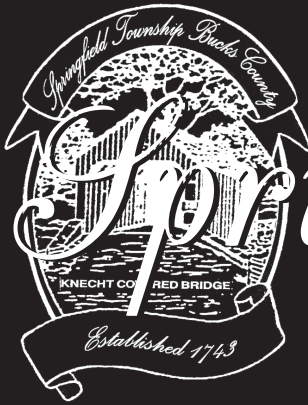


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# BUCKS COUNTY

## Springfield Township

FALL 2010

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ROBERT ZISKO**

**RICHARD SCHILLING  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER  
& ZONING OFFICER**

## "When The Going Gets Tough, The Tough Get Going!"

**Highlighting the Springfield Township Road Department**

Like every other municipality and like many residents, Springfield Township is "making do" with far less money than we had three years ago. With residents out of work, the township is not receiving the earned income tax anticipated in our 2010 budget. Also with a flat real estate market, we're receiving very little real estate transfer tax from home sales. These losses, along with other economy-related problems, have significantly impacted township revenue over the past two years. The Board of Supervisors and the staff are working together to cut corners and expenses without cutting services or raising taxes.

Springfield Township covers over 30 square miles and is the second largest township in Bucks County. Three full-time road department employees, assisted when necessary by part-time workers, maintain over 60 miles of roads.

However, because of economic decline, payment of road department expenses had to be handled differently this year and last year. In 2010, the township received \$189,000 from the Pennsylvania State Liquid Fuels Fund, which is a portion of taxes collected on all liquid fuels sold in Pennsylvania. Historically, the township used the Liquid Fuels annual allotment to complete major road-paving projects or to purchase new equipment. Fortunately, our roads were in excellent condition when the bottom dropped out of the economy, primarily because of conscientious planning and road maintenance by our Road Department. As a result, we've been able to pay routine road-related bills from the Liquid Fuels Fund instead of using General Fund tax revenue. In 2009, the township paid bills totaling \$240,500 from the Liquid Fuels fund instead of using local tax revenue. As of August 2010, we paid road bills totaling \$161,750 from the Liquid Fuels fund.

Two trucks had to be replaced this year: a 1983 and a 1986 International dump truck. Rich Pursell, Roadmaster, working with Rich Schilling, Township Manager, located two used trucks that met township needs. Instead of paying well over \$250,000 for two new trucks, the township purchased the two used trucks for \$50,000.

Even with the poor economy, the township repaved five streets in Springtown - Center, Chapel, Church, Mill and Walnut - in August, 2010. This was possible because over the past three years, Rich Pursell, "saved" the 300-ton annual allotment of donated asphalt provided to the township by Coopersburg Materials, who is one of the township's major employers. The Road Department did all the road prep work. The only township cost was \$21,000 for the subcontractor that did the actual paving work.

Additionally, the township received grant money to install both a handicapped accessible entrance door in the municipal building and a handicapped accessible bathroom. The talented men in the Road Department are performing the work to complete this project, thus avoiding the need to hire outside help.

We appreciate the Road Department, as well as every other department and staff member, for making it possible to have no tax increase for the fourth year in a row!



Springfield's "new" trucks along with the men who maintain and drive them.  
Road crew: John Hoferica, Roadmaster Rich Pursell, Jim Stevens

## NOTICE

Springfield Township will be instituting an "eNews program" so that we can send news alerts (temporary bans on outside burning, etc.) and/or short newsletters to residents via email.

If you wish to be included, please send your email address to: [info@springfieldbucks.org](mailto:info@springfieldbucks.org).  
If you have any questions, please call **610-346-6700, ext. 20**.

### The EAC will hold their 3rd Annual Tire Recycling

on September 18, 2010 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Tires should be free of rims.

Tires on rims will be assessed an additional charge of \$1.00 for rim removal.

**We will also accept car, truck and marine batteries**

Please note:

Leaking or damaged batteries will not be accepted.

**Tires and batteries can be brought to the township annex next to the municipal building - follow the signs.**

**Important!**

Residents - please hand in the voucher below when you bring your tires and batteries.

TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER		
<b>TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP RESIDENT</b>		
	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>PER CAR TIRE</b>
	<b>\$3.50</b>	<b>PER MOTORCYCLE TIRE</b>
	<b>\$7.00</b>	<b>PER TRACTOR TRAILER TIRE</b>
	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>PER TIRE LEFT ON RIM</b>
	_____ # of tires    \$_____ paid	
TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER		

# Come one! Come All to the Fourth Annual Springfield Township Community Day!

Community Day is fast approaching and we want you to share in the fun!

