

NEWTOWN GAZETTE

Late April 2025
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O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP



Celebrating 90 Years!

*The Martha Washington Garden Club welcomes none other than Martha Washington (portrayed by Alica Dupuy) to its 90th Anniversary Gala in Newtown. Standing next to Martha and her husband, George Washington, are: (from left) Arlene Gordon, MWGC Program Chairperson and Acting Vice President; Jeremy Parry, MWGC Gala Co-Chairperson; and Donna Myers, MWGC Gala Co-Chairperson. See story on page 4.

Photo by June Portnoy

Your Hometown Newspaper

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from our advertisers & non-profits.**

Check out the Camps & Education Section inside!



**SPRING
HOME &
GARDEN 2
EDITION**

spot light

Wrightstown Farmers Market

The Wrightstown Farmers Market returns for its 19th season on Saturday, May 3 from 9 am to 12 pm at the Middletown Grange, 576 Penns Park Rd. in Newtown. Opening Day festivities include a free nasturtium plant giveaway and monster bubbles for the kids!

The market runs every Saturday, rain or shine, through November 22 (closed August 16 for the Middletown Grange Fair). Enjoy free parking, ready-to-eat food, and shaded picnic tables. Please note: Only service dogs are permitted.

Founded in 2006 by the Bucks County Foodshed Alliance, this producer-only market now features over 35 vendors connecting shoppers directly with local growers and makers. It's more than a market—it's a community hub supporting local agriculture.

Returning favorites include: Blooming Glen Farm, Apple Ridge Farm, Rolling Hills Farm, Sugar Maple Jerseys, Solebury Orchards, Red Cat Farm, Primordia Mushroom Farm, Holben Valley Farm, Purely



Rolling Hills Farm's seasonal salad mix

Farm, The Coffee Scoop, BowlFace, Helpful Foodie, Jersey Pickles, LUV Superfoods, TheDogBoneGuy, and many more.

New vendors this season include: Allen Bread Co., Chef's Key Lime Pie, 21 Locks Brewing Co., Little B's Gluten Free Baked

Goods, Divine Earth Gardens, Saporito (Pasta), and Penn Grows—offering exciting new products each week.

"We're thrilled to bring back many of our popular events," says Market Manager Cheryl Gilmore. "Highlights include ice cream sundae making (July 12), the monarch butterfly tent, apple tasting, the pie contest, and the Howlin' Halloween Fun Day".

Also returning: "The Vendors Table" on select dates, featuring product samples, plus weekly live music and kids' activities.

A season highlight is the 2nd Annual Farm to Chef Fundraiser Dinner on September 6 at Hollow House Farms. Tickets (\$150) go on sale in June with proceeds supporting the market's future winter home.

The market continues to accept SNAP benefits, with this season's match partner to be announced soon.

Stay updated on vendor lineups and events at wrightstownfarmersmarket.org or follow them @wrightstownmarket on Instagram.

spot light

Wild Birds Unlimited, Buckingham

Hummingbirds are here!

Spring is upon us and that means the return of the hummingbirds; one of nature's jewels! The Ruby Throated Hummingbird generally spends the winter in Central America, Mexico and Florida. They migrate to Canada and other parts of Eastern North America for the summer to breed.

Hummingbirds can fly up to 60 miles an hour, but typically about 30-45 mph. Did you know they are the only birds that can fly backwards and upside down? They lay the smallest bird egg in



Lisa Mergen with Hummingbird Feeders in full display at Wild Birds Unlimited, Buckingham

the world in a golf ball size nest, usually producing two broods a year.

Hummingbirds eat about every 10 minutes. They drink nectar from plants and sugar water from feeders, lapping up the nectar with their long tongues. You can provide sugar water in a nectar feeder by combining four parts water to one part white sugar. They eat insects and insect eggs on the ground and in trees.

Their choice of preferred flowers are salvia, trumpet creeper, bee balm, thistle petunia and jewelweed.

Wild Birds Unlimited is fully stocked with a wide variety of Nectar Feeders in all shapes and sizes, glass and plastic, hanging, staked, and window mounted. We also offer ant moats (although some are already built-in),

nectar brushes/sponges and nectar concentrate/powder.

Not sure where or how to start? FeederScaping services are available.

Bird Walks are held the third Sunday of every month; just email Lisa for more information at wubuckingham@gmail.com.

Online ordering is available at mywbu.com/Buckingham – all orders over \$75 ship free within 150 miles. Local delivery is available on our 20# bags.

Just email your order above for the freshest and finest bird seed available, or stop in the store. We are located on Route 202 between Doylestown and Peddlers Village.

Master Gardener plant sale set for May 3, rain or shine

Penn State Master Gardeners of Bucks County will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 3, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Middletown Grange Fairgrounds located at 576 Penns Park Rd. in Newtown.

This highly anticipated sale

will include donated plants from Master Gardeners, unusual perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs, pollinator and butterfly plants, native plants, houseplants, shade plants, deer-resistant plants, container plants, and a beautiful

selection of hanging baskets for Mother's Day.

Penn State Extension Master Gardeners develop their horticultural expertise through participation in educational training classes. In exchange for their training, Master Gar-

deners serve as volunteers for extension horticulture programs, including teaching, community demonstration gardens, and answering questions on county garden hotlines.

More than 80 knowledgeable *continued on pg. 6*

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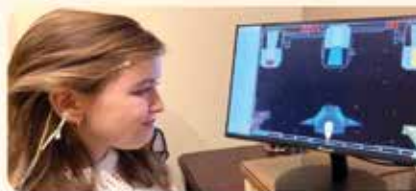
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Martha Washington Garden Club Celebrates 90th Anniversary

story and photos by June Portnoy

The Martha Washington Garden Club (MWGC) recently marked its 90th anniversary with a gala held on March 26 at the Newtown American Legion Hall. One of the many highlights of the day was when Martha Washington (portrayed by Alisa Dupuy) along with her husband, George Washington, presented a special program that delighted the audience with stories about their lives.

The gala was a beautiful blend of tradition, creativity, and community spirit, celebrating the club's rich history while reinforcing its commitment to education, horticulture, and civic engagement.

MWGC President Anne Edwards warmly welcomed the more than 100 members and guests in attendance, expressing her gratitude for the overwhelming participation of club members and the stunning display of 30 raffle baskets.

The gala's theme, "Black and White," was interpreted uniquely at each of the 15 tables, where garden club members created elaborate tablescapes. They were permitted to include one accent color to these floral displays, resulting in a dazzling variety of artistic expressions.

Arlene Gordon, MWGC Acting Vice President and Program Chairperson, shared her excitement about this tradition: "Since I started coming to the Martha Washington Garden Club, this gala has really become one of my favorite events, and one of my favorite parts (of this gala) is the table decorations; it gives everyone the opportunity to use their imagination. We all follow the same theme, yet each table is so different, showcasing the creativity of our members."

MWGC member, Jeremy Parry, was instrumental in planning and organizing the gala, which also provided an opportunity to reflect on the club's evolution over the decades. Gordon highlighted

the contrast between the club's early years and today's more relaxed atmosphere. "It used to be much more formal. Life in general was more formal back then. Members would wear hats and gloves, and meetings included coffee and tea service presented on silver trays," she recounted.

"To become a member, you had to be nominated and have two letters of recommendation. But while some things have changed, our love for gardening, houseplants, and the outdoors has remained strong."

Long-time members were recognized for their dedication, with bouquets of flowers presented to those who had been part of the club ranging from 26 years all the way up to 52 years. Scrapbooks and memorabilia showcased the club's history, allowing attendees to reminisce about past events and initiatives.

Ruth Logan, a long-time MWGC member, reflected on the club's transformation. "It started with just eight women near Doylestown who displayed what they grew, so the club's emphasis was initially on horticulture. Over the years, we've grown significantly, now with nearly 90 members throughout Bucks County. She noted that for a long time, their meetings took place in Yardley before recently moving to the Newtown American Legion Hall where they continue to be held today.

Regina McHugh, a 26-year member, reminisced about the elegant silver tea set that could be over a century old, which has become a cherished piece of MWGC's history. The tea set remains a symbol of the club's longstanding traditions.

"It's incredible to think that the same teapot and serving pieces that our founding members used are still part of our events today," Edwards remarked. "Every time we bring it out, it feels like we're connecting with the generations of women who came before us." The tea set continues to be

continued on pg. 12



Standing is Arlene Gordon, MWGC Program Chairperson and Acting Vice President; with (from left) MWGC member Ann Eidson; and luncheon guests Barbara O'Brien with Renee Ifkovitz.

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spot light

ECI Comfort

Spring into comfort: Your AC maintenance checklist for a healthier home

As spring arrives in full bloom and the days get warmer, now is the ideal time to prepare your HVAC system for the season ahead. At ECI Comfort, we know that early spring maintenance not only improves comfort and air quality but also helps you avoid unexpected breakdowns when summer hits. Here's your go-to checklist to freshen up your HVAC system and breathe easier all season long:

Clean or Replace Air Filters

Clogged or dirty filters restrict airflow and reduce your system's efficiency. Replace disposable filters or gently rinse and dry reusable ones. This simple step helps trap dust, pollen, and other allergens—keeping your indoor air cleaner and healthier.

Schedule a Professional Tune-Up

Spring is the best time to schedule your annual HVAC maintenance. Our certified technicians will inspect your system, check refrigerant levels, test components, and catch any small issues before they become costly repairs. Regular maintenance keeps your AC running efficiently and extends its life.

Reprogram Your Thermostat

Optimize energy use by setting temperatures higher when you're away and cooler when you're home. If you haven't already, consider upgrading to a smart thermostat for automated energy savings and comfort control from anywhere.

Boost Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

Spring allergies are no joke—so it's a great time to enhance the air you breathe indoors. Invest in a high-quality air purifier or add indoor plants like Peace Lilies or Spider Plants that naturally clean the air. And don't forget regular cleaning to reduce dust and allergens.

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Holland Floor Covering

Freshen up your home this spring with Holland Floor Covering in Newtown

Spring is the perfect season to breathe new life into your home—and what better way to make that happen than with beautiful new floors from Holland Floor Covering in Newtown? As the flowers bloom and natural light fills your space, it's the ideal time to update tired flooring and embrace a fresh, clean look that enhances your home's comfort and style.



At Holland Floor Covering, we specialize in helping homeowners find the perfect flooring solutions to match their lifestyle, design goals, and budget.

Whether you're renovating one room or doing a full home refresh, our experienced team is here to guide you through every step—from product

perfect opportunity to elevate your home with premium materials at unbeatable prices. We are also offering special savings on TruCor luxury vinyl plank flooring, a waterproof, kid- and

selection to professional installation.

This Memorial Day, take advantage of our limited-time sales featuring select Karastan wood, vinyl and carpet styles—a brand known for its luxury, durability, and timeless design. It's the

pet-friendly option that offers the perfect balance of function and beauty.

Don't miss this chance to get your home spring-ready with high-quality flooring that will last for years to come. Visit our showroom in Newtown to see samples in person and consult with our flooring specialists who can help bring your vision to life.

Call us today at 215-357-0909 or explore our offerings online at www.hollandfloor.com. Let Holland Floor Covering help you create a space that feels brand new—just in time for spring and summer gatherings.

