



contracts.

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& Cooling is here to help. Our winter fuel delivery and COD payment options make it easy to stay warm and manage your expenses with ease. Contact us today to schedule a delivery and experience the reliable, professional service that has made us a trusted name in heating and cooling.

Contact us at 215-945-4833 or visit jcheat.com for more information.

Bucks IU offers state's first PK-12 Special Education

Teacher Apprenticeship—and it's FREE!

The Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Bucks IU) is breaking new ground by launching Pennsylvania's first apprenticeship program aimed at developing Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 12 Special Education teachers. This innovative program provides current Bucks IU staff a unique pathway to earn their Pennsylvania Special Education teaching certification while working full-time, gaining hands-on classroom experience, and earning a salary—all at no cost to the employees.

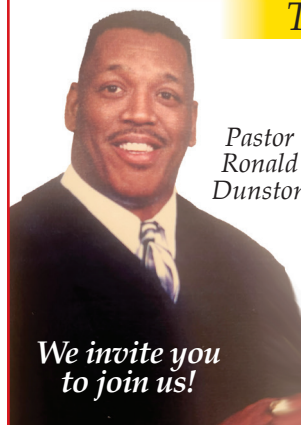
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Flowers by Jennie Lynne will be holding mid-winter and early spring floral design classes! Class size is 12 to 14 maximum.

The list on our website is frequently updated with new days added and sold-out classes posted, so please check our website at FlowersByJennieLynne.com/designclasses when choosing your classes.

We will be meeting in the classroom in the basement of the shop. The door and parking lot are around the back at 100 Trenton Rd. in Fairless Hills.

Classes are \$40 each or if you sign up for 3 classes it is \$115. To sign up call 215-547-4550 or go to our Design Class Form and fill out the information form (we will then

contact you).

Late spring and summer classes will be published in April.

Current class schedule: February: Theme—For the Love of Chocolate, Designing with Pantone's color of the year—Mocha Mousse. Limited spots are available on: Saturday, February 1, 10 am and 1 pm, and on Sunday, February 2, 2p m.

March Theme: Not Your Usual Lucky Charm—St. Patrick's Day Arrangement. Limited spots are available on: Sunday, March 16, 2 pm.

April Theme: Spring Centerpieces for Passover and Easter – In person classes



available or you can pick up a bundle of flowers and supplies and follow along with a pre-recorded video at home with family or friends on: Friday, April 11 at 6 pm; Friday, April 18, 6 pm, Saturday, April 19, 1 pm and 3 pm.

Bucks IU

continued from pg. 16

ship program, approved by the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training Council under the Department of Labor and Industry, is designed to address the growing demand for qualified Special Education teachers in Pennsylvania.

"We've seen an increasing need for Special Education teachers," said Dr. Mark Hoffman, Bucks IU Executive Director. "With fewer candidates graduating from colleges with a Special Education teaching certification, it quickly became our goal to 'grow our own' educators by offering this program to current team members interested in becoming a Special Education teacher. We believe these efforts can become a model for other educational institutions to develop their own workforce."

Dr. Jennifer Hertwig, Bucks IU Assistant to the Executive Director for Operations, began developing the apprenticeship while working in the Special Education division. "Like many education institutions, we've faced ongoing challenges in finding qualified candidates for specialized positions. This

apprenticeship program allows us to invest in our own staff, helping them grow into these crucial roles."

The PK-12 Special Education Teacher Apprenticeship is designed to recruit, train and maintain high-quality professionals in the field of education, at a time when there is a national teacher shortage. Candidates will have the opportunity to receive on-the-job training in PK-12 Special Education classrooms, while receiving teacher certification credits in Special Education.

Apprentices will take courses in an online or hybrid setting and obtain the skills to become highly effective educators for students who have learning, mental, emotional, or physical disabilities.

Qualified Bucks IU staff can apply to the program and undergo an interview process. Once selected, participants are paired with a mentor and continue to work full-time while completing coursework. Their coursework tuition will be paid-in-full by the Bucks IU. The first 60 credits will be completed through Bucks County Community College, with participants

continued on pg. 18

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Get ready, Bucks County! ECI Comfort's **4th Annual Comfort Madness HVAC Giveaway** is here, and it's your shot to win the ultimate home upgrade—a Mitsubishi Electric Heating and Air Conditioning system that delivers year-round comfort, energy efficiency, and whisper-quiet operation.

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Visit www.ecicomfort.com/cm2025.

Submit a photo of your

current HVAC unit.

Tell us why you deserve to win the ultimate comfort upgrade.

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Entries

close on **February 22**. After that, the real madness begins with voting. Rally your friends, family, and neighbors to cast their votes for your entry and help you take the top spot in our tournament bracket.

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Don't miss this chance to upgrade your comfort and your home. Enter today, and let's make this the best Comfort Madness yet!

Visit www.ecicomfort.com/cm2025 to enter!



Bucks IU

continued from pg. 17

earning an associate degree.

The remaining credits will be completed through Gwynedd Mercy University, culminating in a bachelor's degree. Gwynedd Mercy also prepares the aspiring teachers for their Pennsylvania Special Education Teaching Certification. The entire program takes approximately three and a half years to complete.

In addition to earning their salary, participants will receive pay increases at specific milestones as they complete their college coursework. Upon completion, graduates will continue to work for the Bucks IU as Special Education Teachers.

"Apprenticeships open doors for staff who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to advance their careers," said Jennifer Rawson, Bucks IU Coordinator of Apprenticeship Programs.

"We're excited to help our staff grow while also working to ensure the Bucks IU has a steady pipeline of highly qualified Special Education teachers for years to come." The Bucks IU will launch this program in 2025 with an initial cohort of five, fully funded participants.

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HOTWORX

The New Year brings about resolutions and the infamous phrase, “New Year, New Me.” Many of us fail these resolutions quickly as we get bored, too busy and struggle to stay consistent. HOTWORX, a 24-hour infrared fitness studio, has brought change to the fitness landscape in our community, merging innovative technology with traditional practices. HOTWORX is more than just a fitness studio, it offers a training method that promotes consistency, cross-training and 3D training. It’s the unique combination of heat, infrared energy and exercise for 3D training that can take your fitness journey to the next level, whether you are just starting out, getting back on track or a fitness enthusiast.

HOTWORX Langhorne features 24-hour access to nine different low impact, isometric workout sessions that are just 30 minutes along with three different 15-minute HIIT (high intensity interval training) sessions. The addition of infrared energy and heat gives you MORE WORKOUT, IN LESS TIME as it accelerates one’s metabolism allowing for higher calorie burn, increased blood flow and so much more!

Members can not only enjoy sessions at their convenience, but they don’t need to spend a lot of time to get results, making it an ideal choice for busy individuals seeking to integrate fitness into their schedules. Each session is led by experienced instructors who guide participants through tailored routines that cater to all fitness levels, from beginners to advanced practitioners. This inclusivity fosters a supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

In addition to its fitness offerings, HOTWORX emphasizes the importance of community. The

studio regularly hosts events and challenges that encourage camaraderie among members, creating a motivating atmosphere that keeps participants engaged and inspired.

Overall, HOTWORX Infrared Fitness Studio at 100 N. Bucks Town Drive, Suite 100 in Langhorne, stands out with a modern design of the studio, state-of-the-art facilities to

enhance the experience and a strong emphasis supporting its members. Whether you’re looking to enhance your yoga practice or explore new fitness modalities, HOTWORX provides a dynamic and welcoming environment for achieving your health and wellness goals. For more information, call 267-358-5296 or visit www.hotworx.net/studio/langhorne-oxford-valley.



Pearl S. Buck International’s High School Global Leadership Program

Returns this summer with two-week session—Applications now being accepted

Applications are now being accepted for Pearl S. Buck International’s always popular High School Global Leadership Program. The two-week long session will take place on the grounds of the historic Pearl S. Buck Estate in Hilltown this summer, July 21–25 and July 28–August 1.

The Global Leadership Program, for high school students from grades 9 through 11, is designed to help teens and young adults become



better students, college applicants, and global citizens and

continued on pg. 22

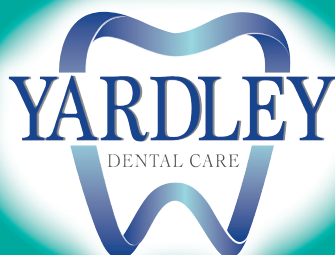
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Local nonprofit strives to “Pay It Forward” to people in need

by Maryanna Savage Phinn

When the pandemic hit in 2020, many people and families throughout Bucks and Montgomery counties experienced extraordinary and unexpected hardships that affected all aspects of daily life.