**When? Saturday, September 25 - 10 A.M. until 4 P.M.**  
**Where? Silver Creek Athletic Association - Route 212 in Springtown**

Although the rain or shine event is free, volunteers at the gate will again be collecting non-perishable food, baby items and personal hygiene products to be donated to the Quakertown Food Pantry. We also welcome cash donations and grocery gift cards.

New this year is our Community Day website at [www.st-cd.org](http://www.st-cd.org) There is much more information available there so - please check it out! (We submitted this article during our major planning stages, so keep checking our website for updates!)

Local businesses and community groups will be sharing what they have to offer to visitors throughout the event.



**Here are a few of this year’s highlights:**

- **Free lunch** for the first 100 kids to arrive through the gates after 10:00am!
  - The Springfield Elementary Parent and Teacher Association (SEPTA) will sponsor the **Family Fun Run**, starting before the day’s events.
  - **Dr. James Moyer and the Palisades Marching Band** will open the festivities with some tunes.  
Later they will take a ride around the grounds on the Trackless Train, providing some musical fun.
  - Local veterans will **raise the flag** on the Springtown Fire Company’s ladder truck. We will offer a remembrance to those who have served and are still serving in the Armed Forces of our country.
  - **John Cassidy, balloon artist extraordinaire**, will be with us with his silly antics and magic tricks.
  - **The Dunk Tank** – need we say more?
  - **NEW THIS YEAR!** Community Yard Sale – Cleaning out your garage or basement for the fall? Bring your unwanted stuff to be someone else’s treasure! (Check our website for details.)
  - **A Chili Tasting Contest** – bring your special, already cooked, homemade chili (in a slow cooker) and see if you can win some fantastic prizes! After the judging, we will sell the Chili with proceeds benefiting the Springtown Fire Company.
  - Kids fun includes: **Pedal Tractor Pulls**, a **Castle Maze** and the **Trackless Train**
  - Demonstration of **canine flyball** and a **canine Frisbee** demo by **Great Balls of Fire**, a local club
- Due to its overwhelming success last year, we will again hold a **Silent Auction** to benefit needy families in Palisades School District through the Springfield Lions Club Holiday Grocery Card Giveaway. Come see the fabulous items upon which you can bid!
  - **The Springtown Fire Company will again be selling tasty food and refreshing drinks.**  
Are you someone who likes to volunteer, but don’t have hours to commit monthly to a group? This may be the perfect opportunity for you! Our committee needs folks to help set up, clean up, direct traffic, collect food donations at the gate, hand out programs, count cars, assist community booths and much more. If you volunteer for three hours on Community Day, we’ll provide you with a free lunch in exchange for your service.

To contact the All-Volunteer Community Day Committee, call 610.346.6700 ext. 45 or [www.st-cd.org](http://www.st-cd.org)



## Historic Springfield Township

By Karen Freeh / Springfield Township Historical Commission

K L Y W N D S L I F E R V A L L E Y L H Z L E Y C W C L X O  
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J M R E P T B S Z C L G T L E R C V N L W L S V B H L N B D  
K A B T W S T T L E Y V P E L J G W B R S R A T D A O X Q X  
V G C E J A B V I E A I R N N I X V E I L S T N H S A O S N  
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T M N V H A L M Q U L J N T A C I R A O U Q T B U M X L K J  
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GRUVERSVILLE	FUNKS MILL	COOKS CREEK	EBERTS STORE
FLINTHILL	LASSIE	LENNI LENAPE	LIBERTY BELL TROLLEY
LOTTERY LANDS	MILLS STORE	PASSER	KNECHTS BRIDGE
GALLOWES HILL	CANNERY	PLAYLAND PARK	SLIFER VALLEY
SPRINGTOWN	ZION HILL	WALKING PURCHASE	CHURCH SCHOOL
PLEASANT VALLEY	HENRY FUNK	TRIPLE ARCH BRIDGE	HAUPTS BRIDGE
GHOST MOUNTAIN	DROTT	QUAKERTOWN AND EASTERN RAILROAD	
SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL			

### What Ever Happened To Chuck Halderman?

Former Board of Supervisor member Charles “Chuck” Halderman left the Board when he moved up to northern PA with his family. Chuck, his wife Lenore and children Austin and Brittany now live just outside Troy, PA. They own a large farm and are busy planting crops and raising animals.

Chuck waves from his tractor, as he gets ready to move hay bales



2010 Calendar

Springtown Farmers Market  
@ Springtown Fire Department  
Thursdays through September 30-4 to 7 p.m.

