

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BUCKS COUNTY**  
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## Public Safety

By Mark S. Laudenslager, Chief of Police

The Board of Supervisors expanded the Police Department in 2008 by adding Officers Ronald Jacoby and Jules Sepulveda to the force. Both officers served previously as full-time police officers in other area departments. They joined Officer Michael McDonald, a member of the department who has served in Springfield Township for the past six years.

Crime does exist in the Township. The most frequently occurring serious crime is burglary - the unlawful entry into a building or occupied structure with the intent to commit a crime. Approximately 90% of burglaries involve thefts from private homes during the day. Burglars are often addicts who steal items they can convert to quick cash to support their habits. Items most commonly stolen are jewelry, guns, electronics, and cash. The solvability rate for burglaries is low, roughly 15%, as there are seldom witnesses to the execution of a burglary.

Burglars will generally drive around and size up a potential target. A passenger is often dropped off to approach the house and knock on the door to establish if anyone is home. If someone responds to the knock, a ruse is used where the stranger will ask the home occupant for directions, state they are looking for a particular family in the area, or some similar ploy, when in fact, the stranger planned to break into the home if no one answered the door.



Officer Michael McDonald, Officer Jules Sepulveda, Chief Mark Laudenslager, Officer Ron Jacoby

Here are several tips that will help deter burglars:

1. Give your house the "lived-in" look.
2. Use the door locks you already have. Consider the installation of high security locks. Use locks at all times, even when you are home. Burglars are sometimes transients who will sneak into your home and steal from you when you are in the home or working outside.

# Third Annual Springfield Township Community Day

**September 26, 2009, 10 A.M. until 4 P.M.  
 at the  
 Silver Creek Athletic Association  
 Come Along for Some Great  
 Family Fun and Neighborly News!**



Many thanks to all those who contributed articles and pictures to this edition of our newsletter. A big thank you to Ugis Nigals for his formatting and computer work (and also his patience!) Lastly, a big thank you to Sandy Everitt-our proofreader extraordinaire!

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP  
 NEWSLETTER  
 SUMMER 2009 ISSUE**

**KAREN BEDICS  
 &  
 SANDY EVERITT  
 EDITORS**

**UGIS NIGALS  
 LAYOUT & DESIGN**

**RICHARD SCHILLING  
 TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**JAMES BROWNLOW II  
 CHAIRPERSON**

**BARBARA LINDTNER  
 VICE CHAIRMAN**

**VOLKER OAKY  
 ROBERT ZISKO**

3. Install an alarm. Alarms are a great deterrent. Place the alarm sign furnished by the alarm company on your property at a location that is highly visible from the roadway. A generic alarm sign is also a deterrent.

4. Own a dog, especially one that roams freely in your home and barks when strangers arrive.

5. Be a "nosy neighbor." Be observant to abnormalities in your area. Promptly report suspicious vehicles, persons, and circumstances you detect anywhere in Springfield Township.

6. Let the police know when you will be away from your home for an extended period, providing leave and return dates, description of vehicles being left home, home lighting, authorized persons, and a contact number in the event the police need to reach you.

7. Inventory your personal property. Maintaining an inventory list will be helpful to police and your insurance carrier if you are a burglary victim. Your inventory should include a detailed description of each item, including model and serial numbers, if any.

8. Photograph or videotape unusual items, such as collectibles and jewelry. Keep the inventory in a safe place. Place an extra copy of your inventory and video off premises.

I keep you informed of the Department's activities utilizing newspaper press releases and by posting releases and crime information that may affect your life on the Police Department link through the Township website.

I am going to explore creating a Town Watch program. If you are interested in participating, call (610) 346-7600 and leave your name and phone number.

Crime prevention depends in large part on alert citizens. I encourage you to contact the police department about any unusual or abnormal happenings using the appropriate 24-hour phone number for the police: (610) 982-5411 for non-emergencies and 9-1-1 for an emergency.

### News from the Cooks Creek Watershed Association

By W. Scott Douglas, President

#### Mini-monsters descend on Springtown!

On June 20, the skies were dark and the air was heavy with the promise of rain (or should I say more rain!). Despite this, 20 children ranging in age from 6 to 13 and their parents came to the Douglas home in Springtown for the annual CCWA Mini-

### Springtown Volunteer Fire Company *If you summon us, we will respond.*

During the first six months of 2009, the Springtown Volunteer Fire Company responded to 51 calls. Our fine officers have provided exceptional personnel and tactical leadership throughout these incidents. Chief Will Helm, Deputy Chief Jeff Mease, Battalion Chief Ed Ziegler, Captain Chris Hershey, Lieutenant Mike Guarino, Lieutenant Chris Trauger, Safety Officer Emil Kolick, Engineer Jay Szakacs, Engineer Denny Crouse, and Fire Police Captain Butch Helm deserve special recognition for the enormous amount of time that they spend in carrying out their duties. Station 40 and Springfield Township are fortunate to have such volunteers.

Through June 30, our firefighters have participated in 13 training sessions. Six of these sessions were live fire training at the Quakertown Burn Building facility. The other seven took place here at the station. These trainings included Search and Rescue, Water Supply, Hose Advancement, Truck Company Operations, Ropes & Knots, Auto Rescue Techniques and Emergency Scene Scenarios at the burn building. In addition, we had 5 members who completed the state Rescue Technician Course and 13 members who participated in the state Hazardous Materials course. Each of these two courses required 28 hours of instruction. It is extremely important that our firefighters continue not only to practice skills necessary to respond in a safe and efficient manner, but also to learn the newest techniques and strategies on the fire ground.

