

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BUCKS COUNTY

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BUCKS COUNTY

Springfield Township

SPRING 2007

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IN MEMORIAM
CHARLES LEWIS

Springfield Township
Newsletter
Winter 2007 Issue

Rose Strong
Editor

Laila Mednis
Layout & Design

Richard Schilling
Township Manager

Sandy Everitt
Administrative
Assistant

A Word of Thanks from the Editor

This newsletter is a huge undertaking by a few people in the township who should be thanked for their hard work, dedication and most of all; support to this editor who tries her best to be organized, but I'll admit I have my off days.

Laila Mednis, a township resident has been a wonderful addition to our newsletter this season. Taking over for a former township employee, Laila has done the layout and design and has been just the grounding this team needed in the art and composition of putting this project together.

Rich Schilling and Sandy Everitt, who work full-time at the township in the capacity of Manager and Treasurer/Secretary, respectively have given of their spare moments to assist our group in the ever-increasing details that make up the township. From meeting schedules, to recycling details, proofreading and printing issues, they have been a tremendous benefit.

Karen Bedics, supervisor has given the group constant guidance by proofreading and fact-checking and without her help, we would have some big blunders!

Quite a few township residents, fire company volunteers and others have given of their time in writing articles, answering questions for stories, folding and sealing the newsletters for mailing and assisting in other ways, too numerous to mention. I have to give them my heartfelt thanks for all they have given of their time and knowledge to this on-going project.

We will be doing this again and look forward to anyone who would like to volunteer for this project to contact the township please contact Richard Schilling, Township Manager, at rschilling@springfieldbucks.org, or myself, at rozenjoze@enter.net.

May 15 Election Information

Springfield Township is divided into three sections: East, Middle and West. There are three polling places in the township; one in each section.

Springfield East is located at the Springtown Fire Company, Main Street, Springtown.

Springfield Middle is held at the Springfield Township building, located at 2320 Township Road, Pleasant Valley.

Springfield West is located at the Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Old Bethlehem Pike, Zion Hill.

For details on voting in Pennsylvania see the website:
<http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/lib/voting/guide/engguide.pdf>

Greetings from the Springfield Township Board of Supervisors

By Jim Brownlow, Chairperson

We have received very positive feedback on the inaugural issue of our Township newsletter, and as a result plan to continue to bring pertinent information to you in this format.

Since our last edition, we are happy to report:

The formation of the Springfield Township Water Authority. This was the direct result of the recommendations received from the ad-hoc Water Committee for the Springtown Water System. STWA has been operating for several months now, under a board; independent of the Township. We thank Ken Simmons and his team of concerned, involved residents for making this a reality.

The UBREMS (Upper Bucks Regional Emergency Medical Service) was in immediate danger of discontinuing its emergency services at the end of last year due to a large shortfall in funding. Springfield Township provided immediate funding in 2006 to retain this service for the township and provided for increased funding in 2007. On a personal note, if you live in their service area please subscribe to their service to assist in retaining this most valuable service.

The referendum to borrow money for the purchase of open space passed by a large margin in November. Thank you to all concerned residents for coming to the polls and having your voices heard in this important matter.

In conjunction to the passed referendum, an Open Space Committee has been formed and is currently developing a method to evaluate the purchase of development rights. This guidance will assist in determining where the Township will spend its allocated dollars to preserve open space.

The revised zoning code will be presented at several public meetings in the near future. Please check the Township

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Township Resident Profile

Retired but Not Resting – Ken Simmons

“When you rest, you rust,” said Ken Simmons.

The 81 year-old resident of Springfield Township certainly isn't rusting or resting on his laurels. He's active and responsible for helping to motivate the community to fight to retain a valuable township asset; water.

On February 22, Ken was honored with an Every Day Hero Award, from Senator Rob Wonderling's office for his untiring efforts within the community.

“Ken Simmons is the jewel of Springfield Township,” said Senator Wonderling as he presented the award.

