

Whitemarsh Living

FALL 2008

Whitemarsh Giving

Volunteers make Whitemarsh
a great place to live,
work and play



Meet the New
Director of the
Community Arts Center

RecycleBank Paying Off

Cop Camp Popular Camp Celebrates 10th Birthday

Winners of the Best Garden Contest Check out these six beautiful gardens right here in Whitemarsh

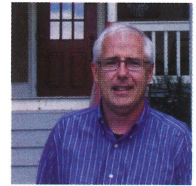
Focus on Whitemarsh Business Four generations keep local bus company moving

Taste of the Township Zakes Café offers local fare with a global flare

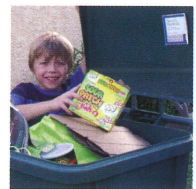
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Pictured from left to right: Marc Weinstein, youth athletic coach and Zoning Hearing Board chairman; Celine Childs, Shade Tree Commission and Lions Club; Shelly Klein, Barren Hill volunteer firefighter; Tom Riethof, Whitemarsh Ambulance; Christina Pensabena, Whitemarsh Ambulance; Stacey, Adam, Sydney and Max Kesselman, founders of Max's Mission; Jordan Waxman, Barren Hill volunteer firefighter.

Whitemarsh Living

FALL 2008



Dear Whitemarsh Residents:

Welcome to the second issue of Whitemarsh Living, a quarterly magazine highlighting the happenings of our community and showcasing the people and places that make our Township so great.

In this issue, we celebrate our volunteers – those people who give tirelessly of themselves so we can enjoy the benefits of having top-notch fire and emergency rescue services; parks that are second-to-none, and a library that offers educational opportunities for everyone.

Did you know that our public safety volunteers contribute more than three million dollars worth of manpower a year and those that serve on boards and committees contribute more than 5,000 hours of service per year?

Turn the pages of this issue and you will read how residents throughout Whitemarsh are embracing the new single-stream recycling program and redeeming their new RecycleBank points. Our recycling tonnage has increased significantly since the initiation of these two programs earlier this year.

You'll meet the new executive director of the Whitemarsh Community Arts Center and read about some exciting new programs coming up this fall.

You'll see the cadets from our 10th Annual Cop Camp celebrating a win this summer at Miles Park.

And you'll get a taste of Zakes Café, which many of us have enjoyed not just for lunch or dinner but also for special occasions like birthdays and weddings.

Just as important, you'll get an update about our exciting trails and pathways plan that is connecting Whitemarsh one footstep at a time.

Thank you for taking the time to check out Whitemarsh Living. It is our goal to present a magazine that reflects our community and the local issues that impact our daily lives. I look forward to your feedback and suggestions because we are always looking for ways to grow and improve.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for the Whitemarsh Business Association's Annual Pumpkin Festival on Oct. 11.

I'll see you there!

Sincerely,

Leslie S. Richards

Leslie S. Richards, Chair
Board of Supervisors

CONTACT LIST

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Leslie S. Richards, Chair
LRichards@admarble.com

Sara J. Erlbaum, Vice-Chair
SaraErlbaum@yahoo.com

David E. Brooke
DBrooke@WhitemarshTwp.org

Robert R. Hart
Bh33law@aol.com

Kelly C. Wall
KWall@millersturetsky.com

Township Manager
Christopher van de Velde
CVanDeVelde@whitemarshTwp.org

(610) 825-3535 Main Switchboard

(610) 825-6530 Police (*call 911 for emergencies*)

(610) 825-7276 Parks & Recreation

(610) 825-3424 Public Works

(484) 533-2214 Community Services



Hart Appointed to Board of Supervisors

BY KELLY K. BROWN

Whitemarsh Township has a new member on the Board of Supervisors. Robert R. Hart, 42, is an attorney with Pepper Hamilton, L.L.P. and adjunct professor of business at Chestnut Hill College. He lives in Lafayette Hill with his wife, Kerry, and their two children, Erica, 18, and Bryan, 16.

"I am excited to lend my experience and passion for our community to the Board of Supervisors so that we can see important issues such as Village Commercial Districts and storm water management through to completion," Hart said. "Since being appointed in early August, I have been hard at work on the many issues facing the Township and am excited about the future of our community."