September 6 - Labor Day Holiday  
(Township Offices Closed)

September 18 - Tire Recycling Day

September 25 - Community Day  
@ Silver Creek Athletic Association

October 4 - Last Day to REGISTER  
to vote in November 2 General Election

October 11 - Columbus Day  
(Township Offices Closed)

October 31 - Springtown Fire Department’s  
Halloween Parade (Begins at 1 p.m.)

October 31 - Springtown Trick or Treat Night  
(6 To 8 p.m.)

November 2 - General Election Day  
(Township Offices Closed)

November 7 - Daylight Saving Time ENDS  
(Turn clocks BACK 1 hour)

November 25 & 26 - Thanksgiving Holiday  
(Township Offices Closed)

December 24 - Christmas Holiday  
(Township Offices Closed)

December 31 - New Years Holiday  
(Township Offices Closed)

2011 Calendar

January 1 - New Year’s Day  
(Township Offices Closed)

February 21 - Presidents’ Day  
(Township Offices Closed)

March 13 - Daylight Saving Time BEGINS  
(Turn clocks AHEAD 1 hour)

April 22 - Good Friday  
(Township Offices Closed)

May 30 - Memorial Day  
(Township Offices Closed)

July 4 - Independence Day  
(Township Offices Closed)

Check the Announcement page of the township website  
for meeting schedule and/or meeting cancellations –  
[www.springfieldbucks.org](http://www.springfieldbucks.org)



Market Thursdays - Start Your Weekend Here!

The Springtown Farmers Market, now in its third season, is in full swing and bustling with a new energy and new look that is focused on how a community market day can benefit the community residents, both young and old. The market is now on Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m., which makes it more accessible to Springfield Townships’ full-time working residents, as well as part-time weekend residents and visitors.

Joan Pavlico, the new market manager, and market advisors Laura Gardiner, Terry Long, Robin Staff and Maria Tallarico, have created a wonderful and diverse lineup of local farm vendors and artisans, including many newcomers as well as past market favorites.

The market’s weekly vendors include:

American Native Nursery	Saylor’s & Company
Bee Well Honey	Rolling Pin Pastries
Clarence Berger	Stonehenge Lavender Farm
Greenlioness	Tabora Farm & Orchard
Longspring Antiques	Tall Pines Farm
Marie’s Soap Company	Trauger’s Farm
Meadow Brook Farm	Wood’s Wings’ Sauces
Rocky Top Farm	Well of Life

In addition, Market Thursdays boasts four new ‘Cornerstone Booths’ - the Co -Op, Culinary, Wellness and Sprouts Corner. These booths permit the market to feature local restaurants and wellness centers and to bring different flavors of homemade ice cream from The Inside Scoop to the market each week. Sprouts Corner, sponsored by Painted Earth and Shooting Star Farms, provides an opportunity for our youth to learn how to plant and harvest a vegetable garden.

For parents, Market Thursdays has become the ‘must-go-to’ event of the week. Along with bringing their kids to watch their garden grow and share their creativity on the market mural, they can also shop for freshly picked local produce and grab an ice cream cone, while catching up with the local farmers and their friends that make up the friendly community of Springfield Township.

Market Thursdays through September 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Springtown Fire Company at 3010 Route 212/412 (Main Street) Springtown, PA. For Weekly Market Updates, visit

[www.springtownfarmersmarket.com](http://www.springtownfarmersmarket.com) or  
email: [info@springtownfarmersmarket.com](mailto:info@springtownfarmersmarket.com)



Why Do I Need a Permit?!

By Rich Schilling ~ Township Manager / Zoning Officer

None of us likes regulations -following the rules -from youth on through adulthood. However, building regulations are one means of protecting property owners from shoddy contractors whose workmanship could result in fires, accidents or future damage to your home. Zoning regulations protect you from having a non-conforming use going in next door to you that could greatly affect your quality of life in scenic Springfield Township! The Township does NOT require moving permits, yard sale permits, or other such “nuisance” permits. Primarily, our regulations focus on building and environmental safety issues and/or quality of life for the area in which you live.

If you are thinking of a home improvement project or starting a home business, it is always best to call 610-346-6700, extension 12, to find out what, if any, permits are required. Please understand that if improvements or the placement of structures takes place without first securing required permits, enforcement action will take place and fines will be levied. In addition, inspections performed after work is completed may require that walls be opened to permit inspection of plumbing or electrical wiring. It is much easier and far less expensive to obtain a permit and have the work inspected by certified inspectors as it is progressing. Your permit fee covers the cost for one each of the required inspections.