Ken and his wife Sue, of 61 years have lived in Springfield Township since 1980. They bought a home on a hill with magnificent views of the western portion of Upper Bucks County surrounded by seven acres.



Photo: Karen Bedics

Senator Wonderling congratulates Ken Simmons

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Bringing DSL Internet Service to Springfield Township

By Mr. Lynn Wright

If you have been frustrated with the inability to access much of the content on the internet in a timely fashion, you're not alone. Until recently, most of us in Springfield Township have had limited options, either dial up service, or a one way cable service.

Due to government regulations, Verizon has offered a plan to bring DSL to areas that have not had their service upgraded yet. In a nutshell, Verizon breaks up geographic areas into zones where they can most efficiently roll out service to a given area. In order to find out what zone you live in, you must have a person called an aggregator for your area. Once an aggregator is accepted, he/she gets a map from Verizon of the zone you live in. A zone must get either 50 people, or 25% of the people in that zone to agree to purchase DSL service for a period of one year. Only Verizon phone customers are eligible for the service; however you do not have to purchase the internet service from them. You may purchase it from any internet service provider you choose.

Once the needed signups are received, Verizon then has one year to roll out the service to that area unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Our neighbors in Haycock Township did much of this work in 2006. They were divided into 6 zones and 5 of them came on board with the program by getting the necessary sign ups.

Although there is no guarantee that a quick response to this issue from township residents will bring DSL hook-up this year as Verizon does some of the work for Haycock Township residents, it would make sense logistically.

I am currently aware of 3 people who already have aggregator status in our township. If you want more information about this program, you can visit Verizon's site at the following address: <https://www22.Verizon.com/ForYourHome/BFRR>.

Fill out an application agreeing to the one year term and if there is not an aggregator currently for your area, apply to become one. They will keep track of how many residents sign up in a given area, but it's a good idea to let your aggregator know as it makes their job easier.

If you would like more information you may feel free to contact me at 610-346-8391. Let's talk this up with our neighbors and see if together we can get Springfield Township into the 21st century.

Thinking of a Summer Time Building Project? Read This First

By Jeff Mease ~ Code Enforcement Officer

It may be cold outside right now, but I'm sure you're already thinking about those summer time building projects.

When in doubt, call my office at 610-346-6700, Extension 11, to see if a permit is required. Permits are required for decks, covered porches, and swimming pools. Non-structural patios with paving blocks for example, do not require permits.

When applying for a permit you must submit a site plan of the property indicating location of existing features; for example, existing buildings, septic system, well, proposed improvements and their distance from the property lines. Two sets of proposed improvement plans must also be submitted. Large projects (such as additions and pole buildings) that cover over 1000 square feet of ground require an additional engineering step with storm water runoff controls. An engineer will be required to prepare the storm water management plan.

Please keep several safety issues in mind:

- Decks utilizing pressure treated lumber require fasteners, hangers and flashing that are compatible with chemicals used in treating the lumber.
- Swimming pools that hold more than 24 inches of water require some form of barrier, a fence in most cases. This applies to soft-sided and inflatable pools as well.

As mentioned earlier, if you have any questions, please check here before proceeding. It's easier to ask first than tear down later.

Photo: Joanne Graziano



Enjoying a walk through Knecht's Bridge are residents Jackie and Pat Hagerty and their dog Jessy on lead.

Be Responsible for your Best Friend

Did a puppy enter your family over the holidays? Perhaps you found that perfect pooch at a local shelter or through a newspaper ad. Besides housebreaking and obedience training to make your puppy or new dog a pleasant member of your family, there are a few things that you should do to keep your dog legal.

Yes, you read that right. Your dog has to be legal in the state of PA, by being licensed and leashed.

According to the Pennsylvania Dog Laws Brochure published by the PA Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement comes a list of items the average dog owner may not be aware of, but will keep you and your pup law-abiding citizens.