Hart was appointed to the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors to fill a three-and-a-half month vacancy due to the resignation of former supervisor Jean McLenigan. There will be a special election in November to determine who will complete the remainder of the four-year term.

Whitemarsh Living

EDITOR: KIM MAIALETTI

CONTRIBUTORS: DOUG HERRSCHAFT, KELLY K. BROWN, DEBORAH STANISH

COVER PHOTO BY: FRANNY ZEOCK

TO SUBMIT STORY IDEAS FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF WHITEMARSH LIVING, CALL
MICHAEL ZEOCK AT (484) 533-2214.

Recreating a Creative Center

BY DOUG HERRSCHAFT

What's art for?

The question brings a quizzical look then a smile from Chris Dwyer, the new executive director of the Whitemarsh Community Art Center. In a nearby room there are wood-topped, folding tables, stained with color from the previous artistic efforts of kids and adults alike. There's a large sunroom in the back, wheels for spinning clay, and two large kilns, tops open, their immense power in reserve, like the engines of a jetliner at ease on the tarmac. There's a palpable energy in the place; a simmering creative energy evoked by those remnants of paint on the table tops, the finished and not-so-finished pieces that wait on shelves for the artist to return, and the promise of creative acts to come.

"To go back and start seeing the world like a kid, with that brand new vision," says Dwyer. "That's what art is for."

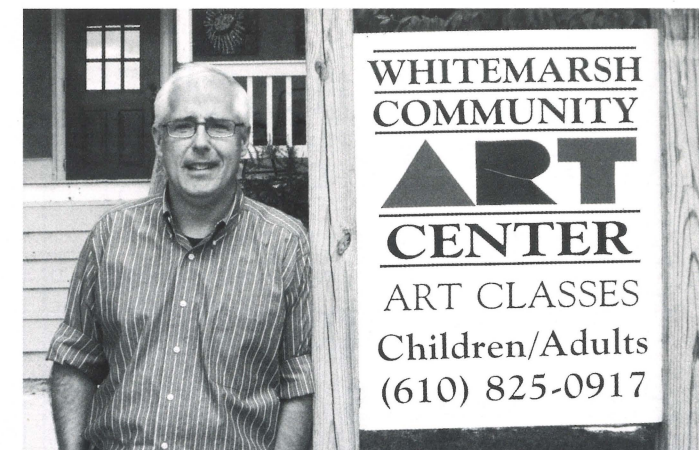
Dwyer became the executive director of Whitemarsh Community Art Center in June. It's his job to see the 44-year-old organization with new eyes and to build upon the success and potential of its first four decades. With a degree in fine art from Temple University and a professional history that includes co-founding a fine art gallery and artists' studio, operating his own graphic design firm, and directing a non-profit that supported teenage mothers and fathers, Dwyer seems well suited to the task. His is a personal history with an abiding current of creation, and he readily admits that the joy of the creative process motivates him most.

"I like building new systems," Dwyer said, "or improving the structure in existing ones."

Dwyer will have the opportunity to do both in his new role.

Founded in 1964, the Art Center was created to offer kids an alternative to after school activities that focused primarily on boys' athletics. During the first few years, the Art Center used various Township buildings to hold classes and conduct meetings. In 1970, the Art Center moved to its current home in the farmhouse and adjacent barn in Cedar Grove Park. Plans are in the works to renovate and expand the existing structure, and to modify the programs offered by the Art Center.

"We want to change the perception of the Art Center," said Dwyer. "We want people to see it as more than just a kids' place."



Chris Dwyer is the new executive director of the Whitemarsh Community Art Center.

Since its inception, the Center's programs have been geared mainly toward children. Dwyer wants to flip that balance in favor of offering more adult classes and activities. He also wants to make improvements to the barn so it can be used for exhibitions of the work of local artists. The idea is to get working artists more closely involved with the Center, from art exhibitions to teaching classes, ultimately blending the benefits of a true cultural center with the opportunities for learning and growth that such places provide.