Holland Floor Covering – Beautiful Floors Start Here – you may visit the showroom at 35 Swamp Rd. in Newtown.

Franklin Investment Realty: The Scannapieco Team

Spring update

The local real estate market continues to perform at an impressive pace. With limited inventory and sustained buyer demand, home values are still on the rise. If you're considering selling, now is an opportune time to get started.

One of the primary drivers behind this robust market is our exceptional school districts—an important factor for many buyers currently planning for the next academic year. Our team understands the intricacies of timing, pricing, and positioning, and we consistently deliver top-dollar results for our clients. With the right strategy and resources in place, we are proud to have achieved record-breaking sales for those we represent.

At the core of our service is a commitment to seeing the bigger picture—ensuring peace of mind and a smooth, rewarding

Under Contract



Neighborhood Record Price

Current Holland listing under contract WAY ABOVE the highest neighborhood sale after 92 scheduled tours.

experience from start to finish. Buying or selling a home can be complex, but with over 30 years of brokerage experience,

we are fully equipped to navigate every detail with expertise and care. As a family-owned business, we offer a personal touch that sets us apart while delivering industry-leading results.

Our dedication to clients goes beyond the transaction itself. We're here before, during, and long after the sale to serve as your trusted real estate resource. Whether you're buying, selling, renting, or investing, we bring the perfect combination of availability, knowledge, energy, and proven success.

In 2024 alone, our team surpassed \$22 million in transaction volume—a testament to the results we deliver and the trust our clients place in us.

If you're looking to buy, sell, or rent in Bucks County or the surrounding areas, we'd be honored to guide you. Contact us today at 215-398-6998 to start the conversation.

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Master Gardener

continued from pg. 3



Photo from the 2024 plant sale. Photos courtesy of Kathleen Kimbel, Penn State Master Gardener, Bucks County.

Master Gardeners will be on hand during the sale to answer your home gardening questions.

Your plant sale purchases will support community outreach, local demonstration gardens, and gardening education.

Please note: No dogs are allowed. This event will be held rain or shine. Shoppers are encouraged to bring wagons or carts for easy carrying. The sale will accept cash, checks, and credit cards. For more information, call 267-483-2020.

Local news has a new home on the web!

Our 11 newspapers are now in one place online



O'Rourke Media Group is pleased to announce its brand-new website—*OMGLocalLife.com* is now live! We will continue to spotlight local businesses as we always have, we will also have an expanded community news section that will be updated daily with local noteworthy stories from

the region, we will also have 'web-exclusive' stories that can only be found online. O'Rourke Media Group has always been proud to report on hyperlocal news, we are happy to bring these stories to you on the web. Please check-in daily! *OMGLocalLife.com*—your new home for local news!

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spot light

Munz Construction

Giving back: Munz Construction launches 40 for 40 Food Drive to support local veterans and families

In honor of its 40th anniversary, Munz Construction is proud to announce a community initiative aimed at supporting those in need across Bucks County. The "40 for 40: Feeding Our Community Food Drive" will run from May 1 to June 9, a 40-day effort to collect non-perishable food items for Yardley's Fest for Vets and local food pantries.

For the past four decades, Munz Construction has been helping families improve and expand their homes—but this spring, the company is focused on something even more meaningful: helping neighbors facing food insecurity.

Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, at the Munz Construction office at 201 Buck

Road, Holland, PA 18966. Suggested items include canned vegetables, soups, pasta, rice, cereal, peanut butter, boxed meals, other shelf-stable goods, and more.

In appreciation of each donation, Munz Construction is offering participants a special coupon—a small gesture of thanks for helping to uplift others in our community.

The drive is made possible through partnerships with The Pay It Forward People and the Council Rock North Speech and Debate Club. Special thanks to Sir Speedy and O'Rourke Media Group for their generous support.

As Munz Construction reflects on 40 years of service, this food drive is a way to give back to the community that



helped it grow. It's a reminder that building strong communities means more than construction—compassion, generosity, and coming together to care for

one another.

For more information, visit MunzConstruction.com.

Don't move. Improve—and give back.

Youth Art for PaLyme!



Young artists add finishing touches to "Camelback Bridge Over the Delaware Canal" on silent auction for PaLyme.org. (Note: The artists are from Newtown, and the bridge in the painting is located in Yardley).

May is Lyme Awareness month and Pennsylvania leads the nation in cases of Lyme and tick-borne diseases. Bucks County is the second highest county in PA for Lyme, and our youth are at the highest risk due to outdoor activities. Getting outdoors is important for physical and mental well being, but it is also important to take preventative measures against ticks. For this reason, local youth artists are using art to raise awareness.

For the entire month of May, their collaborative painting

continued on pg. 10

spot light

Village Improvement Association

49th Bucks County Designer House and Gardens now open!

The 49th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens, Hidden Trail Farm, located in Ivyland, will be open for tours from April 27 through May 25.

The centerpiece of Hidden Trail Farm is a 5,000-square-foot farmhouse featuring a welcoming porch, three fireplaces, six bedrooms and numerous gathering and entertaining spaces. The property also includes an impressive custom-designed chalet built in 1992 with an open, multi-story living area, loft and two additional bedrooms.

A recently renovated pool and patio area includes a large screened-in gazebo and stunning Koi pond with waterfall, while a large barn has space for multiple boutiques and an on-site cafe serving lunch and light fare. Old York Cellars will provide wine.



"We are thrilled to have this very special, historic property as our 2025 Designer House, and are looking forward to sharing it with the public," said Monica Mosley, chair of the 2025 Designer House Committee.

This is the largest fundraiser held by the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown (VIA), a non-profit women's organization that founded Doylestown Hos-

pital in 1923. Funds from the 2025 Designer House will benefit community mental health well-being and enhancement of the Doylestown Hospital Emergency Department mental health unit.

Monies raised also support the work of numerous VIA committees that assist veterans and those in need and provide academic scholarships to teens and women seeking to re-enter the workforce. Funds are also allocated for maintenance

of the James-Lorah Memorial Home in Doylestown, which serves as the VIA headquarters and is a museum listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Add a visit to Hidden Trail Farm to your spring calendar! For additional information and to purchase House tour tickets, please visit the Designer House website at www.BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

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Youth Art

continued from pg. 8

"Camelback Bridge Over the Delaware Canal" will be on display for silent auction, as well as a second group painting, "Limes for Lyme". The highest bidder will be notified at the end of June. Posters and note cards of other student collaborative paintings, "Springtime at Tyler Park" and "Sunset over Schofield Ford Covered Bridge," will also be on sale. 100% of proceeds will benefit *PaLyme.org*. Visit the *PaLyme.org* website for important info on preventing tick bites, tick proofing your yard, protecting your pets, what to do if bitten by a tick, and where to send the tick for testing.

To view the artwork and place a bid on the collaborative paintings, which are signed by all 29 participating students, visit 2 South State Street in historic Newtown. Free Lyme prevention brochures will be available. Call for hours: 215-968-2246. Bids can also be placed via email at youthartsilentauktionbids@aol.com.

spot light

Andrew's Lawn Ranger

Turf Care: We are currently applying our second round of crabgrass control. This is crucial for pre/post emergent suppression. This round includes broadleaf weed control, micronutrients as well as a balanced slow-release fertilizer.

Flea, Tick and Mosquito Suppression: Warmer temperatures are coming, bringing out all our springtime pests. We have begun our applications to suppress flea, ticks, and mosquitos, which is made by fogging the perimeter of the property as well as spraying nesting areas. Plant material around the house (patio, deck, pool, swing set wood lines if applicable) will also be treated.

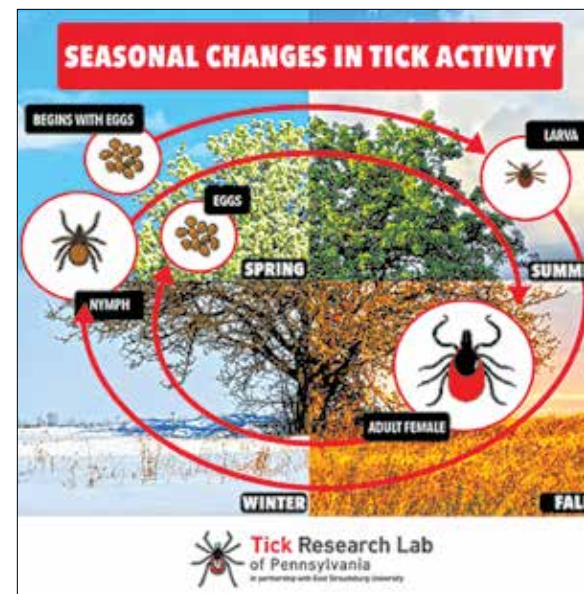
Adult ticks are present now, laying eggs, and active any day when temperatures are above freezing. Eggs hatch in the spring. Larvae are present during late summer and nymphs during late spring and throughout the summer. Ticks "hang out" on the ends of branches and tall grass leaves. Any animal or human brushing up against the plant runs the risk of picking up a tick hitchhiker.

Being "bugged" by mosquitos? Adult female mosquitoes lay eggs in anything holding water. Eggs survive drying out up to eight months. Mosquitoes only need a small amount of water to lay eggs. Any container storing water makes a great "nursery". Eggs hatch after water (from rain or a sprinkler) covers the eggs. Larvae can be seen in the water. They

are very active and are often called "wigglers". They become pupae, which live in the water. An adult mosquito emerges from the pupae and flies away. The entire egg to adult cycle takes 7-10 days!

Enjoy your time outdoors. Let us treat your property so you won't be chased back indoors.

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Martha Washington
continued from pg. 4

used at special occasions, bridging past and present in a way that honors MWGC's legacy. One of the most significant aspects of the gala was its role in supporting MWGC's scholarship fund. Cindy Singh, Scholarship Chair, emphasized the impact of these scholarships. "The funds raised from our raffle baskets and gala go directly towards our scholarship fund. Over the next few months, our committee will be reviewing applications and selecting recipients," she explained. "Reading these applications is always inspiring. We see young people passionate about making a positive impact on the environment." Barbara Heisler, a long-time MWGC member, read a testimonial from her granddaughter, a past scholarship recipient. "Thanks to the Jane Parr and Martha Washington Garden Club scholarships, I am nearing graduation from Temple University with a degree in landscape architecture," the testimonial read. "These funds have made a significant difference in my journey, covering the high costs of materials, books, and

printing. The award allowed me to focus on my studies and creative projects." The Jane Parr Scholarships, named in honor of a beloved former MWGC member, have been a crucial part of the club's mission to support aspiring horticulturists and environmental scientists. "Jane was an incredibly passionate and knowledgeable gardener," Singh noted. "She inspired so many of us, and we are proud to continue her legacy through these scholarships." Her husband gave this club a generous monetary gift in perpetuity to provide scholarships in Jane Parr's name for the young people in this area. Beyond scholarships, MWGC has expanded its community outreach through its Chandler Hall Garden Therapy Program. Cindy Singh, who co-chairs the program, shared how it began. "I was volunteering at Chandler Hall as a hospice volunteer, and I mentioned my love for gardening to the activities director. That conversation sparked the idea of bringing garden therapy to the residents." Now in its second year, the program has flourished, providing meaningful engagement for Chandler Hall residents. "Last year, we ran a ten-week pilot program, and it was a huge



From left: Betsy Satterthwaite, MWGC member; Dawn Getz, guest and co-tabletop designer; and Anne Edwards, MWGC President and co-tabletop designer host for this table, enjoy lunch together.