Below you will find some of the finer point of the PA Dog Laws. For further information see the township's website.

All dogs over three months of age must be licensed. This is a very simple and inexpensive process and can be done at several locations including the Bucks County Courthouse, 55 Court St., Doylestown, PA 18901 (Toll free 215-982-5144.) For hours outside the typical business hours Amanda's Auto Tag & Notary, 1307 West Broad St., Quakertown, PA 18951 (215-538-2400) makes getting that license convenient. An application can be downloaded from the township website.

Dogs may not be permitted to run at large. Your dog must be leashed off your property and as an owner you are responsible for any damages caused by your dog.

It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog. Fines for abandonment can range from \$300 to \$1000 plus court costs.

No dog under seven weeks old may be bartered, sold, traded or transferred.

For further information regarding PA Dog Laws, please see the township website or the PA Department of Agriculture's website at www.agriculture.state.pa.us/.



Photo: Rose Strong

PA Dog Law requires all dogs off their own property to be on a leash.

In Memoriam

Charles Lewis, 86, of Springfield Township and a former president, engineer and life member of the Springtown Fire Company passed away on March 1, 2007. He was the husband of Ruth A. (Ziener) Lewis for 60 years.

Born on August 20, 1920, Charles worked at Mrs. Pauls Kitchen in Telford as a welder and fabricator for 10 years prior to his retirement. Before that Charles worked at Bethlehem Steel Corp., Stemler Fabricating, Durham and Higgins Fabricating, Coopersburg.

While in the United States Army, Charles served his country honorably during World War II.

For more than half a century, Charles served the community by volunteering with the Springtown Fire Company and used his knowledge of welding and fabrication to bring upgrades to the department's apparatus and kept it all in working order.

According to recently retired Fire Chief Bob Cressman; Charles was with the department when it purchased the first tanker truck.

That first tanker was actually a used milk truck and Charles' expertise in his welding and fabricating was put to the test to transform the old milk truck into a piece of equipment that the company could use to save life and property from the devastation from fire.

Charles also kept all the trucks maintained during his years with the company, making sure they were inspected and repairs were done to keep them in working order.

Regardless of how a firefighter dies; either in serving at a fire or from other causes, Springtown Fire Company hangs a black drape across the sign above the doors of the building and leaves it up for 30 days in honor of a fallen member.

Besides being survived by his wife, Charles is survived by a son, two sisters, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren and was predeceased by two sisters.

Contributions in his honor may be made to the Springtown Fire Company, Springtown, Pa. and/or The Good Shepard Home 601 St. John Street, Allentown, PA 18103.

A Word About Open Space

By Peter Sleeman

Springfield Township offers the best of everything and is simply is a great place to live. While we live among pastoral countryside we are convenient to areas of commerce and interstate access. It's these very attributes that make our township so vulnerable to development and change.

In 1997 Springfield Township formed its first open space committee to write the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Plan. Since then the township has preserved over 1000 acres of open space.

This fall the supervisors authorized the formation of a new open space committee comprising of nine township volunteers, including three members of the original committee.

On November 7th 2006, the voters of Springfield Township ratified an open space referendum with a 74% approval. This was a clear mandate on behalf of the township to continue preserving open space.

The open space committee is charged with the mission statement; "To preserve open space in order to protect the rural character, natural resources and quality of life for present and future Springfield Township residents."

We promise to pursue this mission with objectivity and fiscal responsibility in strict

confidence. We don't want to happen here in Springfield Township what has happened through uncontrolled growth in much of our surrounding communities. Each member has signed a confidentiality agreement regarding the discussions with individual land owners.

We will make recommendations for preservation based on an objective evaluation process that awards points for attributes. Quantitative ratings will then be used to make an unbiased ranking of candidate properties. All of this analysis is intended to make for a fair and responsible process. Working with very limited funds we will strive to maximize the preservation of open space at the minimum cost to taxpayers.