"The benefit to Whitemarsh of having an art center is the cultural enrichment it provides to our community," said Art Center Board of Directors Chairwoman Susan Waserman. "The commitment of lifelong learning in the arts is what the Art Center is committed to. We feel confident that Chris's experience and great personal skills will help us attain our goals as an organization and to continue to provide services to the community."

Some more immediate changes are due in the coming months. A new program that incorporates recycled materials and found objects, called Going Green With Art, starts Sept. 23. Each week for 5 weeks students will create a new art piece, from printed wall hangings, hand-made paper lanterns, and jewelry to felt wool stitchery and bowls made of old 45 rpm records.

Also in September, the Center's name will be officially shortened to Whitemarsh Art Center. To go along with the new name, the Art Center announced a logo design contest. The winner of the logo contest will receive a \$250 prize, and a lifetime individual membership to the Art Center, among other goodies.

"We live on the support of people who have sustained us for years, and we want to draw on the talent of the community to help show what we're all about," Dwyer said. "There's a lot of energy and a real family feeling here."

It's time for something new at the Whitemarsh Art Center, which, of course, is just what it's for.

New Facilities at Miles Park Earn Positive Reviews from Summertime Park Goers

BY DEBORAH STANISH

Start with a new pavilion, add in a brand new concession stand, mix in movies, concerts and happy families and you have a recipe for a fantastic summer at Miles Park.

This summer Little League baseball tournaments and basketball leagues filled the fields and courts while families enjoyed the walking track and playground equipment. June saw the beginning of the 2008 Summer Entertainment Series featuring concerts and movies every Friday night. The mid-point of summer saw the Whitemarsh Lion's 4th of July Parade conclude in the park where refreshments and entertainment were the star attractions. And throughout it all, the voices of children participating in one of the many Township summer camps provided the park's summer soundtrack.

The biggest news this summer was the opening of the concession stand, which offers a variety of menu items. The opening brought to completion the latest phase of the \$1.2 million park improvement project that included additional parking and the new pavilion in the upper area of the park. The building also houses additional bathroom facilities bringing a total of 13 new restrooms to Miles Park.

A spot to buy hot dogs, ice cream and healthy snacks was a big hit with park users, but the true star of the park was the additional restroom facilities.

"The new bathrooms made a huge difference in the park," said Carolyn Powell, a Roxborough resident whose daughter plays in the Whitemarsh Girls Basketball Summer League. "We're at the park twice a week during the basketball season and at least once a week during the rest of the summer. Having the bathrooms means we can stay longer and not have to run off-site."

Sports leagues and tournaments ruled weeknights at the park, which offers five baseball fields, two softball fields, two basketball courts and a soccer field. Whitemarsh Little League tournaments and



the Whitemarsh Girls Summer Basketball League guaranteed thrilling sports along with a sense of community.

"Everybody comes to the park," said Powell as she watched one daughter play on the court and monitored another on the playground equipment. "There is a real sense of community no matter if you're at a game or walking the track. You always see people you know."

Her daughter, Marissa, 9, agreed.

"It's fun coming to the park and seeing all your friends," Marissa said. "We always have a good time."

The popular Miles Park Summer Camp and the Teen Extreme Camp continued this summer with more than 1,000 children participating throughout the eight-week program. Parks and Recreation Director Doug Knauss was committed to providing not only structured activities and outside experiences for the children, but also allowing them good old-fashioned play time at the popular camps.

"In today's over-scheduled society kids often miss out on the chance just to get out and play," said Knauss. "Our camps provided opportunities for swimming, day trips and structured activities, but it also gave them time just to hang out with each other and be kids."

This summer the Parks and Recreation Department combined outdoor concerts and movies, two of its nighttime summer activities, into the Friday night Summer Entertainment Series. The purchase of a new outdoor movie system this year not only gave the Parks and Recreation Department more flexibility in providing movies, but also guaranteed the best picture and sound quality for the events.

"It's great coming up here and listening to the concerts or spreading a blanket and watching a

movie with the kids," said Jamie Fiermonte. "We love outdoor activities and the events at the park are great."

A busy mother of two boys, Fiermonte was a frequent park visitor this summer. She not only enjoyed the amenities and activities but also said the park held a lot of sentimental value.