From left: Long-term MWGC member Regina McHugh; MWGC member, Lisa Tenney; and Regina's daughter, Ellen McHugh

success," Singh said. "Residents loved it. Many of them used to garden, but can no longer do so on their own. Bringing gardening back into their lives has been incredibly fulfilling." Singh described the variety of activities they offer. "We work with sensory elements, using fragrant plants like lavender and marigolds. We've made dried flower arrangements, planted seeds in milk jugs, and even created bird feeders using peanut butter and pine cones." Rami Cobb, co-chair of the program, highlighted the therapeutic benefits of these activities. "There's a wealth of medical literature that supports the connection between nature and well-being. Engaging with plants stimulates the senses, improves mental and physical health, and fosters social interaction," she explained. "When residents see the plants on the table, their eyes light up. It's truly heartwarming to witness." The program operates weekly from April through June, with volunteers working one-on-one with residents. "We have about 17 volunteers from MWGC," Singh noted. "Chan-

continued on pg. 27

John C. Kernan: A true asset to Upper Makefield Township

by Tom Carroll Sr

For 35 years, John C. Kernan has served as the Chief Fire Marshal of Upper Makefield Township, bringing an unparalleled level of expertise, dedication, and leadership to our community. His career spans decades of fire investigation, emergency

response, and public safety, making him an invaluable asset to the township and beyond. John's experience goes far beyond the borders of Upper Makefield. As an internationally certified fire and explosion investigator, he has investigated over 1,000 fires,

continued on pg. 14



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spot light

Newtown Fireplace Shop

As spring sunlight warms the town of Newtown and the last patches of snow have melted into memory, homeowners should now turn their attention from cozy fires to fresh air and blooming gardens. But at Newtown Fireplace Shop, spring means something else entirely—it is time for fireplace maintenance.

For the dedicated team, this is the season to service what kept Newtown and the surrounding area warm all winter. Gas and wood-burning fireplaces need cleaning, inspection, and tune-ups. Chimneys require sweeping after months of steady use. Even outdoor fireplaces, now ready to roar again for spring evenings, need a touch of expert care.

The shop's lead technician knows the importance of off-season upkeep. "Spring's the best time to get ahead," he'd tell customers as he rolled up to their homes. "Fix it now, and you won't be scrambling when the cold comes back."

From cracked chimney caps to soot buildup and worn seals, no detail is too small. The shop's vans crisscross the town, ensuring every fireplace and chimney are in top shape—ready to rest through summer or serve as a gathering spot for cool spring nights.

Inside the showroom, customers can browse new outdoor fire features, perfect for backyard get-togethers. The gentle hiss of gas logs and scent of cedar samples fill the air, reminding everyone that a fireplace wasn't just for winter.

Newtown Fireplace Shop has become more than a service provider—it is a seasonal partner, helping locals protect and enjoy their fireplaces year-round. And as tulips bloom and birds sing above, the hearths of Newtown stand clean, safe, and ready for whatever comes next.

For more information about Newtown Fireplace Shop, located at 434 Penn St. in Newtown, visit newtownfireplaceshop.com or call 215-968-3981.



John C. Kernan

continued from pg. 13

including multi-million-dollar losses, fire fatalities, and post-blast explosions. His work has taken him across the United States and internationally to Canada, Great Britain, Bahrain, and Kuwait. Yet, despite his global experience, he has remained committed to protecting his neighbors of Upper Makefield.

Beyond his fire marshal duties, John has played a critical role in fire safety education, emergency management, and forensic investigations. He has trained professionals worldwide, advised on fire code reg-

ulations, and contributed to fire science programs in the US and abroad. His expertise has been recognized at the highest levels, including a special commendation from the Fire Department of New York for his volunteer efforts at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001.

Few communities are fortunate enough to have a fire marshal of John's caliber—someone whose knowledge, experience, and passion for fire safety have undoubtedly saved lives and property.

Upper Makefield Township is lucky to have had him at the helm for more than three decades, ensuring our safety with unwavering dedication.

Fostering Hope Lower Bucks: Bringing comfort and dignity to foster youth

By June Portnoy

As National Foster Care Month approaches this May, the dedicated volunteers of Fostering Hope Lower Bucks, headquartered in Newtown, are working tirelessly to support children and families impacted by the foster care system. With a mission to provide essential resources and restore dignity to children in foster care, Fostering Hope has expanded to 11 chapters, with Lower Bucks being the 9th, established in 2023.

Jenae Travia, Chapter Coordinator, explains, "Our main goal is to serve any of the youth whether they are experiencing foster care or kinship placement. We also help children being reunited with their biological families, children aging out of the system—anyone who has been touched by foster care—to relieve the burden of being able to get what they need and to give children the dignity they deserve."

Fostering Hope Lower Bucks was born from a simple act of generosity. Administrator Sarah Burstein recalls, "Jenae and I go way back. One day, I had a basement full of little kids' clothes and baby gear that I wanted to donate. Jenae helped me clean it out, and we stumbled upon the Upper Bucks Chapter of Fostering Hope. They mentioned how families and caseworkers in Lower Bucks needed more accessible support. And just like that, our chapter was born."

The organization is entirely volunteer-run and donation-led, making the community's

support critical in sustaining its mission.

Fostering Hope Lower Bucks operates through four primary initiatives:

1. Foster-Share Closet

- Located in the Newtown Depot Shopping Center, the Foster-Share Closet provides children in foster care with clothing, toiletries, baby gear, school supplies, and more. "Caseworkers, foster parents, or the youth themselves can come in and shop by appointment," explains Travia. "We want to ensure they have access to essential items in a welcoming space."

2. Dignity Duffles

- Far too often, children in foster care are handed a trash bag to carry their belongings when moving between homes. Fostering Hope seeks to change that by providing duffle bags instead. "These kids deserve dignity," Travia states. "Instead of carrying their possessions in a trash bag, they have something



(top row, from left) Brian Bovasso, Volunteer Consultant; Sarah Burstein, Administrator; Jenae Travia, Chapter Coordinator; Anne Munoz-Furlong, Volunteer Consultant; and (bottom row, from left) Amanda Collier, Program Support Coordinator; and Sandy Lee, Fundraising Coordinator, gather at the Lower Bucks Foster-Share Closet in Newtown.

sturdy and reliable."

3. Bags of Hope - Each child entering foster care receives a string bag filled with full-size toiletries, personal hygiene products, and comforting items. "Imagine being removed from your home with no time to grab essentials," says Anne Munoz-

Furlong, Volunteer Consultant. "We take for granted things like shampoo, toothbrushes, and deodorant, but these kids need them."

4. Fostering Phones - The newest initiative, Fostering Phones, provides teens

continued on pg. 27

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spot light

Kenderdine's Heating Oil & HVAC

Breathe easy this spring: Don't forget your AC filter during spring cleaning



every three months will do the trick. Before installing a new filter, take a moment to clean the filter rack using a dust rag or vacuum.

Washable filters should be removed and cleaned every three months. After vacuuming the filter rack, rinse the filter thoroughly and let it dry completely before putting it back in place.

As the days grow longer and signs of spring fill the air, like birds chirping, warm breezes, and blooming flowers, it's the perfect time to refresh your space. While you're tidying up and clearing out clutter, don't overlook one of the most important and often forgotten parts of your home: your AC unit's filter.

A clean filter is essential for maintaining good indoor air quality, especially during spring when allergens like pollen are at their peak. Depending on

the type of filter your system uses, upkeep can be simple but impactful.

Know Your Filter Type

Throw-away filters should be replaced every month if you have pets or allergy concerns. Otherwise, swapping them out

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Spring Home & Garden 3



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spot light

Kathleen Layton, BHHS Fox & Roach, Realtors

Want to boost your home's value? Start here!

If you're a homeowner with resale in mind, you've got to be strategic. Not all upgrades are created equal. Some make your home more livable; others actually boost your sale price. If top dollar's the goal, start here:

1. Kitchens Sell Homes

A dated kitchen screams "project," and most buyers are paying *not* to do projects. If you're staying put for a while, go ahead and splurge. If a sale's on the horizon, let's talk first—no sense dropping cash on upgrades that won't pay off.

2. Bathrooms Are a Close Second

Buyers judge your home's upkeep by your bathrooms. A mid-range update—think new vanity, lighting, fixtures, maybe tile—can bring solid ROI. Bonus points for ditching glass blocks or squeezing in a double vanity.

3. Curb Appeal Sets the Tone

First impressions matter. Tidy landscaping, mulch, a painted front door, and decent lighting? Instant upgrade. If the outside looks tired, buyers assume the inside is worse.

4. Floors, Baby

Scratched hardwood? Stained carpet? Fix it. Refinish what you can, replace what you must. Buyers want turnkey, and



doesn't cost \$700/month to heat.

6. Open It Up—Smartly

Buyers love open spaces. Taking out a non-load-bearing wall between kitchen and living room can do wonders. Just don't go swinging unless you've checked the structure and your budget.

Final Word?

Before you swipe the card or grab a sledgehammer, call me. I've seen too many sellers spend big on the wrong stuff. Smart upgrades win. Shiny distractions don't. Questions? Email Kathleen@KathleenLayton.com or call 215-801-2019.

mystery stains kill the vibe.

5. Energy Efficiency = Value

New windows, better insulation, updated HVAC—these may not be sexy, but they sell. Savvy buyers notice, and they'll pay more for a home that

SCORE Bucks County mentors support small business community

National Volunteer Month: SCORE gives back and makes a difference.

This National Volunteer Month, SCORE Bucks County is proud to announce the positive impact of its volunteers, who donate their time and expertise to help entrepreneurs start and grow small businesses, guide them in achieving new levels of success, and ultimately creating jobs and strengthening the local economy.

In fiscal year 2024, SCORE Bucks County volunteers helped 950 entrepreneurs, providing them with 2,789 mentoring sessions.

"SCORE is the most effective source of small business mentoring in the U.S.," said Charlie Morris, SCORE Bucks County co-chair. "We are proud to be making a positive difference right here in our local community."

SCORE data shows that

entrepreneurs who receive three or more hours of mentoring report higher

revenues and increased business growth. In addition, SCORE Bucks County offers a

wealth of resources to guide entrepreneurs in every phase of *continued on pg. 22*

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spot light

Rosenello's Windows, Siding and Roofing

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As Rosenello's Windows, Siding and Roofing celebrates 40 years in business, the company continues to lead the way in exterior home improvements throughout the region. Known for top-tier service and lasting results, Rosenello's is proud to spotlight one of the most transformative services they offer: siding replacement.

While many know Rosenello's for their expert window installations, siding has become one of the most impactful ways the team helps homeowners refresh and protect their homes. Offering a wide range of high-performance siding options—from classic vinyl to



beautiful cedar impressions—Rosenello's combines curb appeal with long-term durability. Their experienced installers ensure every panel is placed with precision, enhancing energy efficiency, moisture protection, and the overall value of the home.