In addition to the emergency response side of the volunteer fire service, our members participate in many important fundraisers that help us continue to sustain service to our residents. This year, under the direction of our Ladies' Auxiliary, we have had seven Sunday breakfasts, which are known everywhere for the great food, reasonable cost and friendly service. The

monster Mayhem. For the past 9 years, the CCWA has put on a workshop that teaches children about the importance of water, where their water comes from and what we can do to protect it from pollution. While their parents stood in the pouring rain under umbrellas, the children (sitting under a pavilion) made a water ranger bracelet (to learn the hydrologic cycle), hiked up Mt. Erosion (to find out how forests reduce runoff) and played with the Water Quality Toilet (to see how waste impacts water).

The highlight of the class was a trip to Cooks Creek to seek out immature insects and other "mini monsters" that live in, on and under the rushing water. Each team of



Auxiliary, headed by Stephanie Zisko, organizes the breakfast fundraisers, while the Fire Company members provide the needed help. These volunteers are a valuable asset to the Company.

SVFC has also hosted two chicken barbeques, serving close to 900 dinners. Our station will once again be cooking at the Springfield Township Community Day celebration on September 26. The Fire Company also rents out our social hall for events. Renters may bring their own food or arrange for a caterer. It is a beautiful facility, and the price is right. For more information, call (610) 346-8383, leave your name, number and a brief message and someone will return your call.

We want to thank each of you for your support. We appreciate very much your donations to our annual fund drive as well as your support of all our fundraisers.

In the last three months, we have welcomed four new members. Each of you could be a positive addition to the Company or the Auxiliary. Once you fill out an application, get involved in training and finally respond to your first incident, you will wonder why you did not get involved earlier. There is no better feeling than when you help someone in a time of need. Imagine having that feeling 100 times a year!

We hope that you and your family have a safe fall and winter season. Remember...  
*If you summon us, we will respond.*

children was given a plastic tub, a seine net and some small containers and pipettes. They were shown how to use the net to catch whatever might be hiding under rocks and gravel stirred upstream. Squeals of delight pealed out as they found crayfish, salamanders and other more exotic creatures like 4-inch long Hellgrammites, predatory stoneflies, caddisflies in their carefully constructed portable cases and delicate mayflies.

**The CCWA does not charge admission to this annual event in the hopes that children will learn to be more interactive with their environment. We protect what we understand...and love.**

### A Recycling Success Story

One 2008 goal of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was to provide township residents with a way to get rid of old tires. The EAC had no idea how many tires they were going to receive for their first tire recycling day in September 2008!

When the tire recycling day came, our crew was ready: Chairman Scott Douglas, Vice-Chairman Hans Reimann, and EAC members Bill Boyle, Cindy McCurdy and Marjorie Bilger. Also helping were Supervisor Karen Bedics and Manager Rich Schilling, residents Jerry McCurdy and Anthony Renner and teens from the Youth Progress Group. Bill came prepared with his machine to remove tire rims. Karen provided barbecue, drinks and donuts for the volunteers.

When we opened at 8 a.m., residents were lined up with trucks, cars and even box trucks full of tires. Marjorie and Cindy helped the residents at the check-in tent; Rich directed the vehicles to the trailer; Scott handled stacking the tires in the trailer as Rich, Karen, Jerry, Anthony and the teens unloaded vehicles. Tires were accepted until 2 p.m., but the work did not stop then. Cindy and Hans continued to stack tires as Bill removed the rims. The rims that the tire machine wasn't able to remove, Hans cut off with saws. The last tire came off the rim at 6:00 p.m. and Hans squeezed the last four tires into the trailer and closed the door.

Our Recycler, Systech Environmental, acknowledged the good judgment used to stack the tires and told us that an average tire collection by a township at one event is 200 to 300 tires. We were astonished to find that 930 tires were removed from our township that day! With those old tires went the breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease carrying rodents and insects. The township thanks everyone for their hard work. You made this event an overwhelming success and helped our residents to recycle their tires.

### BULLETIN!!!!!!

To acknowledge the EAC's success in recycling ideas and commitment to reducing waste, PROP (Professional Recyclers of PA) will present the Springfield Township EAC with the 2009 "Wastewatchers" Award at an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting! Congratulations!

### The EAC will hold their 2nd Annual Tire Recycling on September 19, 2009 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.

**\*\*\* New this year: 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 TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER

**TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER**  
**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP RESIDENT**

**\$2.00 PER CAR TIRE**  
**\$3.50 PER MOTORCYCLE TIRE**  
**\$7.00 PER TRACTOR TRAILER TIRE**  
**\$1.00 PER TIRE LEFT ON RIM**

\_\_\_\_\_ # of tires \$ \_\_\_\_\_ paid

TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER TIRE RECYCLING VOUCHER

## PPL UPDATE • PPL UPDATE • PPL UPDATE • PPL UPDATE

As most residents of Springfield Township know, the Board of Supervisors intervened in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and vigorously opposed construction by PPL of a new transmission line across the Township. We hired an attorney specializing in PUC matters, and retained experts to present evidence on the environmental degradation that would result from construction of the so-called "Cross Country Route." Dr. Ann Rhoads, PhD, of the Morris Arboretum, was among the experts testifying on behalf of the Township.

Unfortunately, Administrative Law Judge Angela Jones, assigned to the case by the PUC, sided with PPL on virtually every issue the township contested and issued a decision to the PUC recommending approval of PPL's proposal.

At their July 23, 2009 meeting, the PUC decided to follow the recommendation of Judge Jones, approve the project as submitted, and authorized PPL to use the Cross Country Route. We are extremely disappointed in this decision. Any party to this case may appeal to the Commonwealth Court, which would decide whether errors of law or an abuse of discretion was committed.

This has been a long, uphill battle, which is far from over. In addition to the PUC action, the Township is entitled to intervene in permitting procedures before the Department of Environmental Protection. Thus far, DEP has issued two letters critical of PPL's proposal and requesting an evaluation of alternate routes.