"I grew up at Miles Park and now I get to bring my children here," Fiermonte said. "We can't drive by without my 2-year-old asking to stop and play. I guess it's a family tradition."

The 4th of July saw another family tradition at Miles Park – the Whitemarsh Lion's Association's Annual 4th of July parade. This old-time event is a cherished Township event and anticipated by residents and visitors alike. Hundreds of parade participants and spectators filled the park after the parade. Clowns entertained the crowd as they enjoyed hot dogs, soda, ice pops and face painting.

Even though camps are over and the days are growing shorter, the fun isn't stopping at Miles Park. October is filled with activities including Touch a Truck, Oct. 4, where children of all ages will have the opportunity to get close to a variety of Township and rescue vehicles. The Whitemarsh Business Association's Annual Pumpkin Festival will be held on Oct. 11, and movies continue in the park with Monster House on Oct. 3 and Cars on Oct. 12.

Make sure you don't miss a minute of activity this fall in Miles Park. Pick up a copy of the latest Whitemarsh Recreator at the Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Building, 4021 Joshua Road or check out the website at www.whitemarshparks.org.

Opposite page: Families gather for fun and recreation at Miles Park. Below: The Whitemarsh Girls Summer Basketball League enjoys the courts at Miles Park.

PHOTOS BY: DEBORAH STANISH



VISIT A WHITEMARSH PARK TODAY

Whitemarsh Township has a diverse park system that offers something for everyone. Visit a park near you today.

MILES PARK

Joshua Road & Germantown Pike
Amenities: Playground, basketball courts, baseball, softball and soccer fields, walking path, pavilion and concession stand.

CEDAR GROVE PARK

Cedar Grove Road & Wells Street
Amenities: Baseball/softball field, playground, basketball court. Also home of the Whitemarsh Community Art Center.

LEELAND PARK

North Lane & Jones Street
Amenities: T-ball field, basketball courts, playground, picnic tables.

VALLEY GREEN PARK

Church Road & East Valley Green Road
Amenities: Softball field, two half-basketball courts, playground equipment.

KLINE PARK

Off of Ash Lane
Soon to be upgraded with a walking path.

McCARTHY PARK

A multi-purpose greenway opposite Victory Field.

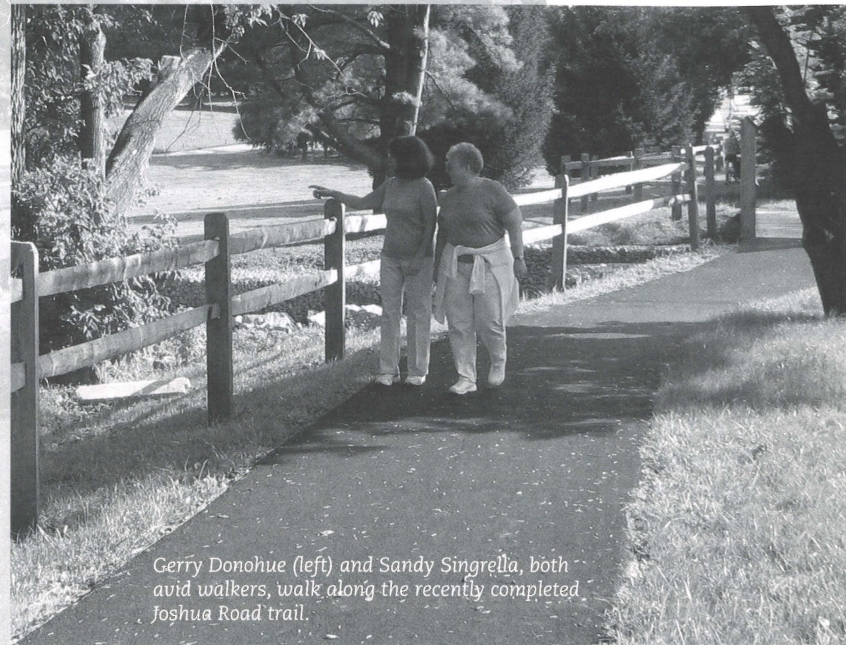
JOSHUA ROAD BIKE PATH

A paved bike and walking path between Germantown & Ridge Pike.