During that time, Munz Construction, a well-known family-owned business in Holland, decided to extend

a helping hand to anyone that needed assistance and eventually established a program called, “Pay It Forward People.” Its mission is to connect those in need with those in a position to pay it forward. This community-based, neighbors helping neighbors program has grown significantly since the early days of the pandemic. Pay It Forward People recently received its

nonprofit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status to continue with its charitable work.

“During the pandemic we happened to know a lot of people in the community from doing construction,” recalled Kelsey Munz, whose father, Chris Munz, owns the business. “It came to our attention that a lot of people in our area were struggling to get food, diapers, formula and that sort of thing. Many people were not getting their unemployment checks, which put them in a difficult position especially with young children.”

Kelsey, the Director of Pay It Forward and Director of community outreach for Munz Construction, noted that it became more apparent that there were a lot of people living paycheck to paycheck in the community making it difficult for them to buy necessities especially during the pandemic’s peak.

“My dad actually put it out there first through Munz Construction. He said if anyone needs food, or formula or diapers or anything else to please reach out with no questions asked. A lot of people reached out for help. But, many people also reached out to help us with this initiative. People wanted to jump on board and find these people in need and pay it forward to them. We were absolutely astonished with how the community ran with this initiative. The community took it by storm and ran with it,” she noted.

In the early stages of the pandemic, volunteers delivered food, meals and other supplies. As the pandemic shutdown continued, Pay It Forward People opened a food pantry at

donated office space at Munz Construction. In addition to food and essential household supplies, the program helped out with other projects such as: conducting a crayon drive at a Morrisville elementary school; removing fallen trees and installing a new roof for a person in the community having difficulties; donating baby supplies to a foster mom for a newborn placed in her care; and raising funds to replace the gravel from a washed out driveway for an elderly woman.

“We’ve done everything from food delivery to emergency tree removal to roof repairs, in order to help out families. Basically, we try to provide resources to a population that otherwise wouldn’t be able to get help. We foster a network of connections, but we also provide services. It’s a combination of both connecting people but also giving them the resources directly,” Kelsey said.

Pay It Forward People has plans for continued growth now that several years have passed since the pandemic. In addition to Kelsey, its volunteer board members include: Greg Millevoi of Millevoi Auto Brothers, Ian Mullins, Miriam Miller, Amy Wisner, and Becca Morton (all residents of Bucks County), as well as many other volunteers in the community. The board and its volunteers have worked on raising awareness of its mission by partnering with local groups at their events such as Octoberfest 4 Vets and Pawzibilities Animal Rescue. They have connected with other community-based organizations such as Doylestown Neighbors United,

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Pay It Forward

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Animal Lifeline and the Bucks County Opportunity Council. Kelsey noted they also can provide information on many other resources ranging from senior services to mental health support to transportation options to food pantries.

"We have definitely connected with a lot more organizations. What we hope is

that we can get a bigger team together so that we can help out more people. We hope to continue to grow and pay it forward."

For more information visit payitforwardpeople.net or to get involved, go to the Pay It Forward People Facebook Group and request to join. Currently, Pay It Forward People has more than 6,400 members in its group.

BUCKS LIVE! Spring 2025



Dirk Quinn Band - Scabby Toad
January 31



John Smitherman Jessica Edwards
"People Will Say We're In Love"-February 14



John Jorgenson - J2B2
February 28



Moon Mouse: A Space Odyssey
March 22

The spring season of Bucks LIVE! performances is in full swing! Join us for innovative programs that entertain, inspire, and enrich Bucks County's cultural landscape, including live musical, dance, and theatrical performances—all close to home.



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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and tickets, visit:
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Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need: Providing temporary shelter and hunger relief

by June Portnoy

As winter brings the harsh reality of freezing temperatures, this season causes significant challenges for our homeless community. Fortunately, the Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need (AHTN) provides essential services, including temporary shelter, hunger relief, and emergency assistance, to support the most vulnerable members of the Lower Bucks County community.

Since 2009, AHTN's Code Blue mission has provided lifesaving shelter and support during the coldest months of the year. Code Blue operates from December 1 to March 31 when temperatures drop to 26 degrees Fahrenheit or below, including wind chill, provided they can secure 18 volunteers per night. Therefore, AHTN is continually searching for new volunteers.

AHTN transforms houses of worship into temporary shelters, offering warmth and safety to the homeless. Four houses of worship in Lower Bucks County

host Code Blue shelters on a rotating basis: Shir Ami Synagogue in Newtown (December), Woodside Church in Yardley (January), Calvary Baptist Church in Bristol (February), and Morrisville Presbyterian Church in Morrisville (March). Each site can accommodate up to 58 guests. This season, the shelters have already seen up to 42 guests in a single night and have been open for 27 nights, as of January 12, since the start of December.

Volunteer bus drivers pick up those who are homeless and waiting at bus stops in four designated locations (see website for bus stop addresses) and take them to a Code Blue Shelter. After spending the night at the shelter, they are transported by bus to these same bus stops or to Reach out Foundation in Pennel, a drop in center open during weekdays for homeless guests.

"We are continually looking for volunteers to ensure we can keep Code Blue running," said Karen Mineo, Executive Director of AHTN. "Volunteers fill critical

roles, including drivers and attendants for our 15-passenger buses, intake staff, meal servers, and overnight monitors." Training is provided for all positions, and no prior experience is necessary.

With 275 registered volunteers, approximately 65-70 are regular participants who have consistently supported AHTN's initiatives over the years. Their dedication comes from a shared passion for helping the unsheltered and providing basic human necessities.

"Our volunteers are amazing," Mineo emphasized. "They are passionate, humble, and grateful for the opportunity to give back. Many say the experience of helping our guests leaves them feeling thankful for what they have and inspired to continue supporting our mission."

Volunteers can choose flexible schedules through the organization's online portal, whether it's a one-time shift or ongoing involvement. Some also assist with laundry, bedding, and the logistical tran-

sitions between shelters.

In addition to Code Blue, AHTN runs the Wheels to Meals mission, which operates year-round to provide hot meals to homeless individuals and those in need. Before the pandemic, community members gathered at houses of worship for sit-down meals. During COVID-19, the program pivoted to delivering to-go meals. Although

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Pearl S. Buck International

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leaders. Over the course of each session, students learn leadership skills, teamwork, confidence and more as they work with peers from other schools and other religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Participants put their newly acquired skills to use working collaboratively on a service project of their choice, with proceeds donated toward Pearl S. Buck International's mission and work. Many of our Global Leadership graduates go on to become Pearl S. Buck International volunteers, lead independent fundraisers for Pearl S. Buck International's humanitarian, cross-cultural, and educational work, and put their skills to use in college and toward future careers.

The application fee includes instruction by a PA state-certified teacher, supplies, daytime snacks for students, and a graduation event. More information and the application can be found at pearlsbuck.org/international-education/leadership/. Applications are due by May 16. For any questions, please contact us at 215-249-0100 or at sfreise@pearlsbuck.org.

TOPDOG

UNDERDOG

BY SUZAN-LORI PARKS

← Tickets & Info

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YARDLEY VOICE • JANUARY 2025

TRENTON PREMIERES

Temporary shelter

continued from pg. 22

dine-in meals have resumed in about 20 houses of worship, others continue to provide to-go options delivered to bus stops.

Each evening, AHTN's buses transport guests to participating houses of worship, where they are greeted with a nutritious meal and a sense of community. During Code Blue months, meals are provided exclusively at the shelter locations, encouraging guests to stay overnight for warmth and safety.

Beyond shelter and meals, AHTN's "Those in Need" mission addresses a wide range of emergencies. From funding motel stays for individuals facing extreme circumstances to providing gas assistance for those living in their vehicles, the program helps bridge gaps for people in distress. Additional services include aiding with car repairs, securing IDs, and offering mailing addresses for individuals applying for benefits like disability or social security.

Mineo explained that there has been an increase in homelessness and food insecurity across Bucks County, emphasizing the urgent need for donations and volunteer support. "We're running through hand and foot warmers faster than ever," she said. "We also need thermal clothing, hoodies, sweatpants, and other essentials to help our guests stay warm."

AHTN's Amazon wish list, available on its Facebook page, makes it easy for community members to contribute needed items. Monetary donations are also critical for sustaining the organization's wide range of programs.