It is the Township's position that the PUC Decision is in violation of requirements of the Pennsylvania Constitution as well as statutes and regulations concerning consideration of alternatives having less environmental impact. In the Township's view, the PUC and Judge Jones abused their discretion in this case. For these and other reasons which will be advanced in the appeal, the Township will urge the Commonwealth Court to reverse the PUC Decision.

James C. Brownlow, II, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

**A Sincere Thank You...To the Bucks County Chapter #254 of PA Council of Trout Unlimited for their recent, generous donation of \$1,000 to the Township to help defray litigation costs!**

## Swine Flu (H1N1 Influenza) Update

You can download Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Swine flu from the Township's website or pick up a copy at the Township Building.

Bucks County Department of Health is encouraging residents to go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu) as well as to the Bucks County Department of Health's website: [www.buckscounty.org](http://www.buckscounty.org) to obtain the timeliest information.

Finally, the County recommends that residents register online for **ReadyNotifyPA** at [www.readynotifypa.org](http://www.readynotifypa.org) in order to receive emergency health information or other emergency notices via text message or email.

## New Web Tool Allows Pennsylvanians to Check Status of Property Tax/Rent Rebates

Eligible older adults and residents with disabilities can now check the status of Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications online at [www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com)

six weeks after submitting a Property Tax/Rent Rebate application. Applicants may use the Web site to confirm claim status, rebate amount and the date a rebate is expected to be mailed or direct-deposited. Distribution of rebate checks to early applicants began on July 1, 2009.

Through a similar automated phone service, Property Tax/Rent Rebate applicants can check rebate status by calling, toll-free, 1-888-PATAXES.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older, widows and widowers age 50 and older and people with disabilities age 18 and older. A 2006 program expansion increased the income limit from \$15,000 to \$35,000 (which excludes half of Social Security income) for homeowners and raised the maximum standard rebate for both homeowners and renters from \$500 to \$650.

The income limit for renters is \$15,000.

The program expansion also provided for supplemental property tax rebates of up to \$325 - on top of the standard rebates - to homeowners in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton and to those in other parts of the state who pay more than 15 percent of income on property taxes.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and additional information are available online at [www.papropertytaxrelief.com](http://www.papropertytaxrelief.com) or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

**The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2008 is December 31, 2009.**

## Greetings Residents of Springfield Township,

Upper Bucks Regional Emergency Medical Services, Inc., your 911 ambulance service, remains busy providing care and treatment to the sick and injured of Springfield Township, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. For those of you new to the area, we have two stations, one located on Route 611 in Revere and one located in Springfield Township adjacent to the Township Building.

Some exciting news at UBREMS was the arrival of our new 2009 Ford Ambulance. This ambulance replaced our 1998 van ambulance that put in 11 good years, but it was time for it to be retired. The purchase of this new ambulance was made possible by a sizable federal grant from the Department of Homeland Security and a \$5,000 grant from First Savings Bank of Perkasi. At this time, we are seeking funds to replace one of our 2003 Ford ambulances with high mileage and growing maintenance costs. The cost of a new ambulance is approximately \$120,000, so we will appreciate any financial assistance. This spring, the Springfield Township Lion's Club gave UBREMS a generous donation to purchase three C-PAP breathing devices to aid patients who are in respiratory distress. These units are currently in use in all of our vehicles.

UBREMS provides a subscription plan that runs from May 1 to April 30 annually. Participating in this plan assures you that you will not receive a bill for any services we provide that your insurance does not cover should you need an ambulance. In addition, your participation in this plan provides the funds needed to maintain our state mandated training and equipment. If you have not received the annual form in the mail to renew your subscription plan, it is not too late. Please log onto [www.ubrems.org](http://www.ubrems.org), or call (610) 847-2165 for more information.

UBREMS appreciates all the support that the residents of Springfield Township give us on a daily basis whether it is monetary, words of encouragement or just a simple thank you. The UBREMS Board of Directors and staff also appreciate the continued support of the Township's Board of Supervisors. Thank you again to all that have supported and continue to support Upper Bucks Regional EMS!



## Honoring Our Soldiers

**The United States Army recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal to First Lieutenant Ryan Hopkins, 29, son of Jim and Cheryl Hopkins of Springfield Township.**

While deployed to Afghanistan with the 3rd Battalion of the 103rd Armored Regiment (Pennsylvania Army National Guard), Ryan was commended for his critical role as Task Force Engineer in Laghman Province. His duties included overseeing construction, planned improvements and funding for ongoing military construction projects. Ryan ensured timelines were met and that the construction projects at the battalion forward operation base and surrounding outposts were completed to standard. He supervised the construction projects and assisted the local contractors, thereby improving living conditions and security for U.S. and Afghan soldiers. He was "the driving force behind \$1.3 million of funding for multiple construction and force protection projects."

*(U.S. Army narrative)*

**Congratulations to Ryan and his family. Thank you, Ryan for your dedication and service to our country, our troops, and our citizens.**

## The "Sandal Sister's Trek" *(Katahdin, Maine)*

*A note from Maria Weick (friends received this email upon completion of a spectacular 2,178 mile hike from Georgia to Maine!)*

Hi, Everyone:

I just wanted to let you know that Beth and I reached Mt. Katahdin, Maine on Wednesday, July 15, one month and one week after we left Georgia. Woohoo! We hiked for 129 days (62 of which showered us with some form of precipitation!). It turns out we were the 19th and 20th through-hikers to finish this year and the first women.

Our two plus weeks of hiking in Maine to the finish were tough. Maine was already inundated by rain before we arrived, and the rain continued for 12 out of the 19 days we

were there. The trail was often flooded or more than ankle-deep in muck, many of the stream crossings were dangerous and rocks and ledges slippery. What an ending though at Mt. Katahdin! It is an absolutely magnificent, unique, not-for-the-faint-of-heart-mountain. Can you believe it? The peak was shrouded in clouds until we were a couple of tenths of a mile from the summit. Then the sun shone giving us a breath-taking 360 degree view of forests, lakes and neighboring peaks. As we left the summit, the mountaintop was once again hidden from view.