This committee respects all land owner rights and privileges. We urge our neighbors and township residents to consider their heritage and the rich history of Springfield Township in the ongoing pursuit of open space. Tax year 2007 offers enhanced tax advantages for land owners who preserve land. We welcome anyone interested in preserving their land to contact us. We will answer your questions in complete confidentiality. Help us preserve the special character of our township.

When you're buying or selling distinctive real estate, look to the specialists in high value property.



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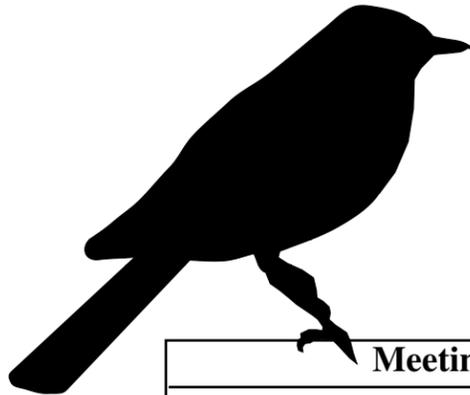
Toss the Paper Clutter

Do you become deluged with mail order catalogs? What about those auto insurance deals companies send to your mailbox every other day? Lots of magazine subscriptions come to your address? Reading the local newspapers every day only makes those junk mail and paper stacks bigger and bigger, not to mention all those pages printed out from the computer!

If you have heaps of paper you need to get rid of and don't want to clog up your trash cans, here's an idea: bring it to the township building for recycling!

A new container just for junk mail, phone books, newspaper, magazines, catalogs and office paper can be easily disposed of and you can rest assured it isn't ending up in some landfill taking up space. Instead, the township is helping to reduce, recycle and reuse.

Please do not include any cardboard, glass, metal, plastic or other refuse.



A Meth Lab in the Neighborhood?

By Tim Philpot, M.S., Associate Director and Melanie Swanson, M.Ed., Prevention Specialist; Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc

Methamphetamine, a powerfully addictive stimulant drug that was widely popular in the 60's and 70's, has been experiencing a rapid comeback in some parts of the U.S., including Pennsylvania.

Methamphetamine (meth) is often locally manufactured, relying on a combination of readily available household and pharmaceutical chemicals that are combined or "cooked" to make the drug. It is also manufactured in and imported from Mexico.

The manufacturing of the drug is a toxic process, leaving behind hazardous waste that pollutes the homes and environments where it is made. In fact, each pound of the meth that is produced generates between five and six pounds of toxic waste. The decontamination process is very costly.

Meth is easy to acquire, manufacture and it is more affordable than cocaine, yet much longer lasting. It produces an initial effect of increased stamina and a false sense of confidence and power in the user. However, it can produce such short-term effects as anxiety, insomnia and loss of appetite, leading to long-term effects of intense paranoia, violent and psychotic behavior, hallucinations, rotted teeth, brain and liver damage, fatal kidney and lung disorders, stroke and death.

It is possible to become addicted to meth after only one use. Since it damages dopamine receptors in the brain, treatment is more challenging, requiring a longer rehabilitation period than many other drugs.

Clandestine (clan) meth labs pose a particularly dire threat, as they can be very compact, yet extremely hazardous. These labs are often found in rural areas, making them particularly covert or hidden. However, a clan lab can fit into a backpack or a small container, and can be found anywhere from a car trunk to a hotel/motel room,

garage, barn, apartment, house or campground.

Possible signs of a clan lab include: strong chemical odor, blacked out or covered windows at a residence and hoses leading outside for ventilation, high traffic at unusual hours (particularly at night), extensive security measures for privacy, coolers, large amounts of trash which might include antifreeze containers, matchbooks with missing strikers, red stained coffee filters, lithium batteries, plastic tubing, lantern fuel cans, starting fluid cans, drain cleaner, duct tape, aluminum foil, nail polish remover or paint thinner, baggies, excessive quantities of glass jars and plastic containers, and empty cold medicine blister packs.