For those looking to make a difference, volunteering with AHTN offers a meaningful way to give back. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and



Volunteers gather around Patty Lyons, Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need (AHTN) board member, (first row, second from left); Edith Lever, AHTN shelter coordinator, (first row, third from left); and Stephen Schlussel, AHTN board member, (first row, fourth from left) at Code Blue's temporary shelter inside Yardley's Woodside Church.

can choose roles that fit their skills and schedules. Training and background checks are provided to ensure a smooth onboarding process.

"This is a great opportunity for people who want to give

back," Mineo encouraged.

"Whether it's one night or 20, every contribution makes a difference."

To learn more about volunteering, donating, or accessing services, visit www.ahtn.org.

With the community's support, AHTN continues to fulfill its mission of providing shelter, food, and dignity to those in need, ensuring that no one in Lower Bucks County is left out in the cold.

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Bucks County Opportunity Council offers free income tax assistance for Bucks County families

The Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) offers free income tax preparation assistance for low-income residents through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). IRS-certified volunteers prepare taxes for qualified residents through April 15, in five locations throughout the county: two in Bristol, Warminster, Quakertown, and Newtown. Individuals and families with a combined income of \$64,000 or less may be eligible for the program.

BCOC volunteers make this program possible, dedicating nights and weekends to training and tax preparation. They attend training on various federal, state, and local tax laws, as well as tax credits

aimed at low- and moderate-income families, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, before taking an IRS-certification exam each year. Tax volunteers have prepared more than 18,000 returns for Bucks County families in the past 20 years, resulting in more than \$34 million in refunds, tax credits, and saved preparation fees that stay in the local economy.

Additional volunteers help with scheduling and other administrative support. VITA is sponsored by the IRS and supported locally by Bucks County Foundation and First National Bank & Trust Co. of Newtown.

Appointments are required and are currently available to schedule. To request an

appointment, visit VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance – Bucks County Opportunity Council. For questions, please reach out to Danielle Bush, Volunteer and Community Connections Manager, at dbush@bcoc.org or call 215-345-8175 x209.

BCOC is the lead anti-poverty, non-profit organization in Bucks County, dedicated to ending poverty by connecting people with the resources they need to thrive.

BCOC has five major program areas: Housing, Food, Weatherization, Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) and the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ES) Program. Housing includes street outreach, rental and move in aid, and utility shut-off prevention. Food services

supply food directly to families through a network of 74 food pantries and distribution sites. Weatherization services help families in reducing their energy costs. VITA provides free income tax preparation assistance. The ES Program assists individuals and families to leave poverty permanently through case management, education, and employment.

For 60 years, the Opportunity Council has served low-income families in Bucks County by helping them to stabilize when in crisis, garner resources to achieve a livable wage, gain additional education and training, and work towards economic self-sufficiency.



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DMVA assists veterans with more than \$1 billion in claims for 2024

Stresses importance of having military paperwork in order

For the second year in a row, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) helped veterans secure more than \$1 billion in compensation and pension benefits earned through their service. Benefits have expanded in recent years, including the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, making it even more important for veterans to connect with DMVA and receive

the benefits they have earned while in uniform.

"With the passing of the PACT law two years ago, reaching and signing up eligible veterans for their benefits has been a top priority," said Keith Graham, executive director of Veterans Programs. "We are grateful to our community partners who have helped us to reach this milestone and assure that veterans and their families are appropriately compensated."

The PACT, which expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic

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DMVA

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substances is a prime example of a recently passed law that changed eligibility for thousands of veterans in Pennsylvania.

Graham said that DMVA could not have assisted so many veterans if their military paperwork was not in order.

"Veterans having their military paperwork readily available makes the claims process so much quicker and easier," said Graham. "If for some reason a veteran cannot find their paperwork, they can reach out to our office for assistance in locating their military documents, especially the DD-214 discharge form."

The DD-214, which is used to verify military service, is an important first step for securing benefits. Having this paperwork is essential when a veteran or their advocate wants to start a

benefits review.

The easiest way to manage military documents is to make sure they are filed in a safe place immediately upon leaving the military. Veterans often find that filing their documents for free at their county courthouse of record is an easy way to secure them until needed, which can often be decades into the future. Anyone needing assistance locating their military documentation can count on assistance from the DMVA by calling toll-free 800-547-2838 or e-mailing: RA-REQ@pa.gov.

"Starting off the new year is also a good time for veterans to apply for federal health care and state benefits by visiting their local county director of veterans affairs or area veteran service officer," said Graham. "This free assistance is a great way to look at what benefits you may be eligible for and to get help applying for those ben-

efits, even if you have applied and been denied in the past."

Graham noted that there are always new laws or changes to current laws that impact veterans' benefits. One such new law is Act 27 which exempts 100 percent of a disabled veteran's benefit payment from being counted as income when determining eligibility for any programs or needs-based benefit provided by Pennsylvania. This includes DMVA's Veterans Temporary Assistance, Military Family Relief Assistance and Real Estate Tax Exemption programs.

For assistance applying for these programs and others offered through DMVA, a complete list of accredited county directors of veterans affairs and their contact information can be found here [County Directors](#). Contact information for accredited veteran service officers can be found here: [Veteran Service](#)

Officers.

In addition to connecting with a county director or a veteran service officer, DMVA recommends that every one of Pennsylvania's nearly 700,000 veterans – the fifth largest veteran population in the nation – should sign up for the DMVA Veterans Registry, a free tool that electronically delivers information about the many state benefits, programs and services available to veterans. Veterans, family members and people who work with veterans can sign up by computer or mobile device at www.register.dmv.pa.gov.

Learn more about the DMVA by visiting us online at www.dmv.pa.gov or follow us at www.facebook.com/padmva or www.twitter.com/padmva.

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Pickering Manor

continued from pg. 7

Pat Proniewski: A contemporary realist painter, Pat's work has received awards regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Renee Egan: An award-winning artist and founding member of the AOY Art Center in Yardley. Renee creates the romantic impressions through dynamic lighting, color, and texture.

In addition to the silent

auction, the artists will have additional works available for sale. This event offers a great opportunity to acquire beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces while supporting the residents of a local nonprofit.

Don't miss out on this delightful evening—come support local artists, enjoy fine art, and share in the festive atmosphere. For more information, visit www.pickeringmanor.org and click on Community and Events.

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O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP

Mike Smith

Girl Scout

continued from pg. 4

spaying and neutering house cats, especially those that occasionally venture outdoors, helps prevent unwanted litters and protects them from potential harm.

Olivia advised against trapping feral cats yourself, and instead suggested contacting an organization like the Stray Cat Project, that has the resources to trap them. She also stressed the importance of returning feral cats to the location where they were trapped so they are more likely to survive in this familiar environment.

For kittens born to feral mothers, fostering is a critical step toward adoption. "Both of my cats were foster kittens from feral cats," Olivia shared. Foster homes provide a nurturing environment, helping kittens become socialized and ready for permanent homes. Olivia described the life-saving potential of fostering: "Even if you don't want a long-term pet, fostering gives kittens a chance to grow up healthy and loved."

Olivia's project focuses on raising awareness. At last year's Yardley Harvest Day, she manned an information booth, along with

Mariann Matarese, that featured brochures she had created. These materials educated the public on TNR, fostering, and the importance of spaying and neutering both community and house cats. Her attendance at Harvest Day enabled her to connect with community members, answer questions, and inspire action.

To further promote fostering, Olivia is creating videos featuring foster parents with their cats describing their experiences. These videos will be shared on Stray Cat Project's social media platforms to encourage more people to get involved.

Olivia admitted how balancing her project with the demands of senior year, with college applications, schoolwork, and extracurricular activities, has been challenging. However, Olivia's passion keeps her motivated. Her end goal is to complete her Gold Project by early this year, leaving behind lasting resources, such as brochures and online content, to ensure that the community continues to benefit from her efforts.

Training her team of fosters to expand their knowledge and advocate for TNR and spay and neuter and working closely with the Stray Cat Project have also been vital

components of her journey. By teaching others, Olivia ensures that her project's impact extends beyond her immediate involvement.

Olivia's work is a reminder that everyone can contribute to solving the issue of community cat overpopulation. From fostering kittens to volunteering with local organizations, small actions can make a big difference. She hopes that her project inspires others to take proactive steps, such as calling the Stray Cat Project for TNR services or providing temporary care for kittens.

"It's disheartening that so many kittens born outdoors don't make it past their first year," Olivia said. "But by spaying, neutering, and fostering, we can minimize this issue and give these animals a chance at a better life."