This 2,178 mile hike along the backbone of the Appalachian Mountains has been an amazing adventure. It has been a profound privilege to walk upon the land for such a distance and such a length of time. The continuity and variety of life forms and ecosystems were beautiful and awe-inspiring. Sometimes, of course, the experience was uncomfortable, at times it felt nonsensical; but always it was a privilege to walk the beautiful corridor known as the Appalachian Trail that enabled us to see and hear so much of Nature and to pass by the many mountains and gaps that have witnessed much human drama and history.



Beth's (Maria's daughter) camaraderie and confidence made it possible for me to live the reality of this decades-long dream of mine and actually hike from Georgia to Maine. And, I think Beth and I must be in the running for the most-laughs-shared-on-a-thru-hike award!

My real hero of this adventure is Bob (her husband) - his love and enthusiastic support for the dream and the reality are the bedrock upon which the journey rested.

I hope I'll see you all soon!

Maria Weick  
*(Maria was the founding manager of the Springtown Farm Market last year.)*



## If Your House Could Talk... Some Basics for Unlocking the History of Your Home Part I

Springfield Township  
Historic Commission  
**Karen Freeh**, Chairperson

Have you ever been curious about the history of your home? Every house and outbuilding has its own unique story to tell. Bucks County has a three hundred plus year history of land grants and home construction. Here are a few tips to starting the research of your home.

- Every property has a chain of title or property abstract. This is a list of owners of a piece of real estate and the dates of transactions. If the records for your home in Springfield Township are complete, you should be able to research back to the original land grant from William Penn & heirs or the post-revolutionary Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A chain of title is typically a requirement as part of the title insurance/mortgage process. This is a good place to start your search; however, it may not go as far back as the original land grant.

- Prior to searching for your property records, make sure that you have your tax map parcel (TMP) number. This is not the same as your street number or physical address. Your tax map parcel number consists of three sections, separated by hyphens. This number will help you use maps on file at the Tax Mapping Office, located in the Board of Assessment Office at the Bucks County Courthouse. These maps will show property boundaries. If you trace your property back through older maps, you will probably see the many divisions as housing replaced farms. The Tax Mapping Office has two types of indexes. One list is organized by TMP numbers and will give the name of the current owner. The other is an alphabetical listing of the names of property owners for each municipality. You can also purchase tax maps at the Tax Mapping Office.

- The chain of title is recorded on a deed, which is a legal document that records the transfer of ownership. A deed contains precise boundary descriptions and sometimes information about buildings on the land. Deeds dating back to the beginning of Bucks County in 1682 are held at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds at the Bucks County Courthouse in Doylestown. It is important to remember that the original deed belongs to the owner of the property and that many older deeds have been destroyed or misplaced over the years. Bucks County maintains of-

ficial copies of deeds. Older deeds are stored on microfilm.

- The Office of the Recorder of Deeds has two basic indexes: the Grantor Index (lists the name of people selling land) and the Grantee Index (lists names of people buying land). These date back to 1684 and older volumes are on microfilm. Researching the Deed Indexes can be very confusing. They are organized by the Russell System, which groups surnames by a series of key letters (L, M, N, R, T) that indexes multiple spelling of surnames. There are guides to the Russell System located inside of the index volumes. Dates listed in these indexes are the date that the document was recorded, not necessarily the date of the transaction. Often, deeds were recorded months, or in many cases, years after the sale of a property; some were never recorded.

- Additional information about the process of tracing deed records can be found in the book (*How to Find the Story of an Old House*), written by Terry McNealy and published by the Bucks County Historical Society. You can purchase this book at the Mercer Museum gift shop.

- Part II will contain information on looking for clues in your home and community.

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## The Springtown Farmers' Market – A Grand 2nd Season!

As the Springtown Farmers' Market shifts from the heat of summer to the cool breezes of fall, we would like to share with you some highlights of the ongoing second year of our Market...it is totally DELIGHTFUL!

First and foremost are the FOOD and the fine VENDORS who come every week to supply us with fresh, locally grown, flavorful, wholesome and SAFE products. Shoppers can select the freshest produce, packed full of flavor and top-notch nutrition for themselves and their families (not foods picked weeks earlier and thousands of miles away), delicious baked goods, succulent meats, fresh dairy, ready-to-eat foods and many other tasty edibles...plus household staples such as soap. When you purchase an item at the Market, you are in direct contact with the grower, farmer or producer. Interested in how they do something or what they put in it? Just ask! Many will even be happy to set up a time for you to visit their operation and check it out yourself.

In addition to the delicious food and other locally made products, Lorraine Torrella, Market Manager, is doing a superb job of making sure there is always something of interest happening:

- Storytelling and children's crafts for the young (and young at heart!).
- Music! Celtic fiddling, jazz, folk and even some African drumming - some thing different every week and many thanks to George T. for his numerous solo musical appearances (through sun, wind and rain!), all of which make shopping and visiting with friends and neighbors even more enjoyable.
- Cooking and other demonstrations! Some favorite events so far this year were Chef Scott Zabower's Pennsylvania Dutch Cuisine of Old Springtown (with yummy traditional style Chicken Corn Soup with Dumplings and Beet Salad) and Pat Bowersock's great recipes for new ways to prepare the wholesome food items available at the Market.
- Art! Upper Bucks County is home to a wealth of artists and many have come out on a Wednesday afternoon to display their skills, including authors, jewel makers, glass flame workers, wool felters, and even a comic book illustrator.

There are more great events lined up for September and October. The Market is open every Wednesday through October 28 from 3 - 6 p.m. behind the Springtown Firehouse on Route 212. Check our weekly schedule online at:

[www.SpringtownFarmersMarket.org](http://www.SpringtownFarmersMarket.org).  
Come on over and enjoy!