"Siding is more than just an exterior finish," says the Rosenello's team. "It's your home's first defense against

the elements, and one of the biggest ways to boost its appearance." Whether it's a full-home replacement or a customized update, Rosenello's works with each client to find the perfect style and material for their needs and budget.

Although windows may be what brought many homeowners through their doors, and roofing is how it all began, siding has become a standout

service that perfectly reflects the company's dedication to quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction.

After 40 years, Rosenello's remains a family-run business built on strong values, skilled craftsmanship, and a genuine passion for improving homes across the community.

For more information, call 215-244-3993 or visit rosenelloswindows.com.

spot light

Tyler Park Center for the Arts

Celebrate creativity

With spring in full swing, Tyler Park Center for the Arts invites the community to its annual Members Art Show, held June 6–8. This dynamic exhibition showcases the talents of both emerging and professional artists, and features live music, refreshments, artist meet-and-greets, and awards for excellence in several categories.

Among this year's featured artists is Barbara Neale, who has spent the past 17 years working with fused glass. Also known as warm glass, this art form involves cutting and layering pieces of glass that are then melted in a kiln to create a unified piece. Barbara has attended many workshops of warm glass artists and is a member of The Glass Underground Studio in Warren, NJ. Since retiring, she has displayed



William Lessa, TPCA Members Show participant with "Children of Haiti".

her work at local fairs and juried shows, and now teaches fused glass workshops at TPCA. Also exhibiting is William Lessa, a longtime public school

administrator whose artwork draws on his travels in Africa, his passion for Philadelphia sports, and his unique view of life's quirky moments. Working

primarily in graphite and colored pencils, William donates much of his art sale proceeds to regional charities supporting children and families.

Looking ahead, TPCA's Creative Summer Camps are open for registration! Young artists ages 8–16 can explore themed art intensives like "Art Around the World" and "Under the Sea", while younger children can enjoy mini camps tailored to their age group.

Members of TPCA receive special perks, including discounted workshops and entry into the annual Crafts in the Meadow festival, returning October 18–19.

Learn more at TylerParkArts.org, follow @TylerParkArts on Facebook and Instagram, or call 267-218-0290.

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This event will be taking place virtually using Zoom. Register online at capitalhealth.org/events and be sure to include your email address. Zoom meeting details will be provided via email 2–3 days before the program date. Registration ends 24 hours before the program date.



spot light

American Chimney

Spring cleaning: Make sure to include your chimney!

There are many benefits to tackling a top-to-bottom house-cleaning project, but what good does it do to clean the entire house and fail to get the chimney and fireplace cleaned?

As a major focal point in any room, a fireplace can be a pleasure in any season, or it can be an eyesore.

Just in case you've never been sold on the idea of spring cleaning, consider this: Life can feel less stressful when your home environment is clean and clutter-free. Feeling less stress can mean better health.

Anytime you use your fireplace, some amount of creosote is deposited in your chimney flue.

When it gets hot outside,

particularly if moisture has made its way into your chimney, the deposits in the liner can emit a sour odor, which makes its way into your home's interior. Your home will smell fresher when you have a clean fireplace and chimney.

There could be damage to your chimney or flue liner. All moisture damage should be repaired quickly and efficiently, to cut down on the cost of repairs and the extent of resulting deterioration.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends an annual cleaning of your chimney.

By scheduling your chimney cleaning and inspection in warm seasons, you beat the



typical fall and winter rush.

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Include your chimney as part of your spring cleaning and book your chimney inspection and cleaning today! Call us at 215-364-0881 or visit www.americanchimney.net.



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spot light

Max's Electric Bikes

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At Max's, we get excited about the constant evolution of e-bike innovation and design. We eagerly await the news coming from our manufacturer partners about the newest models and latest technologies. Just one of the newest offerings from our partner Velotric® is quickly becoming a shop favorite, the all-new Breeze 1.

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SCORE

continued from pg. 17



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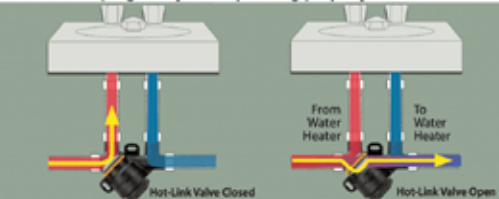
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SCORE mentor meets with a client.

their small business journey.

"We are grateful to the more than 10,000 SCORE volunteers nationwide who selflessly dedicate their time and business expertise to help entrepreneurs achieve their dreams," said SCORE CEO Bridget Weston.

Held in April every year, National Volunteer Month recognizes the contributions of volunteers and is an opportunity to join the impact of volunteerism and encourage more people to get involved in their communities.

Visit www.score.org to learn more about local volunteer opportunities or to request a mentor for your small business.

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spot light

PA Cyber Charter School

Elementary student inspires family to start flavored ice business

“He’s the brains and inspiration, and we’re the grownups who have to do all the stuff,” Lauren laughs while speaking of her son Everette who attends PA Cyber.

A few summers ago, the Wilson family test-tasted a lot of shaved ice while on vacation. It was an easy choice for dessert because gluten and

dairy-containing foods make Everette sick. Once back home in Ellwood City, they researched ice-shaving machines and flavorings. They opened Ellwood Ice in early 2023 and have since expanded the shop to accommodate indoor seating and private party space.

“We have 30 flavors,” says Everette. “And we have all different kinds of ice cream



Everette's goal for Ellwood Ice is to "make people happy."

and toppings. My favorite kind of ice cream is the dairy-free vanilla.” At the shop, he restocks supplies and takes orders and payments. The whole Wilson family plays a part in the shop.

PA Cyber held a field trip at Ellwood Ice in 2023 where Everette showed fellow students the process of making icy treats and talked about owning a business. Everyone got their own treat, and many chose the flavor of the day, “The Archie,” named after PA Cyber’s owl mascot.

Everette enrolled at PA Cyber amid the pandemic, but stayed because he enjoyed the flexibility of taking classes from home. “Our schedule has a million things in a week,” he says. “We go somewhere every day.” He belongs to Cub Scouts and plays soccer and piano. As a gifted student, he is able to accelerate his learning. He aims to be an engineer when he is older.

“We’re really proud of him, and we’re glad that we have the option to do school a lil’ differently,” says Lauren.

Learn more about personalizing your child’s education at pacyber.org.

spot light

Bucks County Community College’s Kids on Campus

Summer camp program

Bucks County Community College offers exciting, hands-on specialized Kids on Campus summer camp experiences with new options available each week. Campers can pick which camp suits their interest and with a flexible weekly schedule, parents and guardians can select the camp session that best fits their summer plans. Camp offerings include arts and crafts, science and STEAM, theatre, sports, and more—each led by certified teachers or highly skilled professionals in their respective fields.

Kids on Campus runs from June 16 to August 8, 2025, with camps held Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Please note that there is no camp on June 19 and July 4. To view the full camp schedule



and additional details, visit bucks.edu/kidson-campus.

Campers need to bring a bagged lunch daily, along with extra water, hat, and sunscreen for self-application. If rain is in the forecast, please have campers bring appropriate rain gear.

Enrollment is limited, and registration remains open until each camp reaches capacity. Sign up online at bucks.edu/kidsoncampus or call 215-968-8409 to secure a spot.

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SSAAM announces Juneteenth 2025: Stories of Freedom

The Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (SSAAM), Central New Jersey’s only museum sharing the history of African Americans in our region since the trans-Atlantic Slave trade, will hold its fourth annual Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 21, from 12 pm to 4 pm (rain or shine).

Event Highlights:

continued on pg. 26

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best ways to achieve this is by hiring a limousine service.

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Beyond safety, a limousine enhances the prom experience. Arriving in a sleek vehicle makes your child feel special. Riding with friends in a luxurious setting adds to the excitement, with features like music, mood lighting, and

refreshments creating a party atmosphere before the event even begins.

Group travel is another advantage. Instead of coordinating multiple cars, a limo allows everyone to enjoy the night together. It's cost-effective when shared among friends and eliminates parking hassles.

Moreover, a limousine offers reliability and ease. It ensures punctual pick-ups and drop-offs, making transportation stress-free. Plus, it provides the perfect backdrop for memorable prom photos.

Ultimately, hiring a limo ensures a safe, stylish, and unforgettable prom night. It's an investment in your child's special evening, allowing them to have the time of their life while you enjoy peace of mind.

Call Advanced Limousine Services at 215-504-0800 to book your prom reservation today. For more information on our wide selection of vehicles visit www.advancedlimos.com

SSAAM

continued from pg. 25

- Location: National Historic Register-listed Mt. Zion AME Church and historic Reasoner/True House in Skillman, NJ
- Features: Live music, spoken word and theatrical performances, drum circle, local artisans, storytelling workshops and museum activities for all ages, and delicious cuisine

Featured Performances, Activities, and Exhibitions:

- The SSAAM Heritage Singers and Band
- Keith Spencer, Vocalist & Storyteller
- Luna Stage's *The Ground On Which We Stand* Theatrical Performance

- Mr. Boom Boom: Drum Circle for All Ages
- Beverly Mills & Elaine Buck, Authors & SSAAM Founders
- Featured Exhibition: "The Head that Wears the Crown" – Explore the past, present, and future of African American women's headwear. Featuring selections from SSAAM's museum collection and photo portraits of community members across generations modeling early-to late-20th century church hats.
- Guided tours of Mt. Zion AME Church and SSAAM's Heritage Garden
- Plus ...
 - Spoken Word Performances
 - Read-Along Story Corner
 - Museum Scavenger Hunts

continued on pg. 28

Martha Washington

continued from pg. 12

dler Hall rotates groups so more residents get a chance to participate."

In addition to the gala and community outreach efforts, MWGC continues to offer engaging monthly programs for its members. Gordon shared insights into the club's upcoming plans. "We always aim to provide diverse and educational programming. Our monthly meetings feature guest speakers, hands-on workshops, and seasonal gardening activities," she said.

Monthly programs, usually presented by local guest speakers, are varied ranging from flower arrangements, elderberry products, composting, and even learning about bats. The May meeting will feature a local farmer who will talk about gardening and planting seeds.

Gordon emphasized that MWGC welcomes all levels of gardening enthusiasts. "Some members are seasoned gardeners, while others are just starting out. Our goal is to create a space where everyone can learn, share, and be inspired," Gordon added. "It's about more than just plants; it's about building a community around a shared passion."

Whether through scholarships, garden therapy, or educational programming, MWGC continues to cultivate a love for gardening in the community.

For more information about MWGC and its programs, visit their Facebook page or email mwgc@ymail.com. Scholarship applications are open until May 1, with awards to be presented in June.

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Fostering Hope

continued from pg. 15

(ages 14 and up) with a cell phone, a year of service, and a protective case. "A phone is a lifeline," Burstein explains. "It helps them apply for jobs, stay in touch with siblings, and communicate with their foster families or caseworkers."