COMING SOON: A new **WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP PARK** at 2391 Harts Lane.

Whitemarsh Township Trails & Pathways Plan Moving Forward

BY DEBORAH STANISH



Gerry Donohue (left) and Sandy Singrella, both avid walkers, walk along the recently completed Joshua Road trail.

PHOTO BY: MICHAEL ZEOCK

Whitemarsh is connecting the Township one footstep at a time with the adoption and implementation of a master plan for trails and pathways across the municipality.

The plan comes not a moment too soon as gas prices hover near \$4 per gallon, making walking and biking a more attractive transportation option than ever.

To be sure, during the creation of the Park and Recreation Department's master plan, access to walking and biking paths was considered a high priority by 75 to 80 percent of the respondents.

Since the adoption of the master plan, Doug Knauss, director of Parks and Recreation, has been working closely with the community, planners and county agencies to implement a plan that will connect the scattered lines on the Township map into a cohesive trails system and bring a multitude of benefits to Township residents.

The Township worked with Campbell Thomas and Company, the firm that helped design the Schuylkill River Trail, to develop Whitemarsh's trails and pathways plan. As part of the process, they looked at any existing pathways that were publicly owned or that existed but were not developed. They also measured roadways to determine the feasibility of sidewalks or bike lanes. With that information they

worked out a comprehensive plan for creating a network of pathways and trails that will eventually connect the Township.

One goal of the plan is to form a pedestrian and bike path that would run from Joshua Road to Ash Lane, connecting to Kline Park. This would give residents access from the Schuylkill River Trail to Whitemarsh Elementary School. In the other direction, the Joshua Road Trail would connect to Stenton Avenue, which would give residents a connection to the Cross-County Trail being developed to Fort Washington State Park. That trail would then connect to the Green Ribbon Trail, a nearly 20-mile-long trail that starts in Philadelphia and ends in Upper Gwynedd Township.

"The best result of the trail system is that it gives us a connection to our schools, businesses and recreational facilities," said Knauss. "Now you can walk down the street to get to the library without hopping into a car. As a municipality we are becoming more and more aware of green options and this trail system is definitely tapping into a green alternative."

The sense of community created by walking in the Township is one that Geraldine "Gerry" Donohue knows well. Donohue, 66, began walking as a young mother and now walks at least two days a week with a group of friends.

"It gives you a completely different perspective about where you live and the people in your community," said Donohue. "You're forced to go slower, to notice the little things. It makes the Township more cohesive and more like a neighborhood. When walking you feel comfortable saying hello to someone even if you've never met them before."

Whitemarsh Township Manager Christopher van de Velde has helped nurture the plans for the Township's trails and pathways from the beginning. While creating a sense of community was certainly a motivator, the plan creates additional benefits for residents.

"Obviously getting out and walking and meeting your neighbors helps strengthen a community, but it also provides an inexpensive alternative to getting around in the Township," van de Velde said. "By providing alternatives you're contributing to the health and well being of residents and reinforcing the sense that this is a nice place to live and to work."

None of this is news to Donohue. With a pair of walking shoes permanently residing in her car, she doesn't hesitate to slip them on and take the slow path.

"I walk to the post office, I walk to church and I walk for fun. It's good for me and it leaves a softer footprint than driving around town," she said. "But it's also a way of making the transition from where you're going to where you're going to be. It's about the journey, not just the destination."

Joshua Road Trail Complete

BY DEBORAH STANISH

Whitemarsh Township this summer completed construction of the Joshua Road walking trail, which provides safe access from Ridge Pike to Germantown Pike. The trail is part of a network that will ultimately provide walking and biking access from one end of the Township to the other.

Joshua Road is a major piece of the "spine" that is being developed connecting Whitemarsh to the Schuylkill River Trail on one end and Fort Washington State Park and the Green Ribbon Trail on the other.

A more immediate benefit of the trail's completion is connecting two of Whitemarsh Township's major roadways.