Last but not least, the Springtown Farmers' Market is about people and community! Whether it's a quick word or two while you shop or a more leisurely visit, the Market is a great place to say "Hi" to your neighbors, catch up with old friends and meet new ones. It is also the perfect place to indulge in a snack with a cup of organic coffee or herbal iced tea, or settle in for a quick and tasty dinner hot off the grill before you head off for your evening activities. One warning, the selection of baked goods is so extensive you may just have to have two if you can't decide!

Speaking of community...The Springtown Farmer's Market Advisory Board is actively seeking volunteers. If you would like to help grow our very own community Farmers' Market, please contact **Sherry Brodhead** at **610-346-8484** or send an email to

**info@SpringtownFarmersMarket.org**.  
The Springtown Farmers' Market Advisory Board

Sherry Brodhead, Chairperson  
Tom Colbaugh, Vice Chairperson  
Steve Doncevic, Treasurer  
Terry Long, Secretary

## Open Space Committee.

"What have you all been doing?" is a question that I am asked on occasion. While on the surface, it may appear that the Open Space Committee has not done much since its formation in 2006, a great deal is taking place in the background. We received 39 applications to the program as of April 30, 2009. Committee members have evaluated 31, with the remaining 8 evaluations taking place during this summer. The Board of Supervisors authorized the committee to continue with the easement acquisition process for 11 properties, with more to come pending procedural ranking and recommendations.

As some people can attest, the easement acquisition process is not a simple one. The Open Space Committee has ordered 10 appraisals, received and reviewed 6, and will soon make additional recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Our goal is to actually begin preserving various properties commencing later this year and throughout 2010. The Committee partnered with Heritage Conservancy, a nationally known organization with expertise in land preservation, to assist us in the process. We are making every effort to use the Open Space Funding prudently that the township residents approved in 2008.

In addition, the committee has developed and launched a "Donation Program" for the township. This program enables landowners who are willing to donate a conservation easement on their property to have the "soft costs" associated with the process paid for from the township's Open Space funds. Estimated soft costs are between \$20-\$25,000. This program can aid landowners who want to take advantage of the significant tax benefit a land "donation" offers, which can be a deduction of up to 50% of your adjusted gross income with a 15-year loss carry forward. If you are interested, please contact Dave Long (610-346-9677) for more information.

As this year concludes and 2010 progresses, you should begin to see signs on township roadways indicating **This property preserved by Springfield Township!**

Dave Long,  
*Chairman, Open Space Committee*

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## Bluebird Trail Comes to Peppermint Road

April was a busy month for sure! With the combined efforts of the township road crew, the Youth Progress Group teen volunteers, EAC member Hans Reimann and supervisor Karen Bedics, there is now a bluebird trail on the township open space property on Peppermint Road near Rowland Lane. Hans and Karen staked out the spots for ten posts along the perimeter of the property; the road crew installed the posts; and the teens made ten boxes out of

## Open Burning Regulations

1. Open burning is not permitted at any business or commercial property, including construction, salvage, and/or demolition material.
2. Burning is only permitted at one- and two-family dwellings.
3. **Permitted burning allowed only Tuesday through Saturday during daylight hours.** Fire must be extinguished at dusk.
4. No fire may be left unattended.
5. Household waste (paper, cardboard, etc.) must be burned in a non-combustible container and must be covered by a screen or grill.
6. Yard waste may be burned on piles, but piles must of manageable size and must be attended.
7. Campfires and bonfires are permitted after regulated hours by calling the Township Office (610-346-6700) with advance notification of time and date. Maximum size of such a fire is 5' x 5'.
8. All open burning may be prohibited or special precautions suggested during drought emergencies—watch the Announcement Page of the Township website.

Willard Helm  
*Fire Marshall*

## Recycling Opportunities

### At the Township Building:

1. Compact Fluorescent Bulbs
2. Paper
3. September 19 – Tire Recycling (see related article)

### At Quakertown Community Pool, Mill St., Quakertown:

1. September 26 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Bucks County Household Hazardous Waste & Old Computer Recycling. They will accept: oil-based paint, varnish, gasoline, pesticides, pool chemicals, auto batteies, rechargeable, Lithium or "button-type" batteries, paint thinner, kerosene, oil, mercury, ammonia, weed killer, propane tanks (20 lbs or less)

## 2009 Calendar

- September 19 – Tire Recycling Day  
September 26 – Springfield Township Community Day @ Silver Creek Athletic Association  
September 29 – Special Election (Township Offices Closed)  
October 4 – Springtown Fire Department's 1st Fall Breakfast (Held the first Sunday of each month from Oct through May, excluding April 4, Easter Sunday. Time: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.)  
October 12 – Columbus Day (Township Offices Closed)  
October 25 – Springtown Fire Department's Halloween Parade (Begins at 1 p.m.)  
October 28 – Springtown Farmers Market (Final Day for 2009 Season)  
October 31 – Springtown Trick or Treat night (6 – 8 p.m.)  
November 3 – General Election Day (Township Offices Closed)  
November 26 & 27 – Thanksgiving Holiday (Township Offices Closed)  
December 25 – Christmas (Township Offices Closed)

## 2010 Calendar

- January 1 – New Years Day (Township Offices Closed)  
February 15 – Presidents Day (Township Offices Closed)  
April 2 – Good Friday (Township Offices Closed)  
April 3 - Cooks Creek Roadside Clean-up Meet at 9 a.m. at Springtown Fire Department  
May 31 – Memorial Day (Township Offices Closed)  
July 5 – Independence Day observed (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)

donated wood. In early May, Karen Bedics, the teens and their mentor, hiked the fields, and numbered and installed all the boxes. The teens, Karen Bedics and other residents who frequent the property will monitor and log the bluebird houses.