Here is a partial list for when a zoning permit is required:

- Decks
- covered porches
- swimming pools
- sheds
- fences
- any other structures
- home occupation
- before any demolition is begun

Among other things, the zoning permit review will ensure that what you plan to do is permitted in your zoning district. It also will let you know that placement of any structures complies with the setback requirements for your zoning district.

When applying for a zoning permit for a structure, these items are required:

1. A plot plan of the property, indicating location of existing features
  - existing buildings, septic system, well, proposed improvements
  - distance of proposed improvements from the property lines

Your approved zoning permit will state whether a building permit is required. Any structural modification typically requires a building permit.

One other important zoning permit required is a Certificate of Occupancy (for Resale) when you plan to sell your home. This inspection covers general safety items which are listed on the form available on the Township’s website ([www.springfieldbucks.org](http://www.springfieldbucks.org)), select Downloads, then Applications/Permits, then Certificate of Occupancy (for Resale). The prospective buyers’ names and the settlement date will both be required on your application form. This inspection is required before a sale can go through; therefore, it is better to schedule it early so that any needed repairs can take place before your settlement date.

For a building permit submission, the following items are required:

1. A completed building permit
2. Three sets of proposed plans
3. Large projects (such as additions and pole buildings) that cover over 1000 square feet of ground require storm water runoff controls.

A qualified engineer must prepare the storm water management plan, unless an exemption is requested.

Zoning and building permit applications are also available on the Township’s website. Select Downloads, then applications/Permits, then choose the permit type you need. The Township’s Zoning Ordinance is online as well for you to review for more details. I am available to meet and discuss your plans with you by appointment during the day or evening hours. Saturday appointments are available with prior notice. I welcome your questions before you begin your project. Remember, it is easier to ask first than run into a situation later that could cost you time and money and/or cause accidents or injury to you or your family members!



News From The Springtown Water Authority

By Kenneth Simmons, Chairman of Springtown Water Authority

The Springtown Water Authority became operational under new direction on January 1, 2007. Since that time, many improvements have been made to enable the system to serve our customers in Springtown. Improvements include:

- The replacement of out-dated and inaccurate meters with radio-read meters.
- The installation of a new 150,000 gallon storage tank which provides increased water storage necessary for fire protection.
- The replacement of two inch water mains with six and eight inch ductile iron pipes.
- The installation of thirteen new fire hydrants, providing full coverage for the historic district and surrounding neighborhoods served by the authority.

These events were funded by the following sources:

- The Springtown Water Authority received a \$320,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection. Senator Rob Wonderling presented the grant.
- Connection fees from new homes built in the Springtown Knolls development.
- The acquisition of a \$450,000 loan from the Quakertown National Bank, amortized over twenty-five years.
- The repair of system leaks, reducing waste of treated water by 6,000,000 gallons per year.

New Rates

In order to maintain the quality operation of the Springtown water system, provide increased fire protection and maintain cash flow for loan repayment, moderate rate increases are necessary. Starting with the first quarter bill of 2010, customers will receive a charge of twelve dollars per quarter for the ongoing maintenance of fire hydrants. We encourage customers to contact their homeowner’s insurance company as many offer discounts for properties located near hydrants.

Future Plans

The Springtown Water Authority plans to actively pursue grant funding to complete work necessary to upgrade the water system. Future plans include the replacement of old line on Greenwood Drive with eight inch ductile pipe. The Springtown Water Authority is a not-for-profit organization consisting of eight volunteers who plan and assist in the daily operation of the system.



One of the new Springtown fire hydrants installed last fall.



DEP grant money helped to fund the new 150,000 gallon water tank.

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE NEED YOUR HELP!

By Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police

Residential burglaries continue to be the most frequently occurring major crime to affect the peace and tranquility that we enjoy. Working with the PA State Police, Springfield Township Police investigated nearly 30 residential burglaries last year. Burglary is easier to prevent than to solve, and the crime often has a profound affect on its victims. Irreplaceable family heirlooms are often stolen and rarely recovered.

At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Springfield Township Police Department is assisting in the creation of a Neighborhood Watch program. The Neighborhood Watch program will broaden your awareness of what activity occurs in the Township and will permit you to participate in a structured group that can dramatically impact the frequency of crime, especially burglaries. A Neighborhood Watch program will use screened township volunteers to patrol the Township and serve as the “eyes and ears” of the Township Police. Volunteers would not take any direct action, but would promptly report any suspicious persons or activity to Township Police. Periodic training meetings of the Neighborhood Watch group members with dedicated liaisons from the Township Police Department will take place. Neighborhood Watch signs will be installed throughout the township, thus warning prospective criminals that they should consider taking their activities elsewhere!