Donations are the backbone of Fostering Hope Lower Bucks. While clothing donations are always needed, toiletries, duffel bags, and financial contributions are just as vital. "If readers want to help but don't have



Carina and Arianna Lee volunteer at the Foster-Share Closet by sorting clothes, organizing diaper donations, and writing happy notes to the families on the diaper boxes.

clothing to donate, they can purchase duffel bags, toiletries, or other needed items from our

Amazon Wishlist," Munoz-Fur-long suggests.

continued on pg. 45



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27

AOY Art Center

"Paint Our River Towns" exhibition opens May 17

The AOY Art Center/ Art Gallery is delighted to announce the opening of the highly anticipated 2025 Plein Air Exhibition, featuring outdoor artworks created by some 50 talented artists from the greater Bucks County region and within a 35-mile radius of Yardley.

For the past two weeks, local artists have been "painting the towns" as part of the "Paint Our River Towns" Plein Air Open. Artists have captured scenes throughout the Delaware Valley including Tyler State Park, Lake Anton, Core Creek, Washington Crossing State Park, Historic Newtown, Yardley, Historic Fallsington, Langhorne, and many other picturesque locations throughout the area. The results of their work will be on exhibition at AOY Art Center beginning Saturday, May 17 from 12 - 5 pm and then Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through June 1. Interested individuals can also view and purchase artwork at the online



and techniques that highlight the artists' connection to the environment.

Each artist can submit up to three of their best works to the exhibition. Those works will be judged and awarded prizes by renowned and award-winning plein air artist Beth Bathe of Lancaster. Ms. Bathe has primarily been painting in oil en plein air since 2013. She participates in high profile competitions from Maine to Washington state, including Plein Air Easton, Door County WI, Cape Ann MA,

gallery 24/7 at aoyarts.org.

Plein air painting, a French term meaning "in the open," refers to the practice of creating art outdoors, capturing the essence and beauty of natural landscapes. This exhibition celebrates the tradition and artistry of plein air painting, showcasing a diverse range of styles

Lighthouse Art Center FL, Paint Annapolis, MD, and others.

The exhibition features over 120 original artworks that will inspire and engage art enthusiasts of all ages. From picturesque landscapes to scenes of our communities, boroughs, and parks, the collection captures the splendor of nature,

architecture, and human interaction with the surroundings.

AOY Art Center is located at 949 Mirror Lake Rd. in Lower Makefield on the Patterson Farm. The gallery is open to the public at no cost and is hosted by the participating artists.

SSAAM

continued from pg. 26

- Launch of SSAAM's Little Free Library of Banned Books
- "Story Booth" to record memories and reflections
- And more!

Join the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum for a day steeped in history and community connection. Our family-friendly Juneteenth celebration invites visitors to feel the full range of emotions in our liberation stories, from jubilation to sorrow, from defiance to hope. Freedom has always been hard won. We invite you to answer its call with us.

SSAAM creates community programming to educate and inspire. Our event ticket prices, inclusive of food, reflect our commitment to accessibility. If you have the capacity to make an additional donation, or if you work for an employer who may be interested in sponsoring our event, we welcome your generous support! At a moment when our federal funding opportunities are in jeopardy, we rely on the continued investment of our local community.

Thank you to our event sponsor, the Princeton University Art Museum, for making this event possible.

For more information about SSAAM's Juneteenth celebration and to book tickets, donate, sponsor, or volunteer, please visit www.ssaamuseum.org/juneteenth-2025.

Council Rock 4th grade boys travel team makes history with ICBA championship victory

by June Portnoy

In a landmark moment for the Council Rock Basketball Association (CRBA), the 4th grade boys travel team clinched the ICBA (Inter-County Basketball Association) championship, making them the first 4th grade boys travel team in this association since 2011 to earn this distinction. The team delivered an impressive 35-21 win over Warminster last month at Holland Middle School.

The season was nothing short of dominant. Council Rock wrapped up with a 13-1 record, outscoring their opponents 456 to 252 over the course of the season. Assistant Coach Dan Joworisak, who guided the team alongside Head Coach Jim Greenberg, couldn't be prouder of the group.

"We knew early on that we were pretty good, and they just kept working during the season and getting better," said Joworisak. "When they won, all the boys went crazy. Since they are so young, they had never won a championship before. It's something they'll remember for the rest of their lives."

The team is made up of ten fourth graders, most from Northampton Township with two from Newtown. Six of the boys had already been playing together on last year's third-grade travel team, while a few new faces joined for this championship run. The team practiced twice a week, mostly at Holland Middle School, where they developed both skills and chemistry.

The ICBA league features competition from across Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Council Rock's only loss of the season came early on, and

they bounced back with strong performances the rest of the way. Their championship opponent, Warminster, came into the final with a strong 10-2 record—but both of those losses were to Council Rock.

"The championship game was packed," recalled Joworisak. "We had a DJ playing for all friends and family of the team

members. It was a fun environment. At halftime we were only up one or two points, but by the end of the third quarter, we really pulled away. The kids executed the game plan perfectly."

On top of their ICBA success, the team also competed in the highly competitive Renegades Basketball League, where they reached another championship game—this time against a fifth-



grade AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) team from Plymouth Whitmarsh. Despite being younger, the Council Rock boys finished with an 8-2 regular-season record and earned second place overall.

Coach Joworisak emphasized the character of the team as a key to their success: "This was a special group. They were very motivated, very humble. The

parents were so supportive and encouraging. It's the best experience I've ever had in youth sports."

"All ten kids came to every practice, knew what to do, worked well together, and cheered each other on," said Joworisak. "They genuinely liked each other, and that made a difference."

continued on pg. 30

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Student journalists make headlines with armful of accolades

Bucks County Community College's "Centurion" newspaper won 16 awards in the Keystone Student Media Awards Contest, bringing the tally to 200+.

Bucks County Community College's student newspaper, "The Centurion," which has been launching journalism careers for more than 60 years, has won 16 awards in the 2025 Keystone Student Media Awards contest, including first place in ongoing news coverage, public service reporting, feature writing, and website.

Since 2010, "The Centurion" has won more than 200 awards in the contest run by the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association. It competes in Division III, which represents community colleges across Pennsylvania.

"The Centurion" won awards for, among other things, coverage of the 2024 presidential election, the search for a new president at the college, a series of articles about the challenges facing working students, a solar eclipse that dazzled millions of Americans, and a visit to the campus by a group of Tibetan monks.

In addition to written works,

the paper won first place in the Cartoon-Graphic Illustration category for a comic strip called "Dog Life," first in feature photos for pictures of the visiting monks, first in layout and design, and first in the video story category for a report about the hidden underground history of Tyler Hall, the historic mansion located in the heart of the Newtown campus.

"The Centurion" also won the contest's sweepstakes honor, given to the paper that wins the most awards in its division.

"Centurion" editor-in-chief **Kassandra Castillo**, who is credited on four of the awards, said it has been inspiring to be associated with a student-run school newspaper.

"I've been working on 'The Centurion' for two semesters, and I've learned so much in the process," said the journalism major. "Print and online media hold so much relevance in our world, and I'm honored to be



Editor-in-chief **Kassandra Castillo** (right) and former staff writer **Christian Grosso** traveled to Harrisburg to bring home 16 Keystone Student Media Awards for "The Centurion." The Centurion also won the contest's sweepstakes honor, given to the paper that wins the most awards in its division.

joining a field where we bring community engagement while spreading local news."

Tony Rogers, the college's journalism professor and faculty advisor to the student newspaper, said he couldn't be more proud of his students.

"Most of the students on 'The Centurion' take a full load of classes and work jobs outside school, yet still manage to do award-winning journalism," said Rogers. "Even after 27 years as

a professor here, I'm still amazed by their seemingly boundless energy, creativity and dedication."

The students received their awards at the Student Keystone Media Awards Luncheon on Thursday, April 3, at WITF's Public Media Center in Harrisburg.

For more information on the journalism program at Bucks County Community College, go to www.bucks.edu/journalism. The website for the award-winning Centurion is at www.bucks-news.com.

[bucks-news.com](http://www.bucks-news.com).

Council Rock Travel Team

continued from pg. 29

Because of their standout season, Council Rock received an invitation to the Pennsylvania State Tournament, a prestigious honor, but the team opted not to attend due to conflicts with spring baseball and other sports commitments.

Still, the boys have plenty to be proud of. Championship sweatshirts, individual trophies, and a big end-of-season party capped off their incredible run.

Looking ahead, Joworisak and Greenberg are hoping to continue coaching the team as they move up to fifth grade. With their strong foundation and team-first mentality, the future looks bright for this remarkable group of young athletes.

"This league championship wasn't just about winning," said Joworisak. "It was about growth, teamwork, and creating memories. That's what youth sports are all about."

spot light

Kona Compost

Meet Kona Compost, your local woman-owned compost pick-up service providing Bucks County residents, businesses, offices and schools an easy way to keep their food scraps out of the landfill.

Kona Compost was founded by Heather Guidice in 2019 with a mission to make composting easy, accessible and fun all while giving back to our planet and keeping our environment healthy.

Kona Compost collects food scraps which are then turned into compost and returned back to customers to use in their own gardens or they can elect to donate their compost share to a community



Heather Guidice

garden instead.

Why should you compost? The answer is quite simple, food waste doesn't belong in the landfill. It's a resource that

continued on pg. 45



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Soroptimists present Annual Community Service Awards

Soroptimist International of Indian Rock, Inc. (SIIR) celebrated National Women's History Month with its annual presentation of Making a Difference for Women Awards last month at the Spring Mill Country Club in Ivyland. The awards honor women leaders, and organizations for their tireless, inspiring efforts to bring positive change, education, and empowerment to the lives of women, girls, and others living in our county and beyond.

The evening's program began with the presentation of the Violet Richardson Award to Claire Titus. Claire is a sophomore at Central Bucks West who recently earned the United States Congressional Bronze Medal for dedicating over 100

hours to community service, driven by her passion for helping others. She developed a two-hour curriculum for children ages 9 to 12 that focused on everyday manners, including greetings, dining etiquette, and social courtesies. After earning her Girl Scout Silver Award, Claire expanded her program across multiple Pennsylvania counties, teaching over 120 children and equipping them with essential life skills. Claire has also been a dedicated volunteer at the Doylestown Library since the age of 12, accumulating hundreds of hours of service and earning her multiple President's Volunteer Service recognition.

The Organization Advancing

continued on pg. 33

Soroptimists

continued from pg. 32

the Status of Women Award was presented to The Veteran's Multi-Service Center, which created The Women Veterans Program to address the growing and unique needs of Women Veterans throughout the tri-state area. Rosemarie McGee, Program Manager, accepted the award for the program, whose mission is to provide community driven space exclusively for Women Veterans and give them access to programs that offer comprehensive resources in a trauma-informed space tailored to their unique needs. In addition, the program offers a clothing closet, open computer lab, lending library, children's play area, and a full calendar of wellness and fellowship events.

The evening's next award—the Women Helping Women Award—was presented to Kristin McElroy, the Deputy District Attorney for Bucks County. Kristin joined the District Attorney's office in 2012 and is the 2018 Rosner Award recipient for exceptional public service, professionalism, and integrity. She has been a member of the Bucks County Special Victims Division since joining the office, and currently is the Chief of Adult Sex Crimes. In addition, she serves on the Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking (BCAT), a NOVA project whose mission is to eradicate human trafficking in Bucks County through victim identification, community education, enhancement of arrests and prosecution of traffickers, legislative advocacy, and a coordinated response of survivor services.