As Olivia prepares for college with aspirations to study law, she reflects on the impact of her Gold Project. Her dedication to community cats demonstrates how one person's compassion and commitment can create meaningful change. Through her efforts, she has not only improved the lives of countless cats but also empowered her community to take action.

"Some children have never held a toy"



Adopt a South African Preschool (ASAP) funds Educational Toy Library Training Centers, so that vulnerable children gain the foundation for school success. Essential life skills form in safe, caring, and stimulating settings where children learn through play. Sadly, countless South African children spend their critical, first five years in overcrowded, under-resourced daycares.

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- \$300** Funds one set of 30 musical instruments.
- \$3,000** Funds existing Educational Toy Libraries to resource 10 more preschools.



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Please donate via the QR Code, website, or a check to ASAP, 156 Pine Lane, Yardley, PA 19067

READ MORE IN THE ARTICLE IN THIS PAPER

Upcoming Black History Month Programs at SSAAM

The Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (SSAAM), central New Jersey's first dedicated Black history museum, is excited to announce a series of special events in honor of Black History Month this February. Programs will include live theatrical performances, a birthday celebration for Frederick Douglass, and a student art and history exhibit.

"Meet Hannah Till"

Live Performance

Friday, February 7 at 7 pm,
Mt. Zion AME Church, 189
Hollow Rd., Skillman, NJ

Educator and historical reenactor Leslie Bramlett will portray Hannah Archer Till, George Washington's personal cook during the Revolutionary War, in an original one-woman show. The daughter of an enslaved African American woman and an Oneida Indian man, Hannah Till was born into slavery in 1721. In 1777, she was leased to General George Washington as his cook and servant. She and her husband purchased their freedom the next year but continued to work for Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette until the end of the war. She was present



Leslie Bramlett in costume as Hannah Archer Till, George Washington's private cook during the Revolutionary War.

Photo by Leslie Bramlett

American women of the Revolutionary Period. Free to the public.

Douglass Day at SSAAM

Friday, February 14 from
12–3 pm, Historic Reasoner-True House, 183 Hollow Rd., Skillman, NJ

In honor of abolitionist and activist Frederick Douglass's chosen birthday, SSAAM staff will guide visitors in a transcribe-a-thon of historical documents from the Library of Congress. Docents will provide tours of the museum and special exhibits inside Mt. Zion AME Church. Make history with SSAAM and contribute to the Library of Congress's digital archives. Birthday cake will be provided!

Participation is free but pre-registration is required. Sign up your student group or as an individual at the following link: www.ssaamuseum.org/frederick-douglass-day.

"Art of the Witness Stones Project" Special Exhibit

All February, the Princeton Public Library will display a special art and history exhibit from SSAAM in their second-floor Reading Room. This exhibit will share the artwork of Timberlane Middle School's 8th grade students who researched the lives of Friday Truehart, Frost Blackwell, and Nance, three individuals who were enslaved in Central New Jersey during the 18th and 19th centuries. In collaboration with SSAAM and the Witness Stones Project, students created touching artwork reflecting on the lives of these enslaved people and the legacy of slavery in New Jersey. *Free to the public.*

For more information about these special events or to learn more about SSAAM, visit SSAAM.org.

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at every battle Washington fought during the Revolution. Tickets are available for \$5/ person and can be purchased at: www.ssaamuseum.org/hannah-till.

"Meet Hannah Till"

Museum Open Hours

Saturday, February 8 from
10 am–1 pm, Mt. Zion AME
Church, 189 Hollow Rd., Skillman, NJ

Reenactor Leslie Bramlett will be present in costume during this interactive museum open house day. She will answer questions and share hands-on activities celebrating African

VCA Animal Healing Center *A bright new year for your pet*

by Dr. Jacqueline Ruskin DVM CVA

Another year has flown by, and it is time again to set our intentions for a new year. We set wellness goals for ourselves so why not for our pets.

As with humans, wellness in pets is a multifactorial sliding scale based on individual factors. Each pet will have their own starting line and goals based on age, conditions, and genetics.

When we set out on a goal for improved health in pets we

have to set realistic goals but also not make excuses for age. For example, A New Year's resolution for a 12-year-old German Shepherd could be to walk the whole neighborhood again. But if we make the excuse, "he's old" and don't assign him that resolution then he will continue to be old and not have the opportunity to improve his quality of life. What if instead we set him a resolution to be better at walking. Now we have options to improve wellness with supplements, acupunc-

ture, electromagnetic therapy, Adequan injections, and laser therapy.

Six to eight weeks later, not only is he walking the neighborhood again but he is playing again, going up the stairs, and enjoying life again. Old age is not a diagnosis. It is a call to action.

At VCA Animal Healing Center, we believe no pet is aged out of being healthier than they are now. Every pet can slide up the wellness scale if we set goals and give wellness a chance. Let's put the

health back in healthcare for pets by setting intentions for them to have better physical and mental health. Tools for

wellness include diet, supplements, quality time with their humans, exercise, and other healing modalities.

How can your pet's life be better next year? Set it, make it, do it, achieve it.

For more information about VCA Animal Healing Center, located at 1724 Yardley Langhorne Rd in Yardley, call 215-493-0621.

Bucks Beautiful Board of Directors Developments

Bucks Beautiful is pleased to announce many exciting developments regarding the Board of Directors. After completing his five-year term as President of the Board, Gary Mathern has stepped down, however will remain on the Board of Directors. He accomplished much during his tenure, including instituting marketing efforts and expanding the print and social media focus to successfully increase awareness of the nonprofit in the community. Additionally, Gary oversaw the inauguration of the membership program and quarterly newsletter.

Michael Flanagan has been elected as the new President of the Board. He joined Bucks Beautiful's board in July 2023. Michael and husband William have been longtime supporters and carry the distinction of being part of our Charter Membership. They graciously opened their home for the Kitchen and Garden Tour fundraiser and now volunteer annually for the event. Michael has also become an invaluable

member of the Spring Fling Committee and has been instrumental in recruiting sponsors for the nonprofit. Michael was acknowledged for his outstanding efforts with the 2024 Bucks Beautiful Leader Award.

Peter R. Fernandez has retired from the Board after 21 years of dedicated service. Executive Director Denise Sezack honored Peter at a recent member reception stating "All of us at Bucks Beautiful are filled with grateful appreciation for Peter's outstanding commitment to advance the growth of our nonprofit. His leadership as our President, mentor and friend cannot be accurately expressed in words. Peter's selfless contributions will leave a legacy for all to follow."

Dominic Zimmaro has been appointed to the Board of Directors, where he will spearhead the RePlant Bucks reforestation initiative. This Bucks County native developed a love of nature and the outdoors through his involvement in the Boy

Scouts. Dominic resides in New Hope with his wife Ashley, where he continues his stewardship of wildlife and public lands. Dominic joined Bartlett Tree Experts in 2021, where he gained valuable knowledge and skills as his career advanced. Dominic is certified as both an ISA arborist and Pennsylvania pesticide applicator. As a Bartlett Arborist Representative, he is backed by the diagnostic resources of the Bartlett Tree Research

Laboratories. He enjoys helping clients make informed decisions to maintain the health of trees and shrubs and achieve their goals for their properties.

He joins current Board of Directors Matthew Broad, Steve Darlington, Melissa Eiseman, Mike Feeney, David Fermier, Chuck Gale, Dr. Vail Garvin, Thomas L. Hebel, Gary Mathern, John F. McCaughan, Renny Reynolds, Bryce Sanders, Susan Sandor, Jonathan Sharaf and Carter van Dyke.

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Altomonte's

Everything created and shared at Altomonte's is fueled by passion. "After 53 years in business, our guiding principles remain the same: use top-quality ingredients, serve customers like family and always strive for excellence," says Maria who adds "When we couldn't find bread and pastries that met our standards, we began making them ourselves. Today, we import our own olive oil, tomatoes, flour and more, ensuring the highest quality from source to table." She emphasizes that strong relationships with their producers and farmers are key to maintaining their standards of excellence.

Maria says her biggest inspiration is her mom, whose incredible work ethic and dedication exemplifies the American dream. "Her ability to turn challenges into opportunities while always being there for our family has shaped my

own approach to work and life," she shares. "What I enjoy most about our business is sharing exceptional food with our customers, educating them about its origins, and watching their delight as they experience something truly special."

Maria can be found helping customers recreate cherished family recipes. "It's a heart-warming experience to bring someone's grandmother's or mother's secret dishes back to life, especially when those recipes were never written down," she says, adding "It's incredibly fulfilling to see the joy on their faces when they finally achieve that culinary connection."