Ten residents have already expressed interest in becoming part of the Neighborhood Watch program because of a previous Newsletter article. As the program grows and eventually incorporates, we will need many more volunteers to cover our geographi-cally large township. Please step up and make a difference. You can call the Springfield Township Police at (610) 346-7600, extension 13, and let them know you would like to have your name added to the list of residents interested in helping with the Neighborhood Watch.

Please visit the Police Department’s website by clicking on Police Department on the Township website. Police monthly reports, press releases, and other items of interest, as well as police-related forms are available for you on the site. Press releases will alert you about crimes taking place in the Township.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Police Department!

Planning Commission Report

By Bruce Fritchman, Chairman

Over the last year the recession has had an impact on almost everything, and the Planning Commission (PC) was no exception. New applications for land development decreased dramatically. However, leading up to this sharp decrease, were many years of substantial development, during which time the regular monthly meetings of the PC were very long and entirely devoted to the review of new development plans. To upgrade ordinances, such as the Zoning Ordinance, the PC was forced to hold numerous special work sessions.

With the decrease in the number of newly submitted plans, the PC has had an opportunity to upgrade ordinances in a more reasonable environment. This past year the Township’s Storm Water Management Ordinance was significantly modified and then adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Also, work continued on the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan, and it is nearly ready for final adoption. Both of these plans are critical to the protection of the waterways in the Township, especially to Cooks Creek and its designation as an “exceptional value stream.”

An important benefit of the work on the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan was the collection of an extensive amount of data, in electronic form, on virtually every parcel of land in the Township. As a result, the Township will soon begin to use this information as part of a Geographic Information System (GIS). This is a computer-based system that allows immediate access to the physical characteristics of every parcel of land. This system will be especially useful as a means of verifying the data provided by an applicant’s engineer during the PC review of a new land development proposal.

After more than two years of using the new Zoning Ordinance, some inconsistencies were found that had to be corrected. This was done through amendments in the form of new ordinances. To date, four such ordinances have been approved. These amendments have not only corrected problems, but have also extended the ordinance to cover new uses, such as electronic billboards. Finally, because all of the Township ordinances are linked through references, definitions, and actual wording, the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) had to be modified to make it consistent with all of the other modified ordinances. This work is now complete and awaits action by the BOS.

Current Planning Commission members are Bobb Carson, John Chilton, Scott Douglas, Bruce Fritchman, Peter Lamana, Curtis Reiss and Robert Ritter.

Springfield Township Plants and Lenape Life

3rd in a series of articles featuring our first residents - the Lenni Lenape (Delaware) Indians

By Karen Bedics

The Lenape used many plants found in our township for everyday medicinal use. The Witch hazel (Hamamelis virginiana) tree grows in moist places and can grow up to thirty feet tall. It has a distinguishing characteristic of wide, toothed leaves that are “lopsided” or uneven. Witch hazel often will continue to flower after it snows. Its seeds pop out of the pods and can fly up to twenty feet away.

In the early days, a forked witch hazel stick was used as a divining rod, which people believed was able to help find a water source. The fork of the stick would be pulled slightly apart, and if the end of the stick would suddenly point to the ground, it indicated there might be water or mineral treasure at that location. This “magic” ability to find water could be the reason for the plant’s name-witch hazel. Lenape medicine men poured boiling water over the leaves to brew a tea. They put this tea on bug bites, sprains, bruises or swollen areas of the body.

Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) is a perennial that grows in old fields and even in poor soil. It reaches two to three feet tall, has white clustered flowers and fern-like, feathery leaves. It usually blooms all through the summer months. Legend has it that the Greek war hero Achilles treated his wounded soldiers with yarrow; hence part of its scientific name. Settlers brought yarrow to the colonies with them, where it spread quickly.

The Lenape quickly learned that yarrow was effective to stop bleeding. It helped wounds to heal faster and prevented blood poisoning. Although soldiers often would die from blood poisoning, the natives rarely did. The entire plant was used to treat wounds. Yarrow was used to treat earaches and yarrow tea was believed to help treat fevers and colds. It was also believed to cure baldness!

Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) also grows in dry soil and fields. It has oval shaped leaves and milky sap (hence, its Continued from previous page name). The flowers are lavender-pink rounded clusters with a heavy fragrance and varieties of insects, including the Monarch butterfly, are attracted to the florets. Roots of milkweed will spread and form new shoots. Milkweed also has large spiny pods loaded with silky haired seeds that are carried by wind. This fluff from seed pods was used to diaper Lenape infants.