If you have any unused wood scraps you would like to donate to the teens for future bluebird projects, please contact the township offices.



## Getting To Know The Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Council

The Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Council (or EAC) is a group of volunteer residents who meet the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. to discuss ecological and conservation issues that affect or benefit our township. The current members of the EAC are Cindy McCurdy, Kristy Aller, Bill Boyle, Dennis Steskal, Jim Gill, along with Vice-chairman Hans Reiman and Chairman Scott Douglas. Supervisor Karen Bedics attends meetings as a liaison for the Board of Supervisors.

The group has been discussing many topics, including the condition of Cooks Creek and its riparian buffers; native plant identification and plantings; septic system upkeep; insect, animal, reptile and bird sightings and recycling projects. The group is also working with area youth on community service projects, including invasive plant removal, highway clean-ups and installation of a bluebird trail on the township open space (Kurtesan) property at the corner of Peppermint and Deer Trail Roads.

Scott and Bill are busy with upkeep on the stream gauging stations in Springfield and Durham. Scott and his son have been taking measurements of dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, conductivity and nitrates at stations throughout the Cooks Creek watershed. Scott is also working with a Palisades High School student on an evaluation of the benthic community, that is, small creatures that live in the stream like larvae of mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies. In doing this, they can determine the health of various sections of the Creek. Cindy is organizing the township's second annual tire recycling project scheduled for this September - look for a "tire coupon" in this newsletter!

The EAC is researching expanding the township's recycling program. The current recycling program includes paper that folks can drop off in the Abitibi Paper Retriever bin at the Township building and compact fluorescent bulbs, which can be placed in a container in the Township office for recycling. The EAC would like to expand the recycling efforts to include collecting cardboard and small batteries.

Kristy has completed an informational flyer with tips on septic system care, troubleshooting and maintenance. This brochure is included as part of this newsletter mailing. One of the group's goals for 2009 is to research green building technology and share ideas with the Board of Supervisors, with the ultimate goal of the township offices and residents implementing these upgrades to minimize energy use.

Visitors to the township building can see Hans' native plants adorning the sides of the walkway. He will be posting placards to identify the plants in case visitors want to include some of these beneficial native plants in their gardens. Hans and his helpers have also completed a native plant Veteran's Memorial Garden around the township building flagpole, which the township plans to dedicate on Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 2 p.m. Next year, Hans is planning a small garden underneath the township sign and a rain garden near the municipal building to help soak up rainwater and minimize mowing the township lawn.

The EAC welcomes your ideas, questions or thoughts on current issues. Any residents who have an interest in ecological, environmental or conservation efforts in our township are encouraged to come and spend an informative evening with the Springfield Township EAC!

**Veterans and Residents  
Are  
Invited To Attend Our  
Veteran's Garden Dedication  
Sunday Sept. 13, 2009  
2 P.M.  
At the Township Building**

### Lenape Life The White-tailed Deer - Hunter's Prize

By Karen Bedics

*Second in a series of articles about the everyday life of the first residents of Springfield Township - the Lenape (Delaware) Indians*

Residents may frequently observe the white-tailed deer or *Dama virginiana* in our area. In summer, deer fur is short and has a reddish tint; in winter, it grows longer, turning more of a grayish color. Fawns have short reddish fur with white spots that are visible until they are 4 or 5 months old. Whitetails eat grass, weeds, leaves and pondweeds (along with your favorite garden plants!) during the summer months. In winter, deer will forage for the twigs of blueberry bushes or birch, maple and cedar trees. Often, looking at a tree grove from a distance, you can observe a "browse line," where deer have eaten off all the lower branches on trees. The trees appear to be neatly and evenly trimmed along the bottom.

Deer lose their antlers in late winter and new ones replace them. In adulthood, antler bones harden when the outside layer, called velvet, dies. The velvet contains blood vessels that feed the growing antlers, and eventually the velvet rubs away. Mice, rats and other deer eat old, shed antlers. The calcium in the

antlers helps these mammals grow strong bones and teeth.

When a native hunter killed a deer, he or she would thank the Creator and the deer's spirit for giving its life to become food for the people. Often the hunter would leave tobacco or some other gift in the woods as a token of thanks for being blessed with meat for their village. When Lenape hunters returned with a deer, they would always share the meat with any widows, elders or families that had little food.

Venison was the most important meat staple eaten by the Lenape. They would broil fresh venison over the fire or boil it with their harvested vegetables, making a hearty stew. In winter, the cold kept the meat from spoiling quickly. Often, the whole deer would be hung outside native lodges. In summer, meat was dried by hanging strips on green sticks over a smoky fire. The smoke helped to cure the meat and kept flies away, while the heat dried the meat. After drying, the hard venison was stored in sacks. Before it was eaten, it would be pounded - sometimes with berries - to make pemmican. The dried meat was good to take when traveling and a sack of dried venison was considered a wonderful gift.

Deer fat (little that there was) was used in cooking. Bones were cracked open and the marrow eaten or used to flavor soups and stews. It was a healthy food. Deer bladders were used to carry water to the camp. Rib bones were sometimes made into toys or ice skates. Antlers were honed to make sewing needles or awls. The stronger leg bones and shoulder blades were made into hoes, rakes and other farming tools. Shoulder blades would be sharpened and used for scraping the deer hides when the women processed them. The hides would be simmered in water with the brains added to make the hide supple. Tending the simmering pot of brains and "hide tanning stew" was a most unpleasant and smelly task, often reserved for youngsters or teens who misbehaved.

Many Springfield residents continue the Lenape custom of harvesting deer. It is good to know that we have access to a healthy, low fat and tasty meat. Our rural area, native forests and open space serve as a safe habitat for these animals. However, we really need to be cautious and watch for them while traveling on our roadways.