From their humble beginnings as a small corner store in Philadelphia, Altomonte's has grown to include two markets, a bakery and an import company, thanks to the support and dedication of everyone involved.

Work days are always lively



Altomonte's is Family Owned & Operated for 53 Years with an award-winning butcher shop, Pennsylvania's finest selection of Italian wines, a scratch made bakery and more!

at the store and Maria chuckles, in retrospect. "One time during our childhood, we mistakenly allowed a basket of live escargot to escape. The snails ended up crawling over everything in the store—on shelves, the ceiling and glass cases, leading to quite an amusing clean-up adventure for our parents while we were at school. To this day,

it's one of our favorite family stories, reminding us that even in the midst of chaos, there's always a chance for a good laugh and a memorable experience."

For more about Altomonte's visit altomontes.com and follow them on Instagram @altomontes.

Local women make BIG difference with little effort

The concept is simple yet brilliant. Bring at least 100 women together who want to

make a difference, but can't fit one more thing into their busy lives to agree to meet for one

hour a quarter and donate \$100 each time. This is the concept behind 100+ Women Who Care- Bucks County. Here's how it works:

At each quarterly meeting, members in attendance can nominate a local charity for consideration. The charities must be a 501(c)3 and the funds must stay in Bucks County. The names of three charities are pulled from those nominated and each makes a short presentation at the next quarterly meeting about why they deserve the funds. The members in attendance vote, and the funds are awarded according to the vote count. That's it: Brilliant, right??

Currently membership stands

at 250 women. That means that \$25,000 is raised in one hour to help those in need in our local community. That's \$100,000 a year – with 4 hours of work! No muss, no fuss. No charity auctions with bad food and, even worse, wine where you pay too much for stuff you don't want or need. Like I said, it's brilliant! Why don't you join us!

This amazing group of women have donated funds to A Woman's Place, Shamrock Reins, Family Services of Bucks County, Mother Bachman Clinic, Bucks County Housing Group and many, many others. We are a lean, mean, philanthropic machine that makes a significant impact on those in need

continued on pg. 39



ELECTRICAL/HIGH VOLTAGE TESTING

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS for IBEW Local 269 for the 2025 school year will be accepted online at:

<https://goo.gl/P1BY7A> beginning January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025.

For details of the application process see here: <https://goo.gl/aanMec>
 All applicants subject to post-offer physical/drug screen
 Please direct any questions to jatc@ibew269.com or (609) 394-1337

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PrimoHoagies Ewing

When it comes to game day or any football-themed event, PrimoHoagies Ewing offers the perfect catering solution to ensure your gathering is a hit. Located in Ewing, we pride ourselves on delivering high-quality, delicious hoagies and party platters that will keep your guests satisfied and cheering for more.

Our catering menu features a delectable selection of hoagies made with the freshest ingredients. Choose from an array of options including the classic Italian hoagie, loaded with

premium meats and cheeses, or the savory roast beef, turkey, and veggie varieties. Each hoagie is prepared with the finest ingredients, including freshly baked bread, high-quality meats, and crisp vegetables, ensuring every bite is packed with flavor.

In addition to our signature hoagies, we offer a variety of side dishes that are perfect for complementing your main course. Enjoy our flavorful pasta salads, creamy potato salads, and crunchy chips—ideal for adding variety to your spread

and satisfying diverse tastes.

At PrimoHoagies Ewing, we understand that convenience is key for successful event planning. That's why we offer efficient delivery options and customizable platters to suit the needs of your gathering. Our dedicated catering team is committed to providing exceptional service and ensuring your order is prepared to your exact preferences.

Make your next football event memorable and stress-free with PrimoHoagies Ewing. Let us take care of the food

while you focus on the game and enjoying time with friends and family. Contact us today to place your catering order and experience the unbeatable taste and quality that PrimoHoagies is known for. Score big with our outstanding football catering and make your event a touchdown!

PrimoHoagies is located at 238 Scotch Rd. in Ewing, NJ. For more information, call 609-406-9000 or visit www.primohoagies.com/location/ewing-nj

FOOD

spot
light

ShopRite Yardley

Keto & Dairy-Free Cauliflower-Garlic Soup

Prep: 20 minutes | **Roast/Cook:** 55 minutes | **Serves:** 8

4 garlic cloves
2 medium heads cauliflower, cut into florets
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
2 celery stalks, chopped
1 small yellow onion, chopped
2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme
1 container (32 oz) unsalted vegetable stock
1 medium lemon, juiced (about ¼ cup)
Fresh cracked black pepper and/or thinly sliced green onions for garnish (optional)



1. Preheat the oven to 425°. In a large bowl, toss garlic, cauliflower and 2 tablespoons of oil; spread on a rimmed baking pan and roast for 25 minutes or until golden brown, stirring once halfway through roasting.
2. In a large saucepot, heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat. Add celery and onion; cook and stir for 5 minutes or until tender. Add thyme; cook and stir for 1 minute or until fragrant. Stir in stock, lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper and cauliflower mixture; heat to a simmer. Reduce heat to low; cover, cook and stir for 20 minutes.
3. With a blender or stick blender, purée soup until smooth. Makes about 8 cups.
4. Serve soup garnished with pepper and/or green onions, if desired.

Approximate nutritional values per serving (1 cup): 92 Calories, 5g Fat, 1g Saturated Fat, 0mg Cholesterol, 194mg Sodium, 9g Carbohydrates, 3g Fiber, 4g Sugars, 0g Added Sugars, 3g

Chef Tip(s): If the soup is too thick to blend smooth, add up to 1 cup of water.

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Pets Furst Urgent Care

Pets Furst Urgent Care prioritizes not only the medical well-being of pets but also the comfort and reassurance of their owners. The clinic's atmosphere is designed to be welcoming and supportive, helping to ease the stress that often accompanies emergency situations. The staff is known for their dedication to providing clear communication and empathetic support, ensuring that pet owners are well-informed and involved in their pet's care.

In addition to their urgent care services, Pets Furst also emphasizes the importance of preventive care and regular check-ups to maintain pet health and prevent emergencies. They work closely with regular veterinarians to provide a seamless continuum of care for pets, reinforcing their commitment to comprehensive and compassionate veterinary service.

Pets Furst Urgent Care in Langhorne is a specialized veterinary clinic dedicated to providing medical care for pets. Located conveniently in the Langhorne area, this facility is designed to address the immediate health needs of animals, offering a crucial service for pet owners seeking prompt medical attention outside of

regular office hours.

The clinic is equipped with advanced diagnostic tools and state-of-the-art medical technology to handle a wide range of urgent situations. Pets Furst ensures that pets receive high-quality care when they need it most. Their team of experienced veterinarians and skilled support staff are trained to manage conditions with compassion and expertise, making the clinic

a trusted resource for pet owners in the region.

Overall, Pets Furst Urgent Care in Langhorne stands out as a vital resource for addressing pet health needs, combining medical expertise with a deep commitment to animal welfare and client support.

For more information about Pets Furst Urgent Care in Langhorne, located at 502 Oxford Valley Rd., call 215-755-1000.



Eye Associates Of Bucks County

Visionaries in eyecare and surgery

We are fortunate to be living in a time with so many medical advancements. Ophthalmologists now have access to treatments that improve and preserve sight, while drastically improving our patient's quality of life by making our patients less dependent on glasses and reducing their need for prescription medications.

Cataract surgery has evolved from a surgery that required two weeks of hospitalization to an outpatient procedure, after which many patients return to



Dr. Mitchell Stein, MD Glaucoma Specialist

most activities the next day. Eye Associates of Bucks County (EABC) physicians were among the first to perform Femtosecond Laser-Assisted Cata-

ract Surgery. This innovative technology utilizes a laser to make incisions and soften the cataract. The result is less traumatic surgery and often results in even quicker recovery.

The standard treatment of Glaucoma has been drops. Unfortunately, these medications can be costly and cause irritation and local reactions in and around the eye. EABC offers treatments that can reduce or even eliminate the need for drops. For example, selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) is a laser treatment in our office. In addition, EABC offers surgical options that can be an alternative to drops. Some can be done in conjunction

with Cataract Surgery (iStent, Omni, Hydrus, and Goniotomy), and others can be done as a separate surgery (Xen stent and Goniotomy).

At Eye Associates of Bucks County (EABC), we believe every decision concerning your eyes should be informed and personal. Our accomplished physicians are dedicated to protecting, improving, and preserving eye health and are enthusiastic about providing the best possible vision outcome by utilizing state-of-the-art techniques.