Young plants under 8 inches high and young seedpods were cut, cooked and eaten as a vegetable; sap was dried and chewed like gum. The white sap was used by the Lenape to help remove warts; the roots were chewed for diarrhea. Tobacco mixed with dried milkweed leaves was smoked to help relieve asthma. During World War II, schoolchildren collected the dried seedpod fluff to fill life preservers for our warships.

Next time you are out for a stroll in our township, keep an eye out for these plants. See if you can spot any or all of them on your hike. Enjoy the flora and the scenery!

*\*\*Disclaimer - Neither Springfield Township nor its affiliates recommends use of the plants as stated in this article. Always consult a physician before treating any ailments.*

Springfield Township Property of Merit  
The “Church School” in Pleasant Valley

by Betty Riter



While driving on Route 212 just north of Pleasant Valley, one may take a quick glance at a small building directly across from Trinity Lutheran Church. You may have thought “What a lovely building!” Your quick glimpse of the Church School reveals the personal vision and hard work of many people. The re-birth of the Church School took place in 1999, during the Historical Society’s restoration campaign to “Help give the old school new life”.

Today, thanks to the continuing volunteer work and financial help of members of the Springfield Township Historical Society Board and the Springfield Township community, the Church School is still thriving. The Historical Society maintains a separate fund, the Church School Preservation Fund, used only for repair and restoration, to ensure that the preservation and maintenance of Church School will continue far into the future. Just imagine, Church School has stood on that spot and looked out upon passers-by on Route 212 in Pleasant Valley for 118 years!

The land upon which the Church School stands is a portion of the 134 acres and 60 perches (in surveying, one “perch” equals 16.5 feet) purchased in 1792 by Conrad Hess (1746-1832) from his brother-in-law Philip Frankenfield. Philip Frankenfield purchased the land in 1786 from Peter Schuck, who purchased it in 1763 from Christian Schuck. In 1853, a grandson of Conrad Hess, Tobias Hess (1814-1862) and his wife Lavina Miller Hess granted that portion of land upon which Church School stands to the Lutheran and German Reformed Church of Springfield. Otto Haas became the first teacher in 1775.

The present Church School building was erected in 1892 upon the existing foundation of an 1860 stone schoolhouse, which in turn replaced an 1816 schoolhouse on the same site. In 1892, Springfield Union Church and Church School signed a lease for fifty years for one dollar. In 1942, they renewed the lease for another fifty years. The church built the school when there were no public school districts. Later, Springfield School District (which eventually joined the Palisades School District) used the building. Palisades later renovated the building, adding a restroom, a drop ceiling and an asphalt-tiled floor, and used it for a kindergarten classroom until 1981.

Through the efforts of the Springfield Township Historical Commission, on September 12, 1982, the Church School was awarded Plaque #8 of the Springfield Township Registry of Historic Buildings. Sixteen years later, Springfield Township’s Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, for the price of one dollar, transferred ownership of the Church School to the Springfield Township Historical Society. On May 17, 1998, a ceremony was held in the Church School to commemorate this milestone.

The building is an excellent example of a one-room, Victorian-style schoolhouse. It is a one and a half story building with brick walls, an exposed foundation of cut red shale and a slate gable roof. There are three bays across the front facade with the central door flanked by tall windows with brick arches. 1892 is the date inscribed in the doorstep. A shed porch protects the entrance door. Two intricately carved wood columns, with two facade columns set against the brick wall, support the porch roof. A round window in the gable has six windowpanes set in a wagon wheel formation. Three equally spaced tall windows with brick keystone arches are on the east and west facade of the building. There are no windows on the south facade of the building where a brick chimney is located. Embedded in the east wall of the present building are the cornerstone and a portion of the wall of the original building. Original to the exterior of the building are shutters and some shutter dogs. The original school bell is in the shingled bell tower. The original interior features are window-molding, wainscoting, chair rails, blackboards, and chalk trays. At one time, church wagon sheds stood where the parking lot is now located.

Anyone is welcome to attend the programs held by the Springfield Township Historical Society at 2:00 p.m. on the third Sundays of March, April, May, September, October and November at the Church School. This one-room schoolhouse, maintained by the Historical Society, is located across from Trinity Lutheran Church at 2165 Route 212, just north of Pleasant Valley.