The final award of the evening—the Woman of Distinction Award—went to Melissa Robison, a Middletown Township police officer and the township's community relations officer. Melissa oversees



Past Presidents of Soroptimist International of Indian Rock present their annual Making a Difference for Women Awards. From left: Rosemarie McGee, Program Manager of The Women Veterans Program and Past President Chris Fluehr; Past President Marlene Piasecki and Melissa Robison, Middletown Township Police Officer; Past Presidents Patti Cullen and Eileen Connor; Kristin McElroy, Bucks County Deputy District Attorney and Past President Carol Zennick; Claire Titus, Central Bucks West volunteer and Past President Kathy Meyer.

several community projects that link the community with the Department. She leads the county's largest Shop With A Cop program, National Night Out, Back-to-School supply collection and distribution, Coffee with a Cop, and assists college students in securing internships. Melissa was the school resource for Neshaminy school district offering a parent presentation on "Navigating Internet Safety: Guardians of the Digital Realm." She is certified by the National Association of School Resource Officers, teaches and trains active shooter protocols, runs the Fresh Start Pantry and Closet at seven district schools that provides food and clothing to kids in need, and presents the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in schools. She is the vice-president of the Middletown Community Foundation which supports all these projects and many scholarship opportunities for community service-minded students.

SIIR is one of 1,000 Soroptimist clubs in 20 countries and territories in the Americas and Pacific Rim that empower women and girls through a variety of volunteer projects.

Efforts include cash grants for education, hands-on efforts to end domestic violence, career mentoring for girls, women's health initiatives, and many other community-based projects. Our federation is one

of five federations that make up Soroptimist International, which operates in more than 120 countries throughout the world. For more information, visit investindreams.org.

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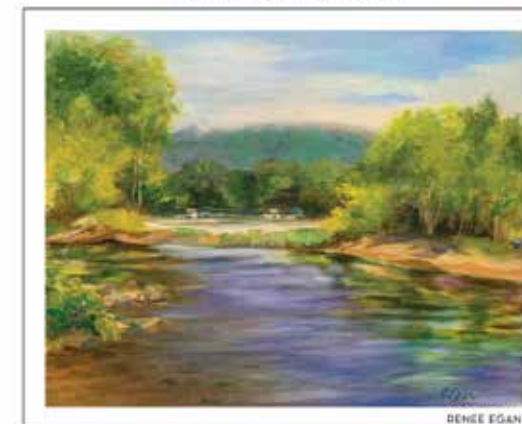
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Burritos

If you're in the mood for a delicious taste of Mexico right in Yardley, look no further than Burritos at 15 S. Main Street. This cozy spot promises an authentic Mexican-style dining experience that will leave your taste buds dancing. And on Monday, May 5, they're making Cinco de Mayo even more special by serving up their scrumptious offerings for the holiday. What better way to celebrate Cinco de Mayo than with a hearty burrito bursting with flavor?

At Burritos, you can expect nothing but the best when it comes to Mexican cuisine. From savory carne asada to tangy al pastor, they've got a variety of fillings to satisfy every craving. And let's not forget their fresh salsa and guacamole, the perfect accompaniments to any dish.



For those looking to celebrate at home or with friends, Burritos offers convenient online ordering for pickup. Simply visit their website and place your order ahead of time; then swing by to grab your feast. No need to worry about cooking for your Cinco de Mayo party - Burritos has you covered with their mouthwatering options.

Have a question or want to make sure your order is just right? Give them a call at 215-493-2424, and their friendly staff will be more than happy to assist you. Whether you're a regular or it's your first time trying their fare, Burritos is sure to become your go-to spot for authentic Mexican cuisine in Yardley.

So, mark your calendars for May 5th, and get ready to indulge in a fiesta of flavors!

United Way's HELP Center celebrates 5 years of serving Bucks County

United Way of Bucks County's HELP Center is celebrating its 5th anniversary, marking five years of providing brand-new

essential items - completely free of charge - to local families in need. This milestone coincides with National Volunteer

Month, making it the perfect time for community members and businesses to get involved.

The HELP Center (a Healthy Eating and Living Partnership) opened in 2020 as a collaboration between United Way of Bucks County, Bucks County Opportunity Council, and St. Mary Medical Center, with generous support from Penn Community Bank.

Since then, it has become a lifeline for thousands of Bucks County residents and over 120 community partners - including schools, faith-based groups, and nonprofits - by providing essential items like hygiene products, home goods, clothing, and food.

Many of the HELP Center's shoppers are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), meaning they work, but still struggle to afford the basics. Among these shoppers, 58% work in essential, front-line sectors like healthcare, education, and human services.

In 2024 alone, walk-in visits for emergency services like the emergency food pantry surged by 110%, with more than 6,700

visits.

Volunteers play a crucial role in the HELP Center's efforts, sorting and stocking goods, assisting shoppers, and ensuring resources reach those who need them most.

"We are incredibly proud of how the HELP Center has grown over the past five years," says Sheri Ratner, Impact Director for the HELP Center. "What started as a response to a clear need in our community has become a vital resource for thousands of Bucks County residents. But we can't do it alone - volunteers and community partners make this work possible."

The HELP Center invites the public to celebrate this milestone by getting involved:

Volunteer: Individuals, businesses, and community groups can volunteer for a hands-on experience helping their neighbors.

Host a Collection Drive: Gather essential items like hygiene products, household supplies, and non-perishable food to keep the HELP Center stocked.

continued on pg. 43

spot
light

Wild Fork

Discover the Wild Fork Difference—With stores in Horsham and Neshaminy!

If you haven't experienced Wild Fork yet, now is the perfect time. With locations right in Neshaminy and Horsham, Wild Fork is redefining the way people shop for meat and seafood—offering premium quality at unbeatable prices.

Wild Fork specializes in high-quality meat, seafood, and poultry, all blast frozen at the peak of freshness to lock in flavor, texture, and nutrients. From everyday essentials like chicken breasts, steaks, and ground beef to chef-inspired cuts, ready-to-cook meals, and globally inspired flavors, Wild Fork's selection is as impressive as it is affordable.

The best part? You can shop your way. Visit Wild Fork stores for a hands-on experience, where friendly team members can guide you through the selection. Prefer to shop from the comfort of home? Wild Fork offers same-day delivery and convenient online ordering at wildforkfoods.com. Just a few clicks and your order is on the way—expertly packed and temperature-controlled to ensure everything arrives frozen and fresh.

Wild Fork makes it easy to stock your freezer with restaurant-quality ingredients at grocery store prices. Whether you're planning for weeknight dinners, hosting a backyard barbecue, or prepping for the holidays, Wild Fork has everything you need to serve something memorable.

Stop by the Horsham or Neshaminy locations today and taste the Wild Fork difference for yourself. High-quality food, smart prices, and a more convenient way to shop—that's what makes Wild Fork your #1 option for meat and seafood.

For more information about



Wild Fork, located in 600 Rockhill Dr. in Bensalem, call 215-494-1048, and for more information about Wild Fork, located at 1536 Easton Rd. in Horsham, call 267-769-6496.

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spot
light

Vitahealth Infusions

A story of care and renewal in the heart of Yardley

Nestled in the heart of Yardley, a quiet transformation is happening every day. At Vitahealth Infusions, patients from Montgomery, Mercer, and Bucks County walk through our doors to restore, recharge, and revitalize their health from the inside out.

Whether you're recovering from illness, managing stress, or simply looking to boost your overall wellness, our IV infusions are designed to replenish your body with hydration and vital nutrients. Our versatile, effective treatments offer fast, noticeable results—helping you feel like your best self again.

Some of our most popular uses for IV infusions include anti-aging and detox. Our ther-

apies are perfect for reducing inflammation, flushing out toxins, and revitalizing your skin and energy levels. Whether you're preparing for a big event or simply investing in long-term health, our treatments offer powerful support. We use our medical knowledge and experience to find the right formula for each patient, tailoring every visit to your unique goals and health needs.

Our doctor-owned practice features a state-of-the-art facility and a full-time registered nurse who ensures that each infusion is administered with care, safety, and precision. You can always count on IV therapy tailored to your needs, in a

clean, calming, and professional environment.

At Vitahealth Infusion, we believe healing happens through both nutrients and connection. Our team is committed to delivering outstanding care, making every visit not just effective—but uplifting.

This isn't just IV therapy—it's a ritual of renewal in your own community. Experience the difference that personalized,



expert wellness care can make.

For more information on Vitahealth Infusions, located at 45 E Afton Ave. in Yardley, visit vitahealthinfusions.com.

spot
light

Pets Furst

Pets Furst Urgent Care, located at 502 Oxford Valley Rd. in Langhorne, is a walk-in veterinary clinic dedicated to

providing high-quality urgent and wellness care for pets. Open daily from 8 am to 8 pm, the clinic offers extended hours

to accommodate pet owners' schedules.

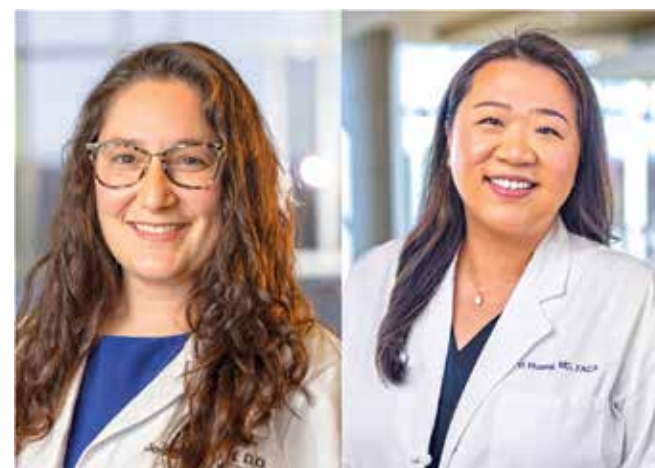
Services Offered:

- **Urgent Care:** Pets Furst addresses non-life-threatening conditions such as ear infections, minor injuries, allergic reactions, and gastrointestinal issues. Their experienced veterinarians provide prompt attention without the need for an appointment.
- **Wellness Exams:** Regular check-ups are essential for monitoring pets' health. The clinic offers comprehensive physical exams, vaccinations, and preventive care tailored to each pet's life stage.
- **Diagnostics:** Equipped with in-house laboratory services and digital radiography, Pets Furst can quickly diagnose conditions affecting your pet's internal health, facilitating timely and effective treatment.
- **Microchipping:** To enhance the chances of reuniting lost pets with their owners, the

spot
light

Capital Health

Accomplished breast surgeons join cancer specialists at Capital Health
Available for appointments in Newtown



Jenna L. Mancinelli, DO, MS

Yi Huang, MD.