"Before the trail was completed there was a great divide between Ridge and Germantown Pikes," said Doug Knauss,

Fitness Stations Help Residents Stay Healthy

BY DEBORAH STANISH

Three fitness stations with a total of 14 pieces of equipment debuted this summer in Miles Park. Replacing wooden stations that were more than 15 years old, the new equipment is grouped into three workout stations focusing on stretching and workout preparation, lower body and cardio fitness, and upper body workouts. The fitness stations are positioned strategically along the walking path and are designed to accommodate a variety of fitness levels from beginner to the experienced fitness buff.

Funding for the equipment came from a \$15,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development with the help of state Rep. Mike Gerber.

The new stations have already proven to be popular, said Doug Knauss, Whitemarsh Parks and Recreation director. The flexibility of the stations and the easy instructions posted at each piece of apparatus has made such an impact he is considering adding an outdoor workout program to the Parks and Recreation line-up.

"By adding the new fitness stations to the park it gives residents another tool in helping them keep fit and practicing a healthy lifestyle," said Knauss. "It's cheaper than a gym, it combines a lot of different workout aspects and gets you outside and enjoying the park."

Director of Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation. "We now have a safe connection for residents who live South of Ridge Pike that gives them access to Miles Park and William Jeanes Library."

An easement from the Green Valley Country Club for the right to use an edge of the club's property for the trail helped make the project possible, Knauss said.

Whitemarsh Township Community Services Coordinator Michael Zeock has already received a significant number of enthusiastic responses about the trail, including from young mothers who are already using it to bring their children to and from Miles Park.

Whitemarsh Business Association Promotes Commerce, Community

BY KELLY K. BROWN

The Whitemarsh Business Association is a group of local business owners, professionals and service providers working together to promote commerce and strengthen community ties. The goal of the WBA is to promote the interests of business, foster professional conduct and provide quality service to its members and the greater Whitemarsh, Plymouth, and Conshohocken communities.

Sixty-seven members are part of the group, which was formed in 2003. Members benefit from networking, attending seminars and group marketing. Monthly meetings focus on topics relevant to business people. These morning meetings are held at members places of business, giving hosts an opportunity to showcase their companies. The WBA also includes social events, held several evenings a year, to allow members to meet and mingle.

Jody Davies, president of the WBA, said one of the most important connections the WBA has made is working with the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. The Association has a student intern program that is "wonderful for students and wonderful for businesses." The WBA has a scholarship program for area seniors and sponsors a traveling art show that features student artwork displayed in businesses around town.

The 4th annual Fall Pumpkin Festival, the Association's biggest event of the year, will be held this year at Miles Park on Saturday, Oct. 11, from noon to 5 p.m.

Whitemarsh Business Association events are open to non-members. A complete listing of meetings and upcoming events can be found on its website at www.whitemarshbusiness.com.

Whitemarsh Business Association Board members pictured from left to right: John Gordon, Robin Straff, Gail Devereaux, Carol Getz, Jody Davies. Not pictured: Barbara Asman, Elizabeth Barker, Lori Henry



PHOTO BY: KELLY K. BROWN

David Harris, 5, Tyler Domer, 9, Jared Harris, 9, all of Lafayette Hill, demonstrate their recycling know-how under the Township's new single-stream recycling program.

New Single-Stream Recycling Program a Success

BY KELLY K. BROWN

Whitemarsh Township's new single-stream recycling program is boosting the Township's recycling rate by making recycling easy – and rewarding – for Township residents.

The new program, which began in January, eliminates the need to separate recyclables and enables residents to put everything together in a single bin.

Managed by RecycleBank, the program also provides residents with points based upon the weight of their recyclables that can be redeemed for discounts at local and national stores.

"We love the new recycling," said Paula Dvorak, a registered nurse and mother of two teenagers who has redeemed points for Acme and Yuban coffee coupons. "On a weekly basis the container is completely filled."