Environment Matters

By W. Scott Douglas, Environmental Advisory Committee Chairman

The media coverage of the environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico has shown us an unfolding environmental tragedy. Some blame British Petroleum for their greed and for shirking their own rules. Others may blame the USEPA and the Department of the Interior for their lack of regulation of offshore drilling. What is often hard for many of us to understand is the small, but cumulative part that each household plays in the see-saw of supply and demand.

If consumers continue to cry out for cheap oil, asking elected officials and the market to provide a commodity which is no longer either easy or cheap to produce, we will either have to subsidize it or provide corporations with regulatory loopholes in order to get it. Sometimes “business as usual” is just not possible and the Deep Horizon oil spill may be just the beginning. Energy consumers must make a conscious effort to get away from “business as usual.” How? One way is to invest in a dramatic move away from oil and toward more sustainable energy sources. Will this be easy? Will it be cheap? No. But I feel certain that it would be easier and cheaper than the cleanup and compensation for the loss of natural resources, jobs, wildlife and businesses in our Gulf Coast area.

What do these choices have to do with Springfield? True, Springfield doesn’t have mineral resources that multinational companies are competing to obtain. What we do have is water and land. Both are essential for modern life and both are valuable. While the recent economic downturn has resulted in a slowdown in growth, both are looked at as commodities for sale. If and when the market rebounds, so will the demand on our resources. The Cooks Creek Watershed Association has reported in their newsletter that the base flow in the creeks around the township is decreasing. This reduction in flow is likely due to a combination of increased groundwater withdrawal and decreased infiltration of stormwater. Both are a result of increased development. So, as we grow, we have a clear impact on the quantity of our natural resources. Not too surprising. However, it is up to us to decide how to protect those resources, and the more people that move here, the more careful we have to be if we are to continue to benefit from these resources.

The Planning Commission recently recommended a change in regulation of riparian areas to the Board of Supervisors. This regulation will limit the amount and kind of activity that can be conducted in the area surrounding streams and wetlands in the Township. The ordinance proposed a 40-foot “no activity” buffer and a 100-foot “minimal activity” buffer. This will, undoubtedly, result in numerous cries of “taking” and “government intrusion” in the affairs of the citizenry. However, data recently collected by the Cooks Creek Watershed Association clearly shows that the presence of forested buffers has a dramatic effect on the temperature of the creek water. Since temperature is one of the most important parameters used by scientists to rank the water quality in Pennsylvania’s streams and determine which of these warrant special protection (like Cooks Creek!). The exceptional value status of Cooks Creek is at least partly dependent on temperature. This status is important because it has been instrumental in helping us protect our water from being taken by outside interests and in obtaining Federal, State and County money for open space acquisition. The Board of Supervisors voted to pass the new riparian buffer ordinance. I hope that you will let them know you appreciate their leadership.

NEWS FLASH!!

Hans Reiman, a long time volunteer in Springfield Township, was recently honored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. Hans was featured in their July issue of PSATS magazine and given “Unsung Hero” recognition for his tireless hours of work, planning, volunteering, committee work and community service to our township. The township owes Hans a debt of gratitude for all he has done to help make Springfield Township a great place to live. Congratulations, Hans!





U.S. Army First Lieutenant Ryan Hopkins



Rep. Paul Clymer speaks to Veterans and guests



Springfield Township Veterans gather with the Boy Scouts for a photo.



Bugler Ed Bilger stands at attention before playing “Taps” for the fallen.

# Veteran’s Garden Dedicated

By Karen Bedics

With the afternoon blessed by perfect sunny weather - on Sunday, September 17, 2009, the Veteran’s Memorial Garden was dedicated at the Springfield Township Municipal Building. Boy Scouts of Troop 29 led a procession from the upper parking lot and raised the U.S. flag while those present sang the Star Spangled Banner. Hans Reimann, who designed and created the native plant garden around the town-ship building flagpole, was master of ceremonies. He opened the event by stating the reasons for the flagpole garden and the importance of the native flora chosen for it. Mr. Reimann noted that the memorial plaque is mounted on an original Cook’s Creek bridge stone salvaged from the recent bridge restoration.

Township Veterans who attended unveiled the memorial stone. Those participating included Board chairman Jim Brownlow II, along with other local familiar faces, including Butch Helm, Mike Gawroski, Steve Doncevic, Paul Rush, Bill Boyle and Wilbur Wohlbach. Ryan Hopkins (he was featured in last year’s newsletter) had recently returned from duty in Afghanistan, and was guest of honor for the afternoon.