Call us at 833-921-6200 or visit our website at www.centerforeyes.com to schedule an appointment.

*Developmental
Trauma**Remediated by
Neurofeedback*

submitted by Maria Di Donato
DEd, BCN, PA Licensed Psychol-
ogist, PA/NJ Certified School
Psychologist

Developmental trauma has long been recognized as a condition that affects many individuals. It stems from early childhood experiences of abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Those affected by this type of trauma, generally from a primary caregiver, experience symptoms that indicate varying degrees of emotional dysregulation. These symptoms can include fear, rage, social isolation, anxiety, self-destructive behaviors, and more because of traumatic experiences. This condition is also referred to as a type of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Many therapists have attempted to address and remediate individuals affected by this disorder with varying degrees of success. Research in the areas of the brain affected by traumatic experiences has uncovered a mind-brain connection between the trauma experiences and the response to trauma. Psychotherapy alone

has been hampered in successfully remediating the condition.

Recent research in brain functions has provided evidence of involvement of deep brain areas that process and respond to the trauma experiences. These deep brain areas are separate and independent of the psychotherapy model of intervention, indicating that they are generally inaccessible to that modality.

Current research is focusing on the deep brain structures most affected by the trauma.

These areas of the brain are not easily accessible by talk therapy because they are non-verbal in nature. For example, the right amygdala (right temporal area) is one area of the brain affected by emotional experience. It is non-verbal and cannot tell time (a function of the left frontal area). Other areas of the brain, particularly in the brain stem, are similarly affected and responsive. Being nonverbal, they are apart from the language of talk therapy. So therefore, any therapy addressing

emotional content must do so nonverbally in the emotional, nonverbal processing centers.

Neurofeedback offers a promising solution for developmental trauma by targeting the brain's deep, non-verbal areas that talk therapy cannot reach. Integrating these methods is a more comprehensive and effective treatment for lasting recovery.

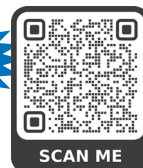
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Published: February 25
Deadline: week of Feb. 10

Bathroom King LLC

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Are you dreaming of a luxurious, functional, and beautifully designed bathroom? Look no further than Bathroom King LLC, your local bathroom remodeling experts serving Bucks and Montgomery counties.

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At Bathroom King LLC, we understand that your bathroom is more than just a functional space—it's a place of relaxation, rejuvenation, and personal comfort. That's why we specialize in creating custom bathroom designs tailored to

your style and needs. Whether you're looking to update your fixtures, install a modern shower, or completely remodel your space, our team is com-

mitted to excellence every step of the way.

Our process starts with a free consultation, where we'll listen to your ideas, assess your

space, and provide expert recommendations.

From there, we'll guide you through every detail, from selecting the perfect tiles and countertops to choosing the right lighting and fixtures. We handle everything, including plumbing, electrical work, and installation, ensuring a seamless and stress-free experience.

Ready to upgrade your bathroom? Contact Bathroom King LLC today to schedule your free consultation and discover why so many homeowners in Bucks and Montgomery counties trust us for their remodeling projects.

Call us at 215-942-4999 or visit www.bathroomkingllc.com to get started. Let Bathroom LLC transform your bathroom into a space you'll love for years to come!



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Bucks County Tourism Grant Program awards \$593,463 to 53 Bucks County organizations

The Bucks County Tourism Grant Program distributed \$593,463 to 53 organizations. The program was established between Visit Bucks County and the County of Bucks in 2008 to assist in the development and enhancement of tourism initiatives in Bucks County. It is funded from a portion received from the Bucks County lodging tax assessed to visitors staying overnight in hotels, bed and breakfasts and home-shares.

Since the inception of the grant program, more than \$7.2 million has been distributed to more than 140 organizations. Grant funding is used for

marketing, special events and exhibitions, product development and capital improvement projects all taking place in 2025.

Each year, one grant recipient is recognized, in name, as the Charles H. Martin Grant in honor of former Commissioner Martin's commitment to starting and supporting the Bucks County Tourism Grant Program. The 2024 recipient is Bucks County Wine Trail.

The full list of 2024 recipients can be found here: www.visitbuckscounty.com/articles/post/bucks-county-tourism-grant-program-awards-593463-to-53-bucks-county-organizations/.

spot
light

Capital Health Medical Center

Capital Health Medical Center – Hopewell named in U.S. News & World Report for 2025 best hospitals for maternity care

U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice, has named Capital Health Medical Center – Hopewell as a 2025 High Performing hospital for Maternity Care. This is the highest award a hospital can earn as part of U.S. News' Best Hospitals for Maternity Care annual study. Capital Health earned this designation as measured by factors such as severe unexpected newborn complication rates, birthing-friendly practices and transparency on racial/ethnic disparities, among other measures.

This is the second consecutive year that Capital Health earned a place in the U.S. News High Performing Hospitals list for Maternity Care and the third time in four years since U.S. News published its first list of Best Hospitals for Maternity. In April 2024, Capital Health was also recognized by U.S. News for achieving excellent outcomes for cesarean section and unexpected newborn complications among black patients.

The Maternity Services Program at Capital Health Medical Center – Hopewell makes up the most complete maternity facility in the area. From routine deliveries to high-risk needs, staff at the Josephine Plumeri Birthing Center at Capital Health Medical Center - Hopewell provide a full range of prenatal, obstetrical, postpartum, and neonatal care options so newborns have the greatest chance for a healthy start. The designated Regional Perinatal Center provides neonatal care, including Mercer County's only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for at-risk births. To learn more, visit capitalhealth.org/maternity.



Capital Health Medical Center – Hopewell is the only hospital in the Greater Mercer County area to earn recognition from the U.S. News & World Report for maternity services.

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Friends Village

Life with purpose

At Friends Village, we are dedicated to fostering growth and transformation for our residents and the greater community. Our winter programming, kicking off on January 27, is designed to inspire and engage, offering a diverse range of sessions that will encourage personal development and learning. Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free and will be hosted at Friends Village Styer Campus, located at 331 Lower Dolington Road in Newtown.

Starting January 27 and running through March 6, we are excited to offer "Yoga for Seniors", led by Joe Simek, an internationally certified Yoga Therapist and 500-hour level Yoga Teacher. This program is designed to promote wellness and relaxation for all levels.

In February, our programming continues to captivate with a variety of informative and engaging topics. Sean Connolly will lead a discussion on "Quaker City: Philadelphia's Quaker Experiment and Historic Preservation", exploring the legacy of the Quaker

colonial government and the important roles Quakers played during the Revolutionary Era. Dr. Cindy Baum-Baicker will present, "Adult Children & Aging Parents: Issues to be Discussed & Wisdoms to be Shared", while Sharon Hulihan and Wendy Kane will take us on a fascinating journey, "Digging Into the Past with the Graveyard Girls", exploring the history and connections between Newtown Friends Meeting House and Friends Village.

In March, we are pleased to offer Mary Limbert's, "Mind Matters and the Preparing Together Workshop", focused on the importance of having an emergency plan in place. We will also host a five-week "Computer Essentials", as well as two additional classes: "Smartphones at a Glance" and "Google Photos".

Additionally, Shikha Prashar, an Edward Jones Financial Advisor, will present a four-part series on financial literacy, including, "Woman, Wealth, and Wisdom", "Savvy Woman, Smart Investors Take Charge of Their Financial Future", "Making it Last: Retirement Income Strategies", and "Alzheimer's



Conversations: Protecting Your Health and Wealth".

For more information on any of these exciting programs and to register (required), please visit our website at www.friends-village.org/growth.

friends-village.org/growth, email OLord@friends-village.org, or call 215-968-3346 ext. 202. We look forward to welcoming you to these enriching sessions!

Medicare Advantage open enrollment now underway

Free insurance counseling available through PA MEDI

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging reminds Medicare beneficiaries that the

annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period runs from January 1st to March 31st. During this time, beneficiaries who currently have a Medicare Advantage plan can switch to a different plan or to original Medicare. Changes to their enrollment will take effect on the first of the month following the month in which they enroll.

Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI), Pennsylvania's Medicare counseling program, is available through local Area Agencies on Aging to help beneficiaries with Medicare questions. Older adults can receive unbiased, no-cost Medicare assistance from trained PA MEDI counselors who can walk them through their options to assist in making informed health insurance decisions that optimize their cost savings and access to health care and benefits.