Dr. Yi Huang and Dr. Jenna Mancinelli, fellowship trained breast surgeons who specialize in surgical care for benign and malignant breast diseases, have joined Capital Health as part of its Cancer Center and Center for Comprehensive Breast Care. As part of Capital Health Cancer Center and Capital Health Surgical Group – Breast Surgery, they offer office appointments in Newtown and offer advanced treatments for breast cancer, skin-sparing/nipple-sparing mastectomies, and oncoplastic and hidden scar procedures.

Before joining Capital Health, Dr. Huang was a breast surgeon and director of the breast program at Jefferson Health – Northeast in Philadelphia. After finishing her general surgery residency at Northwell North Shore – Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Manhasset, New York, where she served as Chief Resident, Dr. Huang completed her fellowship in breast surgical oncology at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where she trained with national leaders in the field of breast surgery.

As medical director of Capital Health Center for Comprehensive Breast Care, she leads a multidisciplinary team to create personalized care plans for each patient.

Dr. Jenna Mancinelli completed her general surgery residency at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in Philadelphia, where she served as Chief Resident. She completed breast surgical oncology fellowship training at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey. Outside the clinical setting, Dr. Mancinelli was Academic Chief Resident for General Surgery at PCOM, where she developed a new curriculum for the general surgery residency program that incorporated the fundamentals of surgical training, simulation, wellness, professional development, and research education.

To make an office appointment with Dr. Huang or Dr. Mancinelli in Newtown, call 609-537-6700 or visit capitalhealthcancer.org/appointment.

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continued on pg. 39

spot light

Eye Associates Of Bucks County

When Rick Heater went in for a regular checkup with his optometrist, Dr. Bonnie Eldredge, he didn't expect anything out of the ordinary. Once at his appointment he was informed that due to glaucoma he was experiencing an emergency in his left eye and was referred to Dr. Bing Chiu at Eye Associates of Bucks County (EABC). The team at EABC handled the emergency quickly and professionally, and Rick was really impressed with the care he received. Once that was taken care of, it was time to focus on another issue that had been bothering him—his cataracts.

Following a thorough examination, Dr. Chiu determined that having cataract surgery would greatly increase Rick's quality of life. Given the outstanding glaucoma care he received and the recommendation from his trusted optom-



Dr. Bing Chiu, Comprehensive Ophthalmology, Cataracts, Glaucoma

etrlist, Dr. Eldredge, Rick was excited to take the next step and undergo cataract surgery.

Together, Rick and Dr. Chiu went over all the options and decided on a monofocal lens, which made the most sense based on Rick's glaucoma, his recent emergency, and what he hoped to get out of the surgery. According to Rick, Dr. Chiu explained everything clearly, made him feel completely comfortable, and the staff was just as great. The whole process was seamless, making scheduling the surgery a breeze.

Rick noted that all went extremely well from the initial consultation to the post-surgery care. He described Dr. Chiu as an incredibly skilled, compassionate, and dedicated professional. When asked for his closing thoughts Rick said, "Dr. Chiu is easily the best surgeon in Bucks County."

Dr. Chiu and his fellow physicians at Eye Associates of Bucks County believe that every decision should be personal and informed to empower you to take control of your eye health. As a leader in cataract surgery, EABC has been serving the Langhorne area for over 40 years, utilizing the latest technology and lenses to improve and preserve sight.

If you're ready to improve not only your vision but your quality of life, EABC looks forward to hearing from you. Call Eye Associates of Bucks County at 833-921-6200 or visit www.centerforeyes.com to schedule an appointment.

NEXT EDITION

Check it out
May 27th
www.OMGLocalLife.com

spot light

Achievement & Wellness Center

High School ADHD Controlled by Neurofeedback

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

Nicky, a high school student from Ivyland, was struggling with ADHD throughout his school career. He was taking stimulant medication, the effect of which he did not like. Even with the medication, he reported often feeling moody, having poor sleep onset. Waking up feeling depressed, having poor organizational skills, experiencing memory problems, forgetting to do his homework, and where he put his homework.

Other issues being reported included being easily distracted, forgetful, not completing tasks, and having difficulty learning. He also wanted "a more efficient brain," to focus better and be better organized. Being in high school, he also wanted to have better social skills. He felt very discouraged about making any progress in his life because

of the struggles he was going through.

As part of his intake, Nicky took a continuous performance test which identified auditory and visual attention and impulsivity. These results were consistent with what he was reporting about his attention and impulsivity issues.

After his first neurofeedback session Nicky reported that he slept better, felt less hyper, and had better concentration. He indicated he had a feeling of well-being. He also reported feeling like he was moving in slow motion.

Nicky continues with neurofeedback and counseling at our office. He is smiling more and is earning better grades at school, which is very encouraging to him. He is excited about completing high school and thinking positively about college and a future career.

As Nicky continues with neurofeedback and counseling, he is experiencing more consistent progress. He is also extremely happy to be off the medication.

Neurofeedback is a form of biofeedback that tells the body what it is doing so it can change. It is noninvasive and

uses a system of rewards to guide the training process. Treatment effects are expectedly longstanding.

For more information about

Achievement & Wellness Center, located at 301 Oxford Valley Rd, Suite 703B in Yardley, call 215-321-9502.

Pets Furst

continued from pg. 36



clinic provides microchipping services, ensuring your pet's safety and your peace of mind.

Clients commend Pets Furst for their compassionate care and efficient service. One pet owner shared, "From start to finish, everybody was excep-

tional." For more information or to inquire about services, contact Pets Furst Urgent Care at 215-755-1000. No appointment is necessary; walk-ins are welcome during operating hours.

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spot light

Senior Care Authority

Don't let loneliness impact the senior you love

Loneliness is a significant issue affecting seniors who live alone, and its impact can be profound, influencing both mental and physical health. As individuals age, they may experience various life changes, such as the loss of a spouse, retirement, or relocation, which can lead to social isolation.

Joe was 86 years old when his wife passed away. Joe felt isolated in his home and his social circle had diminished significantly when his daughter and son-in-law offered for him to move into their home. It worked well in the beginning, but since both adults worked, his days were spent in front of the TV. His daughter noticed that he was withdrawing and becoming less communicative. He was seated in the same chair as when they left and many times had not eaten his lunch.

After working with a Senior Care Authority specialist Joe moved into an assisted living

community. Joe spent the first week in his apartment and didn't venture out for meals or any of the activities. His neighbor was successful in inviting him to breakfast, though Joe went to the dining room in sweatpants and tee shirt. During breakfast he spotted a piano in the lounge and walked over and began playing. Soon one of the female residents came over and stood by him as he played and complimented him on his skills. Joe played for the next hour, and several other residents came to listen. The next day Joe came down in dress slacks and a button-down shirt. The lady who had joined Joe yesterday brought several of her friends along. Joe played until lunch time, engaging the residents to join in by singing along. The following days Joe exited his apartment in a sport coat, trousers and a pressed shirt.

Moving into a Senior Living Community can be a tremendous benefit and key to over-



coming loneliness. Let us help you find the best community for your loved one. Call us at 267-938-4530.

spot light

James E. Kinney Northampton Twp. Senior Center



There's always something happening at the Senior Center. Come join the fun!

Looking to stay active, healthy, and have a blast? The Northampton Township Senior Center is the place to be for adults aged 55 and better!

Offering a wide range of programs and activities tailored to all fitness levels and interests, including:

- Aerobics, Cardio Drumming, Seniorcise, Yoga (Chair, Gentle, and Vinyasa) and Zumba Gold
- Dance Classes, Tai Chi
- Art Classes, Board Games, Book Clubs, Card Games

continued on pg. 42

spot light

Pickering Manor

Looking to make a difference in your community? Do you have a special skill or talent you'd love to share?

Volunteers play an invaluable role in every community, bringing joy, kindness, and support to those in need. Whether it's sharing your talents through music, art, or dance, or simply offering time and conversation, volunteers create meaningful connections that touch lives. Pet therapy, especially, is a favorite among our residents, and we're always excited to welcome new furry friends!

At Pickering Manor, volunteers do more than brighten our residents' days—they help create a sense of belonging and

warmth that enriches our community. Whether you're looking to gain experience, develop new skills, or make new friends, volunteering here is an opportunity for personal growth and fulfillment. Many of our volunteers say hearing the life stories of our residents is one of the most rewarding parts of their time with us.

Located in the heart of historic Newtown, Pickering Manor is home to a variety of living neighborhoods—from independent living cottages and apartments to personal



Bringing Generations Together! 5th grader Charlotte Carver from Quarry Hill Elementary School joined our residents for a joyful afternoon of flower arranging—spreading smiles, creativity, and spring cheer one bloom at a time

care, memory care, and skilled nursing and rehabilitation. It's a place where everyone finds a sense of family, friendship, and connection.

We are proud to hold a 5-star overall quality rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—an honor we've received for over a decade.

April was Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we want to extend our deepest thanks to volunteers everywhere. Your kindness, generosity, and

time have a profound impact on communities around the world. A special thank you to our Pickering volunteers for your continued dedication. Your efforts bring so much joy to our residents, and we are incredibly grateful for all that you do!

Interested in joining us?
Call Volunteer Coordinator Tamar Morad at 215-968-3878 to learn more and become part of something meaningful. For more information, visit www.pickeringmanor.org.

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Friends Village

Celebrating the month of May: Honoring our older Americans

The month of May is a time of celebration, reflection, and gratitude. As spring reaches its full bloom, this month offers us meaningful opportunities to honor some of the most important people in our lives — the older adults in our communities.

May is recognized as Older Americans Month (OAM), a national observance led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). It's a time set aside to honor, recognize, and celebrate the contributions, resilience, and achievements of older adults. For 2025, the theme is "Flip the Script on Aging." This empowering message challenges outdated stereotypes about growing older and celebrates the rich opportunities, wisdom, and purpose that come with age.

"Flip the Script on Aging" encourages everyone to reconsider what it means to age in

today's world. Older adults are business owners, volunteers, caregivers, mentors, and community leaders. By embracing their talents, experience, and potential, we can reshape societal perceptions and create more inclusive, supportive communities for people of all ages.

Throughout May, Friends Village will choose an activity and participate in events and activities that celebrate older Americans. From senior games to storytelling events, these activities foster meaningful connections and honor the diverse experiences of older adults.

This May, Friends Village will continue with our Yoga for Seniors classes that run twice a week, along with our Senior Planet classes that will be covering everything from Cloud Storage, Google Workspace, Google Drive, Google photos, and Smartphone Photography. On May 13 we are also running a very special presentation by Linda Polgar that explores the unique beauty, craftsmanship, and cultural appreciation of Japanese Textiles.

As we celebrate Older Americans Month this May,



let's remember that aging is not just about adding years to life — it's about adding life to years. By honoring the wisdom, resilience, and contributions of older adults, we affirm the vital role they play in shaping our communities, families, and futures. Together, let's flip the script on aging, embrace new perspectives, and continue creating spaces where people of all ages feel valued, connected, and empowered.

Here's to a month of celebration, meaningful connection, and gratitude for the incredible older adults who enrich our lives in countless ways. For more information about Friends

Village, please visit www.friends-village.org, call 215-968-3346 or attend our upcoming open house on May 21 from 2-4pm at Friends Village, Styer Campus, 331 Lower Dolington Road in Newtown.