If you suspect that meth is being manufactured in your neighborhood, or see garbage containing some of the above-mentioned items, do not try to investigate. Do not touch or sniff anything in the area. Contact your local police or the DEA district office (Philadelphia #215-861-3474).

If there is a suspected clandestine lab the local authorities will contact appropriately trained emergency personnel such as the Pennsylvania State Police Clandestine Laboratory Response Team which is equipped with proper hazmat materials and gear.

Anyone unknowingly in contact with a meth lab without proper protective gear could suffer serious health consequences from the toxic chemicals. Meth labs are considered hazardous waste sites and have high explosive potential. Ingestion of fumes can cause injury or even death, and skin contact can cause burns or poisoning.

If you or someone you love is struggling with methamphetamine use, help is available. You may call Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence for assistance. We operate a 24-hour information line at 1-800-221-6333 and can provide information on professional treatment programs, detoxification, and community self-help groups.



Springtown Fire Company Update

By Jeffrey C. Mease - Deputy Chief, Springtown Fire Company

We have had another busy year and responded to over 120 emergencies called into 911 during 2006. Most of our calls were for fire / carbon monoxide alarms. The fire company also assisted with automobile accidents and rescues.

We've been able to assist because the company added several new pieces of emergency equipment, including two multi-gas meters for carbon monoxide emergencies. Another piece of apparatus is a new hydraulic rescue tool for automobile rescues.

The order has been placed for our new fire truck from American LaFrance in Ephrata, Pa. and we expect delivery in late fall of this year.

2007 brought us a new Chief. Will Helm took over after Robert Cressman retired after more than twenty years of positive leadership. Chief Helm has been a member of Springtown Fire Company for more than fifteen years and was a lieutenant for a decade prior to this new position.

As always we appreciate your past support and hope that you continue to support our Annual Fund Drive that takes place each March. Don't forget the breakfasts held the first Sunday of the month. A chicken barbeque is planned for August 11.

Safety and prevention is our most important goal, so keep those smoke detectors in working order and house numbers clearly posted.

In future articles, we will expand on a specific topic and review ways of making your home safer. If you have any specific questions you can contact the fire station at 610-346-8383 for information.

An ongoing sale of green reflective house numbers has been taking place throughout the township. According to Robert Cressman; former Chief, it is much easier to find your home in the dark when the numbers are large and clear and it cuts down on the time the fire company takes getting to your home to save lives and property.

The cost for a sign is \$10.00 due at the

time of pick-up and if pre-ordered using the form on the township website can be picked up at the Springtown Firehouse on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 P.M. A stake to put the sign in your yard with screw attachments is also available for an additional \$3. For those who cannot put the signs up please call Robert Cressman at 610-346-7507 and he will assist with the sign placement.

Greetings continued from page 1

website on a regular basis for the exact dates.

Act 537. What is it and how might it affect Township residents? It's all about waste water (yes, sewage) and how it is dealt with in the Township. For the most part, we have individual, unmonitored, on lot septic systems in the Township. This may have to change in the near future. A special ad-hoc committee on our Act 537 status gave us a report at our last meeting, which compels further investigation and future action. Please stay aware of this issue as it will affect all of us.

There are many more issues that could be discussed here, but not enough space to list them all. If there are issues you would like more information about, contact the Township Manager so that we might have the opportunity to address them.

Ken Simmons continued from page 1

The property seems to have been a wonderful place of refuge these past two and half decades offering Ken the chance to garden with some intensity. A 60-foot row of asparagus, blueberries and raspberries and a drip irrigation system with a storage drum and pump that uses rainwater to grow the vegetables in summer, Ken has appreciated what a valuable natural resource water is for some time.

Right out of high school, Ken entered the Navy and spent his time there flying planes.

"I was lucky to have just missed being sent to the South Pacific as WWII ended and took a leave when it was offered," he said.