Medicare Advantage is a Medicare-approved plan from a

continued on pg. 37



**Join us for our
OPEN HOUSE**
And Celebrate Chocolate Month
Saturday, February 15th
Styer Campus

331 Lower Dolington Road
10am-12pm

Perhaps partake in a chocolate sample and hot chocolate

Newly renovated one bedroom apartments on sale now at Holland Village!

Holland Village offers a maintenance-free lifestyle for seniors, which includes well-appointed apartments and cottage homes.

Save up to \$500 on newly renovated 1-bedroom apartments ranging from 614 to 788 square feet.

Modern amenities and sophisticated style include spacious kitchens, washer and dryer in unit, biweekly cleaning, large closets, outside patio or balcony, and plenty of storage space.

Daily gourmet meals are served in the

community dining room, and there is a wellness center located on the premises.

Now is the perfect time to leave the snow shoveling and the landscaping chores behind and spend your time doing the things you really enjoy.

Love where you live and live the life you want every day at Holland Village! Please reach out to Deb Genco at 215-396-7217 for more information or to schedule a private tour of the community. Also, visit www.hollandvillagepa.com.



Explore our spacious 1-Bedroom apartment special!

Medicare

continued from pg. 36

private company that offers an alternative to original Medicare for health and drug coverage. These "bundled" plans include Part A Hospital Insurance, Part B Medical Insurance, and usually Part D Drug Coverage.

"From year to year, Medicare

Advantage plans can change their premiums, cost-sharing arrangements, and their selection of covered drugs and supplemental benefits, as well as provider networks and prior authorization requirements. Choosing the right Medicare Advantage Plan can be challenging. PA MEDI is here to

help! We help you compare plans, look for cost savings, and even help you enroll in a plan that best fits your needs," said Susan Neff, PA MEDI director. "PA MEDI counselors can also help determine if you may be eligible for any of Pennsylvania's Medicare cost-savings programs like PACE, Extra Help,

and the Medicare Savings Programs."

PA MEDI counselors do not sell Medicare insurance products, nor do they endorse any insurance company, product, or agent. Counselors will not recommend policies, companies, or insurance agents but

continued on pg. 43

Newly renovated one bedroom apartments

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UP TO **\$500 OFF**

- Full kitchen
- Laundry in unit
- Bi-weekly cleaning
- 614-788 square feet
- On premise wellness center
- Outside patio or balcony
- Daily gourmet meal in community dining room
- So much more!

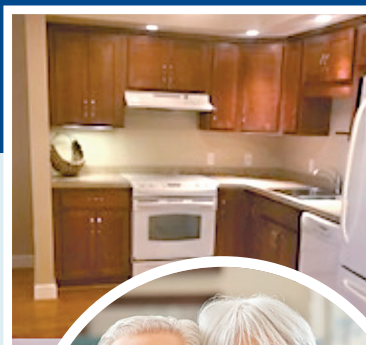


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TOPP Foundation donates \$10,000 to cure-focused type one diabetes research

In recognition of World Diabetes Day, this past November 14, TOPP Foundation, a local type 1 diabetes (T1D) nonprofit, made a \$10,000 donation to the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI). "We are proud that this donation of \$10,000 to the DRI will go directly towards research aimed at curing type 1 diabetes. Due to the generosity of our donors and supporters, this is the fifth consecutive year we have donated to the DRI. Our total endowment to the DRI since 2019 is now \$110,000!" announced Christine Gunsiorowski, TOPP Foundation Co-Founder & President.

Tom Karlya, Senior Vice President for the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, stated, "It's always exciting when those who have loved ones with T1D donate to the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation. It is appreciated for both the funding of our cure focus work and, at the same time, serves as a reminder of the many communities throughout the country who believe in our work and the work of our

researchers. It is so gratifying to add TOPP Foundation to our wall of donors in the lobby of the Institute as a partner in our effort for our goal....one day ending diabetes forever. We appreciate them as friends of the Foundation as well as donors to our efforts."

TOPP Foundation (Type One Parent Project) is a nonprofit founded in 2016.

TOPP's mission is to increase awareness of the disease, raise funds for research, and to support local families living with the daily challenges of T1D.

Since its start in 2016, TOPP has donated \$60,500 to JDRF's Fund a Cure program and \$110,000 to the DRI for a total of \$170,500 going directly to cure research.

In 2018, the organization created the TOPP Camp Scholarship Program.

This program enhances the quality of life for youth living with T1D by providing financial assistance to attend specialized overnight diabetes camps.

Between 2018-2023, this

program has awarded 21 camp scholarships to children and teens with T1D!

Additionally, TOPP Foundation started a Higher Education Scholarship in 2022 to provide financial assistance to local high school seniors with T1D who are pursuing higher education at a two- or four-year college or vocational school.

To date, TOPP recognized and awarded scholarships to seven students for the strength and resilience they display every day as they cope with a relentless illness.

If you would like to make a donation to TOPP, please visit www.toppfoundation.org or e-mail christine@toppfund.org.

To donate by check, please make payable to TOPP Foundation and mail to PO Box 622, Furlong, PA 18925.

All donations will go towards TOPP's Scholarship Programs.

The DRI at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine is one of the largest and most comprehensive research centers dedicated to curing diabetes.

The integration of medicine and technology drives the vision behind the DRI strategy, a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to cure diabetes.

The strategy builds upon decades of cure-focused research and addresses the major challenges that stand in the way of a biological cure.

Three areas of research are simultaneously being pursued by the DRI: engineering a site within the body to house transplanted islets and beneficial components, sustaining the survival of the insulin-producing cells, and creating a supply of islets to treat the millions living with diabetes.

For more information about the DRI, visit www.diabetesresearch.org.

T1D is a vastly different disease than the more common type 2 diabetes, and has nothing to do with diet or lifestyle.

T1D is a chronic autoimmune disease that occurs when the

continued on pg. 39

Walk-in Wednesdays!

Walk-in Hiring Event at Pickering Manor EVERY LAST WEDNESDAY!

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Juniper Village at Bucks County

Juniper Village at Bucks County, an award-winning vibrant senior living community, offers a full continuum of care: independent living, personal care, memory care, and skilled nursing.

Located in Bensalem, our modern, updated life plan community features beautiful

apartments and amenities including a fitness center, indoor pool, multiple dining venues, art center and gallery space, yoga studio, and a wellness clinic.

Our innovative Connect4Life program brings healthcare services onsite for seamless convenience, while Catalyst

and H'art and Soul of Dining enhance resident wellness and culinary experiences.

A hub of activity, we host engaging events, cultural outings, and onsite educational programs. With no large buy-in fees and a commitment to innovation, Juniper Village empowers residents to thrive and live their

best lives. Visit us to experience the Juniper difference! For more information about Juniper Village at Bucks County, located at 3200 Bensalem Blvd. in Bensalem, call 215-929-5716.

SENIORS

TOPP Foundation

continued from pg. 38

body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.

Insulin is a hormone that enables people to get energy from food and is essential to survival.

T1D is a 24 hour a day, seven day a week job.

People with T1D must check their blood sugar throughout the day and administer insulin

via multiple daily injections or through an insulin pump.

Insulin dosing must be calculated throughout the day and balanced with food intake, exercise, stress, and the natural hormonal fluctuations of a growing body.

It is often a "guessing game" and carries the constant threat of devastating complications from Hyperglycemia or Hypoglycemia.

There is nothing you can do

to prevent T1D and—at present—there is no cure.

T1D strikes both children and adults at any age.

Seek medical care if you or your child are experiencing any combination of the following symptoms: excessive thirst, frequent urination, excessive hunger, weight loss, headaches, blurry vision, and fatigue.

If a diagnosis is delayed, untreated T1D can be life-threatening.

Local women

continued from pg. 30

in our community. And we do it with relative ease.

Imagine what we could do if there were 300 members! 500 members!! If you're interested in making a difference in your local community, but don't have the time for traditional fundraising, please contact local realtor and founder, Lynne Kelleher at 215-813-6655 or Lynne@LynneKelleher.com for more info, or visit www.100womeninbucks.org. Also, find us on Facebook or join our Facebook group.