James E. Kinney

continued from pg. 40

Parties, Special Events and Bus Trips to Fun and Interesting Locations

Free Educational Programming

Billiards, Bocce League, Cornhole, Darts, Shuffleboard, Table Tennis and SO much more!

For more info, call us at 215-357-8199, visit us at 165 Township Rd. in Richboro, or check out our website www.northamptonsc.com.

It's time to get active, make new friends, and have fun! Don't miss out!



NEXT EDITION

Check it out
May 27th

www.OMGLocalLife.com

Holland Village

Holland Village hosts Senior Health & Wellness Expo

Holland Village will host a Senior Wellness Expo on Thursday, May 29 from 1 pm – 3p m. All are welcome to come out and join the fun!

Activities will include a variety of health screenings including blood pressure screenings, exercise demonstrations, cooking demonstrations, senior/community resources, door prizes, and a Philly pretzel truck.

The event is being sponsored by BrightStar Home Care and Ennoble Care.

Holland Village is an excep-

tional Senior Living Community offering independent living, personal care, and rehabilitation.

Please RSVP to 215-396-7217.

Holland Village is located at 280 Middle Holland Road in Holland.



SENIOR HEALTH & WELLNESS Expo



JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN, PRIZES & INFORMATION FOR ACTIVE SENIORS.

Exercise Demonstrations
Door Prizes
Food Truck
Senior/Community Resources
Various Health Screenings
Cooking Demonstrations
Blood Pressure Screenings

Focusing on health and wellness, senior activities, cooking, exercising, our local community resources and more!

Thursday, May 29th
1PM - 3PM

HOLLAND VILLAGE
280 Middle Holland Road
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Join us, everyone is welcome! R.S.V.P. to 215-396-7217

This event sponsored by:

BrightStar HOME CARE

HOLLAND VILLAGE

An Exceptional Senior Living Community offering Independent Living, Personal Care & Rehab

ENNOBLE CARE

Friday, May 2, 1–3 pm, join the Bucks County Community College's 18th Annual Salute to Mothers Scholarship at the Tyler Formal Gardens, Bucks County Community College, 275 Swamp Rd. in Newtown. Attendees are encouraged to wear their best Kentucky Derby themed hats; the more fanciful, the better! To order tickets or to make a donation in support of the Solute to Mothers Scholarship, visit interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E15010&id=251

Saturday May 3, 10 am, at Memorial Park, 1950 Woodside Rd. in Newtown, come to AARK in the Park. The highly respected AARK Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center will present a hands-on exhibition on hawks and other birds. They have delighted people all over Bucks County with this amazing presentation. This FREE event is sponsored by the LMT Environmental Advisory Council and LMT Birdtown. For more information, contact: Dominique Mitchell at eacbucks@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 4, 1:30–4 pm (with speaker at 2 pm), to be held at the Strassburger Farmstead, 407 Keystone Dr. in Sellersville, The Historical Society of Hilltown Township presents "History Lives On: Celebrating Plumstead Township's 300th Anniversary." Tom Upton of the Plumstead Historical Society, will show his documentary "History Lives On" with historical facts and photos of Plumstead Township, including the Quaker Meetinghouse, Plumsteadville Inn, carriage maker Aaron Kratz, the Doan Gang, the canal, the trolley line and much more.

The event is free; Donations appreciated. For more information, visit www.hilltownhistory.org.

Thursday, May 8, 7–9 pm at the Chancellor Center, 30 N Chancellor St. in Newtown, Newtown Borough and Newtown Township will sponsor, "Native Plants, Thriving Habitats: How You Can Help." Krista McCook from Homegrown National Park will share how anyone—whether they have acres of land or just a few potted plants—can contribute to ecological restoration. (Krista will be joining via Zoom.). Also, Diane Smith from Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow will speak in person about native flowers that you can grow and protect to keep pollinators happy and healthy. Plus, Gino's Native Nursery will be raffling off a \$50 gift certificate! Reserve your spot at www.boroughofnewtown.com/contact-us.

Friday, May 9, at Twining Hall, 4900 Street Rd. in Trevoze, Feasterville Rotary Club will be holding its 15th Annual Designer Handbag Bingo. Doors open at 5:30 pm and games start at 7pm. Tickets are \$35.00 each, and include 10 games of bingo. There will be additional game boards, raffles, and 50/50 available for purchase. Bring a non-perishable item or make a monetary donation, and you will receive a ticket for a thank you drawing. MEI Caterers has a menu of food items made to order at reasonable prices as well as drinks at the bar. For tickets, please contact Kathy Doran at 215-593-4656 or email Katherine.a.doran@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 10, 1 pm, Middletown Senior Citizens Association holds its Cash Bingo fundraiser at Middletown Senior Center, 2142 Trenton Rd. in Levittown. Doors open at noon. \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door if available. Limited to 100 players. Fee includes 10 games of Bingo (3 cards per sheet) and 4 specials. Extra cards on sale. Cash prizes, raffle baskets, 50/50 tickets, and beverages and snacks will also be available. Tickets on sale now. For more information, call 215-945-2920.

Saturday, May 10, 7 am–12 pm (rain date Saturday, May 10) come to Hunger Helpers Community Yard Sale to "find deals and fuel hope" at Heritage Oak Drive in Yardley. Sale will benefit the Interfaith Food Alliance. Every penny will help families facing hunger. For more information, email Communityyardsale9@gmail.com.

Tuesday May 13, 6–7:30 pm at Makefield Elementary School in Yardley, the Lower Makefield Township Swim & Dive Team invites you to its 2025 LMT Swim & Dive Team Open House. For more information, email LMTPoolswimdive@gmail.com or visit www.gomotionapp.com/team/reclblmtd/page/home.

Thursday, May 15, 11:30 to 2 pm, the Women's Club of Huntingdon Valley will present their Annual Scholarship Achievement Award, as it does every May, to a deserving graduating female student from Lower Moreland High School. At a fabulous luncheon held at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club, Dr. Marcia Gutowicz, Chairwoman of the Scholarship Committee, will present this year's winner of the scholarship and the winner herself will speak at this event. See our Facebook page at Women's Club of Huntingdon Valley for all our community events and for further information, email us at wchv1951@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 17, 9:30 am–12:30 pm, Annual flea market at Oxford Village, 290 E Winchester Ave. in Langhorne at Independent Living Building. Hot dogs and desserts available for sale. Proceeds to benefit the residents of the retirement home. For more information, call 215-750-9424 or email pgh51@aol.com.

Saturday, May 17, come see the World Famous Mark Reno "Elvis", two-time national champion, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Hall, 89 Pinewood Dr. in Levittown. Doors open at 6 pm; dinner begins at 6:30 pm; and the show starts at 7:30 pm. The \$35 cost includes dinner. For ticket information, call 267-980-9336.

Saturday, May 17, 9 am–12 pm, Clothing & Shoe Drive Drive-Thru drop off at Berkshire Hathaway Fox & Roach, Realtors office, 796 Newtown-Yardley Rd. in Newtown. Place your gently used/unwanted items in tightly tied bags. All items must be bagged. Electronics (anything with a plug, except TVs and monitors) will also be accepted. Give your items a second chance to be worn/used again! Hosted by Kathleen Lenoir at Kathleen.Lenoir@FoxRoach.com, Susan Koch at Susan.Koch@FoxRoach.com, and Kim Whitlock at Kim.Witlock@FoxRoach.com.

Saturday, May 17, 4:30–7:30 pm, The Episcopal Church Women will sponsor A County Buffet at Grace Episcopal Church, 313 Main St. in Hulmeville, featuring baked ham, roast chicken, sausage with peppers and onions, scalloped potatoes, pineapple stuffing, a salad bar, and homemade desserts. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$6 for children six to ten; and children under five are free. A raffle will be held for two tickets to Sight and Sound Theaters' production of "NOAH", which runs through December 31. For more information, call 215-757-6025.

Tuesday, May 20, at 7 pm at the Bensalem Senior Center, 1850 Byberry Rd in Bensalem, the Trevoze Horticultural Society will present "Meeting the Mushrooms: An Intro to the Fascinating World of Fungi" during its monthly meeting. Guest speaker, Chris-

tian Kustra will cover the basics of mycology, the study of fungi. He will explain how mushrooms grow, how to identify wild mushrooms and what purpose they serve in nature. All meetings are open to the public; all are welcome, \$5 to observe. For further information, please contact 856-866-9163, visit www.trevosegardeners.org or follow us on Facebook.

Saturday, May 31, 10 am, at the LMT Administrative building, 1100 Edgewood Rd. in Yardley, Mike Weilbacher, noted naturalist, environmentalist, educator and author will present "Microplastics, The Invisible Pollutant". He will discuss microplastics, found everywhere from the bottom of the sea to our blood. Learn the surprising ways they spread through our environment and what we can do about it. This free FREE event is sponsored by the LMT Environmental Advisory Council with the participation of the Yardley Refillery. For more information, contact: Dominique Mitchell at eacbucks@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 7, 7:30 pm, Centennial Singers Spring Concert, "Singers Arise in Song" at Log College Middle School, 730 Norristown Rd. in Warminster. Come join us for a variety of music including classical, folk, jazz, choral, spiritual, show tunes, and of course, patriotic numbers. Free cookie buffet and awesome raffle baskets. The concert is free, but donations are welcome. For more information, visit www.centennialsingerswarminster.com and on Facebook @centennialsingerswarminster.

Sunday, June 8, 3 pm, the Bryn Athyn Orchestra will present its Spring Concert at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center in Bryn Athyn. The program features Mahler's Symphony No. 1; Mozart's Overture to Don Giovanni and Symphony No. 38. Tickets \$27/advance, \$30/door. Students: \$15 (buy one get one free). Children under 12 are free. Seniors over 60: \$25. Tickets can be purchased online at baorchestra.org or at the door.

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Fostering Hope

continued from pg. 27

Beyond material support, the organization is always looking for volunteers. "We have over 100 volunteers, but not all are active," Travia notes. "We'd love more people to join us in making a difference."

For Burstein, the impact of their work is personal. "This experience has opened up a whole new world of incredible, generous people in our community. Seeing how much people are willing to give—whether it's time, donations, or support—has been truly inspiring."

Fostering Hope Lower Bucks is more than a donation center; it's a place of comfort and support for children and families navigating the challenges of the foster care system. "When teens come in, they often expect a thrift store experience," says Travia. "But when they see name-brand items like Nike and Adidas, their faces light up. It means so much to them."

Munoz-Furlong emphasizes the heart behind the organization. "There is no other group that works with so much heart. They make sure the clothes are there, the space is

welcoming, and the kids feel valued. The message is clear: "We are here to help you so that you can help the children."

As National Foster Care Month shines a light on the needs of foster youth, organizations like Fostering Hope Lower Bucks remind us of the power of community and compassion. To donate, volunteer, or learn more, visit fosteringhopepa.com/chapter/lower-bucks-county or follow their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fosteringhopelowerbucks.

Kona Compost

continued from pg. 31

can be turned into a nutrient dense amendment for gardens helping to build soil and reduce the need to use fertilizer. When food waste is thrown out, it does not break down and instead creates the greenhouse gas, methane, which is harmful to the environment.

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continued on pg. 47

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Kona Compost
continued from pg. 45

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