From the Navy, he went to Marietta College in the fall of 1945 to study chemistry.

Ken and Sue were high school sweethearts. They married and have four children. Kathy lives in New York City, Linda of Bethlehem, Ken, Jr. who lives in Exton, PA and Scott of Illinois. The couple has five grandchildren.

"We often get together here," said Ken. "We're a family who really like each other."

Working as a chemist for 30 years for Martin Marietta's Portland Cement division, Ken moved onto Pittsburg and went to U.S. Steel managing its 12 plants throughout the United States under Universal Atlas Cement division. That portion of the company was sold to Lehigh Portland Cement in Allen Township in Lehigh Valley.

In 1984 Ken retired. Instead of sitting on his porch overlooking the valley below, he went to work for four years in Florida for General Portland owned by LaFarge of France. For the next 14 years, Ken did consulting work that took him to Costa Rica.

"Costa Rica is a wonderful country with hard-working and very nice people. It is a gem set between two very contentious countries, Panama on one side and Nicaragua on the other," he said.

Wanting to help preserve open space in the community, Ken became involved in a local group that tried to work as a land conservancy, but moved onto working with the issues concerning the possible sale of the Springtown Water System to the Bucks County Water and Sewer.

"I just knew they were going to close our wells and drill to move our water elsewhere and I couldn't let that happen if the residents didn't want it to happen," said Ken.

Ken has been successful in his quest to bring a community together and work towards a common goal. With the Springtown Water Authority up and running, so is Ken.

"My wife thinks I'm crazy and often asks me when I'm heading out the door where I'm going and when I'll be home," Ken said with a laugh. "She's been wonderful through this and knows how important it is. She's my secretary and helps me a great deal."



Pleasant Valley Three-Arch Stone Bridge Update

The Three-Arch Bridge located on Bethlehem Road in Pleasant Valley, damaged in September, 2004 during Hurricane Ivan is in danger of being demolished and a new, modern bridge put in its place once PennDot allocates funding.

PennDot has conducted a survey of the structure and has concluded it is too costly to restore and with little public interest in the bridge's history there is no reason to make this effort.

Early settlers of Springfield Township traveled over the old Philadelphia and Bethlehem Great Road and entered Pleasant Valley by crossing this stone three arch bridge spanning Cooks Creek. The bridge is constructed of red sandstone and is approximately 150 feet long. Walled into the center of the bridge, on the upstream side, are two plaques: the original 1777 date stone and a 1902 date stone for the date the bridge was widened and repaired.

This bridge adds both historical and cultural integrity to the village of Pleasant Valley and the township as a whole. The Springfield Township Historic Commission is hoping to apply for Pleasant Valley's recognition in the National Register of Historic Places and this bridge would certainly give Pleasant Valley a portion of its validation for this consideration.

If you are interested in voicing your concerns about the bridge, please contact the Bucks County Commissioners and/or your legislators listed on the Township Directory on the website at www.springfieldbucks.org.



Photo: Joanne Graziano

Three Arch Bridge

Cooks Creek Watershed Association News

by W. Scott Douglas

Did you happen to notice the kids wandering in the stream at various locations in the Township last December? No, they weren't causing trouble; quite the opposite.

The students from the Palisades Stream Team followed Cooks Creek Watershed Association President, Scott Douglas and Vice President, Hans Reimann to 16 locations in the watershed taking water samples and searching for stream life in an effort to gauge the health of the watershed.

Led by student Patrick Brown, the PST will spend the winter picking through the 16 samples of stream bottom for insect larvae and other critters. Pat will then count and identify the myriad life forms to use this information, along with land use, to generate an index of benthic integrity.

Not all of our projects require hours at a microscope. For those of you who enjoyed the trash free roadways (for a little while anyway) last spring, the CCWA will be hosting its annual roadway cleanup again this year. Whether you have an hour or a day, come alone or with friends, we'd love to see you on April 14 at 9am at the Springtown Firehouse.