## New Law Creates Statewide Contractor Database to Help Prevent Home Improvement Fraud

By Sandy Everitt

(Information provided by PA Association of Township Supervisors-PSATS)

**The Consumer Protection Act 132** took effect July 1. It requires home improvement contractors to register with the state in an effort to cut down on fraud against unwary homeowners. Although municipalities are not required under the new law to obtain contractor registration numbers, effective July 1, Springfield Township began requiring contractors to provide their registration numbers before issuing a building permit.

"Home improvement fraud is now a criminal offense in Pennsylvania," says Nils Frederiksen, deputy press secretary for the Office of the Attorney General. "Fraudulent contractors will no longer face just fines, civil penalties or judgments in small claims court. Violators of the **Consumer Protection Act 132** face misdemeanor or felony charges, depending on the amount of money involved."

The success of the new regulation will depend, in large part, on consumers being aware of the law and doing their homework when hiring a contractor. **The Pennsylvania Builders Association** shared these tips on how to hire a reputable contractor.

### CHOOSING WISELY – How to hire a reputable contractor

Consumers who hire a home improvement contractor can follow some basic steps to make sure the person or company is legitimate and able to do the requested work. To choose a reputable contractor, you should:

- Call your local builders association for a list of its members.

**Home Builders Association of  
Bucks/Montgomery: 610-432-4101  
Lehigh Valley Builders Association:  
610-432-4101**

- Ask if the contractor is a member of a builders association.

- Verify that the contractor is registered with the state Bureau of Consumer Protection by calling toll free to **(888)520-6680** or log onto **www.attorneygeneral.gov**, click on the link for the **Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act**.

- Take your time when choosing a contractor. Most problems occur when consumers fail to investigate contractors carefully before hiring them.

- Ask for an insurance certificate to verify current workers' compensation and general liability insurance.

- Ask for references. Talk with others who have had work done by the contractor about the company's capabilities and quality of workmanship.

- Make sure the contractor has a permanent business location and a good reputation with local banks and suppliers

- Include any warranties, guarantees, or other promises in the written contract. Always insist on a written contract and written change orders. (*These are required by the state's Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act.*)

- Be specific about starting and completion dates. Some delays are unavoidable and beyond the contractor's control.

- Beware of an unusually low bid or low advertised price. If a contractor cannot pay for labor, materials and overhead, you are both in trouble.

- Select a contractor you are comfortable with - one who understands your tastes and needs and with whom you can communicate easily.

### Warning signs of possible trouble when selecting a contractor

- The contractor does not display a state-issued registration number on all documents or advertisements.

- You cannot verify the name, address, and telephone number or credentials of the contractor.

- A salesperson tries to pressure you into signing a contract by using scare tactics, threats or intimidation.

- Although reputable contractors sometimes offer special discounts for advertising purposes, be wary of those who offer unusually low prices in exchange for advertising.

Protect yourself by asking for a list of previous clients who received the special rate in exchange for advertising considerations. Call the references and ask them if they received the promised quality workmanship and special rate.

- The contractor does not comply with your request for references or the previous clients have some reservations about the contractor.

- You are unable to verify that the contractor is insured.

The PBA offers an expanded version of this brochure on their website:

**www.pabuilders.org, select Consumers,  
select Hiring a Reputable Contractor.**

### Planning Commission Report

The Springfield Township Planning Commission (STPC), in addition to its on-going responsibility to advise the Board of Supervisors regarding applications for development and subdivision within the Township, has spent much of this past year reviewing and updating ordinances. While our efforts are always undertaken to guide development, safeguard public health and safety and protect natural resources, preservation of the Township's groundwater and surface water assets came in for special consideration over the past twelve months.

A revised Stormwater Ordinance has been recommended to the Supervisors that emphasizes retention and infiltration of storm runoff on the originating land parcel. This focus is a significant departure from the previous ordinance that sought simply to "detain or delay" runoff and control the rate at which storm waters were fed into our streams. That previous policy has been found to result in accelerated erosion of stream banks due to longer periods of high water flow and, importantly, to reduction of the volume of surface water that is passed into the groundwater reservoir. It is, of course, from this reservoir that all residents in the Township derive their drinking water, through either private or public wells and springs.

The STPC is also nearing completion of a revision to the Zoning Ordinance that will enhance protection of streams, floodplains and wetlands. This effort is focused at sustaining water quality and natural stream flow patterns, while protecting residents from the effects of inappropriate development or land use in these sensitive areas.

An important element of stream water and groundwater protection is adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment, which also relates to public health and safety, as pathogens can be released to contaminate wells or streams when wastewater systems malfunction. Most Township residents rely upon on-lot treatment facilities (usually septic systems) to treat their wastewater. These systems require periodic maintenance or pumping to function properly. The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, which is administered by PA DEP, requires that townships implement a wastewater management plan to ensure adequate wastewater treatment. Although the details of the management protocol for Springfield Township will follow from the revised Sewage Facilities Plan now under consideration, that plan suggests both periodic pumping and inspection of all septic systems in the Township. The Sewage Facilities Plan is currently in the review stage and there will be both a 30-day public comment period and a public meeting before adoption of the final plan by the Supervisors and submission of the plan to PA DEP.

Bobb Carson, Chairman  
(*Planning Commission members are Bobb Carson, Bruce Fritchman, Scott Douglas, John Chilton, Peter Lamana, Curtis Reiss, and Robert Ritter*)



# Springfield Township Gives Back at Community Day – September 26, 2009

By Rose Strong, Chairperson, Community Day Committee

With autumn almost upon us, our **3rd Annual Springfield Township Community Day** will be taking place on **September 26 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Silver Creek Athletic Association.**

Parking is free, but we ask that you bring an unexpired, non-perishable food, personal care or baby item for the Community Day Committee to send to the Quakertown Food Pantry. In dire economic times such as these, every little bit helps. Stop at the designated area before you park and drop off your items.