Reverend Gregory Shreaves of Trinity Lutheran Church gave the invocation prayer, followed by a moment of silence for our fallen soldiers. Next, State Representative Paul Clymer gave comments and expressed his thanks to all those who serve in the armed forces. Spectators then heard patriotic songs sung by the Palisades High School Madrigal singers, under the direction of Mrs. Carolyn Williams. Board member Karen Bedics played a “Sacred Warrior” rhythm on the African drum to honor the military. The ceremony concluded with Mr. Edward Bilger playing “Taps.”

All attending enjoyed refreshments and camaraderie after the ceremony ended. The Township’s Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) hosted, planned and provided refreshments for this event. The EAC also earned the funds used to purchase the memorial plaque through last year’s fire recycling event.

Photos courtesy of Cara Simonetta, Bruce Whitesell and Scott Douglas



Hans Reiman speaks to local Veterans

# Notes from the Fire Marshall

One of the many roles of the Fire Marshal is to promote fire safety in the community. One of the ways I do this is to monitor the weather and fire conditions of forests and outdoor grass areas. As we move through the summer and fall it may be necessary to place a ban on burning. When this happens we will post this on the township website, on the township sign board, the sign board at Springtown Fire Company and in the future on the fire company’s website. A ban on burning means that you cannot burn out doors, no burning in a barrel or piles or camp type fires. I recommend that before you burn off the pile of debris or start that camp fire you check the townships website for information. You can find this under downloads on the townships website, open burning ordinance.

Did you know that the township is covered by 5 fire companies? These companies are all volunteer organizations, these men and women spend a lot to time training and creating fund raisers to help you the residents of Springfield Township in an event of an emergency. I would ask that when possible you support them. They are always looking for new members to help so if you’re interested stop by your local fire station and inquire about joining.

Below are government web links with information to help you to be fire safe at home and also to get tips on what to do in event of a fire. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) provides guidance for emergencies in event of natural / manmade disasters.

FEMA - <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/fire/index.shtm>  
FEMA - <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/fire/index.shtm>  
U.S. Fire Administration - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/>

*Will Helm, Fire Marshall*  
Springtown Community Volunteer Fire Company

# Springtown Community Volunteer Fire Company

By Will Helm, Chief

With summer in full swing, the newsletter gives us a chance to reflect on what has occurred at Station 40 in the past few months. We have been busy in three main areas: responding to emergency “911” calls, training and fund-raising activities.

Since January 1, we have responded to 47 emergency calls. These calls ranged from accompanying the ambulance during winter storms, providing manpower in drifting snow, to dwelling fires, kitchen fires and traffic accidents. The five members of the fire police provide valuable assistance at the majority of these calls. Chief Will Helm, Deputy Chief Ed Ziegler and Battalion Chief Mike Guarino do an excellent job directing the firefighters on scene. We are blessed with a dedicated group of line officers.

Training takes place every first and third Tuesday at the station. Officers, Lieutenant Mike Gawronski Jr. and Captain Mike Trauger plan each training session and make sure that all aspects of firefighting are practiced and competency levels are achieved as we progress through the year. Some of these areas include water supply, hose line advancement, ladders and search and rescue techniques. Under the direction of Jay Szakacs, driver training takes place every Thursday, where drivers practice pump operations and driving skills. In addition, Lieutenant Chris Trauger has done an outstanding job instituting our 90-day company-training program for all new members. This year, six new members have completed this program. Two new members, Maria Weick and Larry Davina, will be completing 188 hours of state instruction, and will become Firefighter I certified in July. Congratulations Maria and Larry! If you are interested in becoming an active firefighter, contact us at 610-346-8383, and we will provide you with an application.

Fire trucks, protective gear, equipment and building maintenance do not come cheaply. We want to thank Springfield Township residents and our local government for their excellent support. Our annual fund drive is now in full swing, and we will greatly appreciate any donation that your family can return in the fund drive envelope. Our auxiliary continues to raise funds for the company. They do an outstanding job, and recently completed a very successful breakfast season. Our first chicken barbeque sold out. Our next fundraising endeavors will be: a clambake at Silver Creek Athletic Association on July 24 and another chicken barbeque on August 14.

We hope that your family has a wonderful, safe summer!

# IMPORTANT NOTICE!

If you or a family member have special needs which would necessitate medical or transportation assistance in case of an emergency evacuation, or

If you or your business have resources that you would be willing to utilize to help residents or their animals during a large-scale emergency (such as providing shelter/food for animals of all sizes), or

If you have large machinery such as backhoes, supplies of blankets, clothing, etc., and would like to be put on the township’s “Emergency Resources List”...

PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE AT 610-346-6700, EXT 10, so that we can put that information on file.