Also this spring is the annual Mini-Monster Mayhem. Not for the squeamish, this romp through the Creek includes Mount Erosion, the water quality Toilet, and a whole lot of squishy worms, creepy crawlies and pesky flies! Bring your imagination and your water shoes to the Douglas' home in Springtown on Saturday morning, June 16, 2007.

A Native Plant Garden for the Township

Springfield Township EAC member and Cooks Creek Watershed Association board member, Hans Reimann proposed and designed a native plant garden for the township building. Hans successfully planted a native flower garden at the Lower Saucon Township building about three years ago and hopes through his efforts to inspire others to plant more native specimens in their own gardens.

The garden was planted last fall by Hans with the help of Supervisor Karen Bedics and Township Manager, Rich Schilling and is located at the entrance of the meeting room/township office door and along the side of the building where the flagpole stands.

Here are some interesting facts about native plants:

What constitutes a native plant? According to the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources website (<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildplant/native-plant.aspx>) a native plant is one that was within the state before the settlement of the Europeans. There are over 2100 native species within the state of PA.

Why native plants in a flower garden? Because native species are adapted to our climate and don't need such intense care as a non-native species, for example they are more apt to survive a drought or harsh winter.

Non-native species introduced in the area can become invasive by growing aggressively, spreading and displacing native species. Often they are introduced by unknowing gardeners and spread by the wind, water, birds or other propagation methods.

Examples of these are many species of honeysuckle, European barberry, Russian olive, dame's rocket, jimson weed, kudzu and multiflora rose.

Several examples of native plants are the dogwood, black-eyed Susan, butterfly plant, Joe Pye weed, Virginia bluebells, bee balm, cinnamon fern and marsh marigold.

Keep an eye on the township building as the new plants become established this coming spring.



A Piece of History on Gallows Hill Road

By Rose Strong

Heading north along the S-curves on Gallows Hill Road if you take your time and look to your right, you can see the ground rising above the road. A stone wall and some grave markers along with several American flags poke out above the surface of the grass.

It's only one small acre in size, but this patch of land on Gallows Hill Road in Kintnersville holds a small piece of history few people know about. According to the 1942 book; Place Names in Bucks County by G. MacReynolds, the original tract was part of a 196-acre plot referred to as the Ware Tract for which a warrant was issued on April 11, 1738 by Thomas and William Penn.

The title was then given in trust to the Reverend Richard Treat and George Taylor, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The plot at some point was owned by the Red Hill Presbyterian Church. According to the records of Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, the church dissolved in 1855.

Robert and Edith Ziegenfuss purchased the 102-acre property that abuts the cemetery in 1926. The cemetery, overgrown with weeds and trees needed some care. A WWI veteran, Ziegenfuss with the help of his son Norman, took an interest in keeping it groomed.

"I used to hear a lot of jokes when I was a kid and would walk to school," said Norman in a brief interview. "Kids used to tease that the ghosts in that cemetery would get you when you walked past. You know what I'd tell them? It isn't the dead, but the living that are going to get you!"

Ziegenfuss sold the farm to his son Norman in 1944 who farmed the property up until he subdivided it, then sold the remaining 15 acres with farmhouse and buildings in 1973 to H. Walter Johnson, whose family still lives there today.

Reportedly, about 150 of the local indigenous population and some Native Americans are buried in the cemetery on Gallows Hill Road along with some Revolutionary War soldiers.

Legend has it that there is a woman buried up close to the farm's property line with a headstone that is indecipherable. When the stone gets wet from rain, the image of a woman appears.

A stone square divides the cemetery with members of the Long family buried inside the square. Thomas Long, Sr., an attorney who was also a Revolutionary War veteran and buried along side him are his sons Thomas, 8 and James, 13 who both died of the flu in 1781 and 1782 respectively.