Stop by between 10AM and 2PM - No appointment necessary.
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YARDLEY VOICE • JANUARY 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS • HAPPENINGS • MARK YOUR

Thursday, Feb. 6, from 5–7 pm, Pickering Manor's "Art for Your Sweetheart" Art Show and Silent Auction will be held at the Clubhouse at the Manor, located at 226 N. Lincoln Ave. in Newtown. Hosted by the Pickering Manor Auxiliary, this event will feature a collection of artwork by local artists, including paintings available for auction and purchase. Admission is just \$20 at the door and includes light refreshments, including wine and gourmet cheese, offering an evening of art and community support. The majority of the featured artists are members of the Artists of Yardley (AOY), a nonprofit art center in Yardley. Come support local artists, enjoy fine art, and share in the festive atmosphere. For more information, visit www.pickeringmanor.org and click on Community and Events.

Friday, Feb. 7, the 2nd Annual First Friday Winter Concert Series, hosted by Langhorne Council for the Arts, will present Ernesto's Club to be held at the Richardson House, 102 W. Maple Ave. (corner of W. Maple and S. Bellevue Avenues in the heart of Langhorne Borough). Doors open at 6:30 PM. Music begins at 7 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Ernesto's Club is a piano and percussion duo that explores the choro and samba traditions of Brazil. Their music is animated, joyful, and syncopated, and always bubbling with spontaneity. Tickets are \$15. Order tickets at: www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/first-friday-february-7

Saturday, Feb. 8 at 8 pm and Sunday, Feb. 9 at 4 pm, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra (PSO)'s all-Mozart concert with Orli Shaham will be held at the Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall, Princeton University Campus, Princeton, NJ. It features the pianist as soloist in performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20. Also on the program are Ballet Music from "Idomeneo" (excerpts) and Mozart's Symphony No. 39. Gérard Korsten conducts. Tickets: start at \$40 (children 5-17 who are accompanied by an adult receive a 50% discount); Accommodations or services can be arranged with two week's notice. Contact Mika Godbole at mgodbole@princetonsymphony.org or 609-905-0931; For tickets, visit princetonsymphony.org or call 609-497-0020. Programs, artists, dates, and times are subject to change.

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2–3:30pm, the Friends of the Doylestown Library will host the free program, "Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County" at the Doylestown Library, 150 S. Pine St. in Doylestown. Explore the African American journey in Southeastern Pennsylvania, from the 1600s through the post-Civil War era, including the work of the Underground Railroad in Bucks County. This program, presented by authors Patricia Mervine and Joe Coleman, on behalf of the African American Museum of Bucks County, supports civic and social literacy. Their book, "Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County", will be available for purchase for \$30, with all proceeds benefitting the museum's capital campaign.

Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 6 pm, at the Free Library of Northampton Township, 25 Upper Holland Rd. in Richboro, welcomes "Philadelphia Inquirer" sportswriter and author, Mike Sielski, who will be in

a conversation with Tom McCarthy to discuss his new book, "Magic in the Air: The Myth, the Mystery, and the Soul of the Slam Dunk." This is a free event; registration is required through the Newtown Bookshop's website at www.newtownbookshop.com/.

Thursday, Feb. 13, 12–2pm, the Women's Club of Huntingdon Valley is hosting its annual Valentine's Party and Luncheon at Gloria Dei Community Hall, 570 Welsh Rd. in Huntingdon Valley. Door prizes and raffles will be available. Come mingle with friends and the community. All proceeds go to local charities, including three Women's Shelters. Admission is \$15 cash. For further information, email WCHV1951@gmail.com.

Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 am to 12 pm, February Community Food Drive, Drive-Thru Drop Off, organized by Langhorne Blue. Enter at Jesse Soby Post at 115 W. Richardson Ave. in Langhorne Borough. All food collected will be delivered to the Penndel Food Pantry (Administered by Bucks County Housing Group). Please bring non-perishable items. Donations by check can be made to Bucks County Housing Group. For more information, email Bernadette at westbmw@gmail.com.

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Tucker Chiropractic
continued from pg. 5

questions should call 215-750-8006 to register for a free consultation.

The Center is located right

behind the United Artists Movie Theater in Penns Square, at Oxford Valley Mall. Plenty of free parking is available.

Directions can be found on the website, www.DrDavidTucker.com.

Saturday, Feb. 15, 4:30–7 pm, *An Italian Dinner by Candelight, sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women, will be served at Episcopal Church, 313 Main St. in Hulmeville.* It will feature pasta and meatballs or meat/vegetable lasagna, a salad bar, and dessert. The cost is \$13 for adults, \$6 for children 6 to 11, and children under five are free. For more information, call 215-757-6025.

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2–4 pm at Lower Makefield Township Community Center, 1550 Oxford Valley Rd. in Yardley, author and historian Larry Kidder will detail Jacob Francis' long, meaningful life in a special Black History Month presentation hosted by the Lower Makefield Historical Society. At a time when American colonists struggled against long odds to gain their freedom from Great Britain, Jacob Francis, a free Black man, fought not only for American independence, but also for equal rights for all people in our newly formed nation. This patriot joined Gen. George Washington's Continental Army in October 1775 and fought heroically in the Battle of Trenton. This free event is open to the public. To learn more about this and other events, visit the Lower Makefield Historical Society at lowermakefieldhistory.org/events.

Sunday, March 9, 3 pm, the Bryn Athyn Orchestra will hold its winter concert at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center, 800 Tomlinson Road in Bryn Athyn. Enjoy an all Beethoven concert. Guest soloist, Clipper Erickson, will be performing the 'Emperor' piano

concerto. Tickets cost \$27 in advance for adults and \$30 at the door, \$25 for seniors (60 and older), \$15 for students (buy one get one free), children under 12 are free, but must have a ticket. For more information, visit baorchestra.org.

Wednesday, March 26, 7 pm, The Historical Society of Hilltown Township presents Pearl S. Buck: Life & Legacy at the Hilltown Township Building, 13 W. Creamery Rd. in Hilltown. Samantha Freise, curator and historic house director at Pearl S. Buck National Historic Landmark, will be the speaker of this program on Pearl S. Buck, a Pulitzer and Nobel Award-winning author, a humanitarian and an activist. This talk will cover the life of Pearl Buck in China and the United States, and the legacy she left to support children. This is a free event, but donations are appreciated. For more information, visit www.hilltownhistory.org.

Saturday, March 29, from 5–7 pm, American Legion #960 will host Cash Bash at its post, 1537 Woodbourne Rd, in Levittown. Win \$100 every ten minutes for two hours. Six o'clock drawing wins \$250; Seven o'clock drawing wins \$250. Doors open at 4 pm. Tickets are \$20, and only 200 tickets will be sold. Free draft beer, soda, and light menu for ticket holders during the two hour drawing. Karaoke to follow from 7–9 pm with Paula and Sam, along with a cash bar, 50/50, and basket raffles during this two-hour time. To purchase a ticket, call 215-945-0958.

spot
light

AJ Foundation

The AJ Foundation For Children With Autism (AJF) is a local non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families. AJF formed in 1997 as a family's personal journey to help their son who, diagnosed with autism at two-years-old, was lacking the resources needed to provide him the opportunities every child deserves.

Since then, AJF has developed into a highly respected organization, serving as a vital resource for many families and raising awareness about the autism community.

Proceeds from AJF's efforts go directly to support the Comprehensive Learning Center (CLC), one of Pennsylvania's first specialized private schools for children and adults with autism, opened by AJF in 2000. At CLC,

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Pictured is Team Blackthorn, who came together to raise over \$16,000 in this year's Ride 4 Autism. The event as a whole raised over \$105,000 to support the Comprehensive Learning Center in Warminster!

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Medicare

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and unbiased personalized
assistance.

Older adults can contact
their local Area Agency on
Aging to schedule a person-
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more information, call the
toll-free PA MEDI Helpline at
1-800-783-7067 from 8 am to 5
pm, Monday through Friday. To
find a PA MEDI event or presen-
tation, visit www.aging.pa.gov/aging-services/medicare-counseling.

Learn more about the various
programs offered by the Penn-
sylvania Department of Aging
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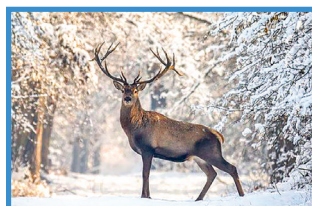
AJ Foundation

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students between the ages
of three and 21 years benefit
from a full day of programming
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needs across all areas of skill
development and daily life,
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The success of CLC's program
is made possible by The AJ
Foundation's fundraising
efforts, which aim to provide
CLC with the necessary funds to
meet the growing needs within
the autism community.

With the support provided by
CLC and the awareness raised
by The AJ Foundation, both
organizations work towards
creating equal opportunities in
healthcare, socialization and
employment for individuals
with autism.

Visit www.ajfoundation.org
or www.clcschoolprograms.org.

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