Again this year, we'll be raising Old Glory on Springtown Fire Company's Quint 40 ladder truck. Joining us for the opening of the event will be the **VFW and Viet Nam Vets** to salute our past and current soldiers with patriotic music provided by the **Palisades Marching Band.**

Along with the township committees, there will be community groups such as the **Springfield Township Historical Society, Cooks Creek Watershed Association, Springfield Elementary School, Last Chance Ranch, Center for Animal Health and Welfare, Upper Bucks Regional EMS** and many others participating in the day-long event.

This year we will once again have **Balloon Master Extraordinaire and Comedian, John Cassidy** for two shows. John puts on a fun show for both kids and adults and it is worth taking a seat in the shade for his performance!

Doing demonstrations throughout the day will be the agility group, **Kruisin Kanines and the Bucks County Search and Rescue group.**

Another fascinating show is **Rick Mikula The Butterfly Guy.** Even if you've seen butterflies before, you've never seen them up close and personal like this! Rick's presentation will wow both kids and parents, and he makes learning fun.

For the third year in a row, the **PennStar Helicopter** will land in the upper baseball field. Once landed, you may meet the Captain, Crew and venture inside the vehicle to learn what great life saving this group does every day.

Thanks to the Springtown Fire Company, we'll once again have great food to enjoy throughout the day. We've planned a **Chili Tasting Contest** that is open to anyone who wishes to bring a pre-made pot of chili (must be in an electric slow cooker to keep it hot.) After judging, we will sell bowls for \$1, with proceeds going to the Springtown Fire Company. For details on entering the contest, please go to [www.springfieldbucks.org](http://www.springfieldbucks.org), select Downloads, and click on Community Day.

Our very own township supervisor, Karen Bedics, will be giving a lesson in **Hand Drumming!** With great African drums, a circle of people using their hands to make music and create rhythm will be a great experience for all ages.

Of course, we'll have the **Trackless Train** to carry you around the grounds. For the little kids, the Fire Truck Maze will return this year. Willard and Dolores Weierbach will be back with their pedal tractors this for a fun time with tractor racing. We also may have the antique engines and tractors joining us again!

Back by popular demand is the **Dunk Tank.** Once again, Police Chief Laudenslager will take a seat to be dunked! With three throws for a dollar, you can't beat that bargain! We will again use the dollars raised for Springtown Lions Club Holiday Grocery Gift Card Giveaway.

For the first time ever, we will have a raffle with proceeds going to the Springtown Lions Club Holiday Grocery Gift Card. The Lions Club gives these cards to families in need in the Palisades School District over the holidays. Every dollar raised will help those less fortunate have a wonderful holiday meal.

We have already received prizes from local businesses and will continue accepting them until the opening of Community Day. If you have a gift certificate for a product or service, tickets to a game, gift basket or other brand new item you would like to donate, please bring it along with you.

Springfield Township invites everyone to enjoy the day with family, neighbors and new friends. **Hope to see you there!**



## SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP HAPPENINGS

### VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZED AGAINST DISASTER (VOAD)

In early 2009, about 20 residents of Springfield Township attended preliminary disaster preparedness training sponsored by the Southeastern PA Red Cross. Since this core group attended this training, it gives the township extra resources and help should any large-scale disaster (fire, flood, weather emergency, pandemic, or biohazard) occur in or nearby our area. These volunteers have the opportunity to respond to area emergencies when contacted by the Red Cross and to receive free, ongoing, additional training in First Aid/CPR/AED, psychological first aid, caring for animals in emergencies, and many other free training opportunities available through the Red Cross. The township's Emergency Management Coordinator, Township Manager and board members are presently working on updating the township Disaster Preparedness Plan.

If you are interested in attending VOAD training to better prepare you and your family for disaster, please contact supervisor Karen Bedics or the township office.

### 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.



## SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP PLACES & THINGS

SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN FIND (18 IN ALL)

H G I B D D K R U E R T K E J C P Q V I B  
 J A E M D V M P Y L K Y P E E J L T D P S  
 R L R T C P O B V L H X H J S X E F X C E  
 E L O U S L D V O I X M A F U L A E K P S  
 G O T O Y L N C O V E P N A O V S Q Y K U  
 D W S K S A R O S S W F I K H O A Q L X O  
 I S T O P S K O R R B U A Y L S N W L I H  
 R H N O R S E K O E B U T Y O X T W I W E  
 B I I L I I E S D V J Q N J O P V A H J R  
 S L O E N E R C A U J P U K H Q A T N H I  
 T L P H G D C R N R Z S O Q C D L E O U F  
 H Y Y T T W R E D G Q H M O S T L R I C R  
 C J E X O N E E G T J Z T E R Z E W Z C L  
 E U N P W J V K U P M C S M E I Y H W B Q  
 N Z O C N S L L N G C E O E S V T E Z I O  
 K S T U A O I I C F F F H T S M L E O S M  
 Z I S F D X S Y L F N A G H A G M L A R H  
 K Z E K V Q G G U J Z F Y L P T X S U E O  
 Y X Z B B F P Y B V U G W V S V Y B Q N G  
 P I D Q W Z J L E W B E C I F F O T S O P  
 V I U B F K G M T M U P M A W K C U B S X

- WORD BANK
- BUCKWAMPUM
- COOKS CREEK
- FIREHOUSE
- GALLOWS HILL
- GHOST MOUNTAIN
- GRUVERSVILLE
- KNECHTS BRIDGE
- LASSIE
- PASSER SCHOOLHOUSE
- POST OFFICE
- ROD AND GUN CLUB
- SILVER CREEK
- SPRINGTOWN
- STONE POINT STORE
- THE LOOKOUT
- WATER WHEEL
- ZION HILL
- PLEASANT VALLEY