There are several other Revolutionary War soldiers who were laid to rest at this site. According to research done by Charles

Herrmann of Kintnersville, there are two weathered stones showing only the initials of WI and SI. The WI stone shows only three numbers: 179, but with no final year. We do not know, yet, why the last number was overlooked. The other stone showing the letters SI shows 1794. We again, as yet, do not know who they are.

Information received from Betty Riter of the Springfield Historical Society and the Bucks County Bureau of Veteran Affairs show the four Revolutionary War veterans interred as follows: Patrick Hine, Thomas Long, Esq., Thomas Long - relation unknown - but their exact burial spot, except for Thomas Long who lies within the wall, are no longer known. A flagpole stands in the cemetery and each year the American Legion Post #399 recognizes the veterans buried in the cemetery each Memorial Day. They place American Flags with markers on the graves of the soldiers. Currently the Springfield Township Historical Commission has taken on the task of contributing funds for the two volunteers who provide maintenance to the cemetery property.

Springfield Township's EAC Tells Us About Environment Matters

By Scott Douglas, EAC Chairman

Springfield Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has had a successful year. The Supervisor's asked the EAC to accomplish three major tasks in 2006: A review of the township's sewage plan, the current storm water ordinance, and plant a native plant garden. All three tasks were accomplished.

Working under the leadership of Planning Commission Vice Chairperson Bob Carson, EAC members Pete Sleeman and Bill Boyle reviewed the sewage plan, otherwise known as the Act 537 plan. This plan details how septic and sewage will be handled throughout the township. The review was submitted late this year, and suggests that many changes are needed to bring the plan in concordance with our new Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

In addition, many advances in sewage treatment technology need to be incorporated into the plan. It is expected that a professional engineer will be needed in order to actually enact changes to the plan; the EAC is ready to participate in that effort if needed.

Storm water is perhaps one of the most visible environmental issues in the township, and the Board of Supervisors asked the EAC to coordinate a regional evaluation of the existing ordinance. This was timely given that the Department of Environmental Protection was expected to release a new storm water management manual.

Working with representatives from both Durham and Lower Saucon Townships,

the EAC reviewed the existing plan and made recommendations that ranged from a revised storm water ordinance to extensive baseline monitoring of the existing storm water management structures and their impact upon our exceptional value watershed, Cooks Creek. The work of the Storm water Committee will continue this year, with correspondence with local professionals asking for their thoughts, recommendations and quotes for their services. This will be submitted to the supervisors for their consideration.

Visitors to the Township Building will note the native plant garden along the sidewalk leading to the meeting room. This was the work of Hans Reimann, with lots of help from Manager Rich Schilling and Supervisor Karen Bedics.

It is hoped that this garden will inspire citizens to use some of our beautiful PA native plants in their home gardens. Additional plantings will be selected this year, possibly a new garden by the flagpole. If you are interested in helping out, or want to know where you can get some of the plants used in the township garden, contact Rich Schilling at the township office.

Finally, the EAC worked with the Historic Commission to propose a Pennsylvania Byways Route that would enable us to improve walking and biking access on some of our more scenic roadways. The proposed route includes Peppermint Road, Slifer Valley Road, Lehnenberg Road and Funks Mill, among others. The application has been submitted to PennDOT for their review. In addition to continuing to work with the Planning Commission on Acts 537 and 167 Plans and expanding the garden, the EAC will be working on a monitoring plan for Conservation Easements.

A New Year...A New Tile for the Historic Commission

In 2006 the Springfield Township Historic Commission had local tile artist, Erika Bonner design a tile for the township depicting the John Eakin Farm in Springtown.

This year Erika is working on a tile of the Pleasant Valley Three Arch Bridge. With some luck this historic bridge will be saved from destruction and may be restored as the historic structure that it has been known for since it was built in the late 1800's.

The tiles are available at \$35 each and there are still some of the 2006 John Eakin Farm available for purchase. Please contact Karen Freeh at 610-346-6948 for further information.