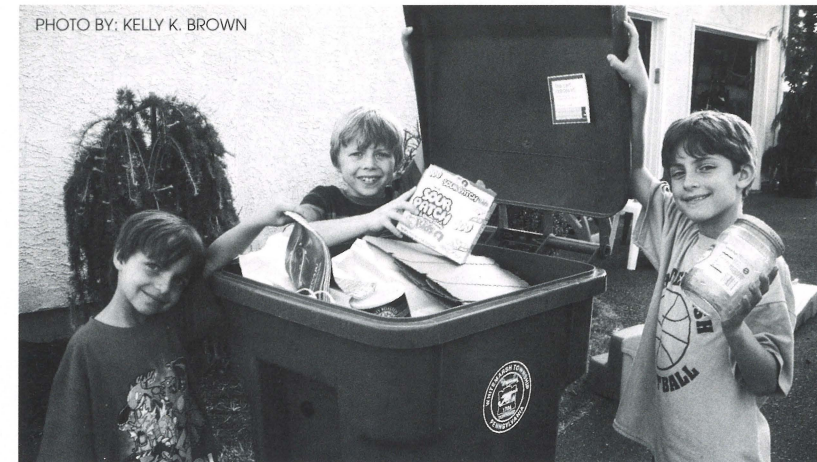
While residents are enjoying the rewards, the Township's recycling rate is increasing. Whitemarsh recycled 621.92 tons for the first five months of 2007 and 1,035.88 tons for the same period in 2008.

"A 67 percent increase," noted Lisa Pomerantz, marketing and communications director for RecycleBank. "We all expect to see that continue to climb as the year goes on. We would like to see it double over last year by the end of this year."

Under the new program, all recyclables go into the same container provided by the Township. There's no need to separate paper from glass or plastic. Toss it all in – glass bottles and jars of any color, plastic containers with the 1 and 2 recycling symbols, aluminum, steel, tin cans and all kinds of paper including newspapers, junk mail, cardboard, and telephone books. Then just roll the cart out to the curb for collection day.

To be sure there is enough room in the cart, residents are encouraged to crunch their soda cans, smash their milk cartons, and flatten their boxes to save space.

"We've always taken recycling seriously," said resident Robin Bonus. "I remember I was signed up before we even got our bin."



Often it is the computer savvy teens in the family who redeem the points accumulated in the recycling account. In fact, Bonus said her 15-year-old daughter Kyle enjoys redeeming the points, which Bonus has used at Panera Bread for a bagel and coffee.

But more than the reward points, Bonus appreciates the convenience of single-stream recycling.

"The absolute best is throwing your Wawa coffee cup away complete," Bonus said. "It was such a pain to separate the paper cup and the plastic lid."

To activate your account with RecycleBank visit www.RecycleBank.com or call 1-888-727-2978.



WHITEMARSH WANTS YOUR YARD WASTE

Yard waste will be collected on Tuesdays for households north of Germantown Pike and on Wednesdays for households south of Germantown Pike.

Trash cans without lids should be used for yard waste, including grass clippings. Paper bags designed for yard waste are acceptable; plastic bags are not permitted. Branches less than three inches in diameter, cut to four foot lengths and bundled, will be collected.

The Township will provide collection service for up to 10 cans, bags or bundles with a maximum weight of 50 pounds each.



PHOTOS BY: DEBORAH STANISH

Volunteers Make Whitemarsh Township a Great Place to Live, Work & Play

BY DEBORAH STANISH

When the fire alarm sounds, when the coach walks the baseball diamond and when you reach for a book on the library shelf your life has been enriched by a Whitemarsh Township volunteer. Individuals of all ages and from all walks of life help make Whitemarsh Township a great place to live, work and play through volunteering.

Over the years the nature of volunteerism in the Township has changed. In the past it was common for people's lives to center on their community for fellowship and entertainment so volunteerism was a natural step. Today, volunteering is something extra that people do in between juggling careers, school and increasingly busy calendars.

But while times are different, volunteer rates are on the rise.

Since 1989 the adult volunteer rate has increased from 20.4 percent to 26 percent in 2006 with the growth being led by teens, baby boomers and seniors, according to *Volunteering in America: 2007 City Trends and Rankings*, a recent study published by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Rattle off the statistics to Herb Lebold, a volunteer

with Spring Mill Fire Company for the past 57 years, and he just shrugs. Lebold remembers when volunteering was something you just did and having multi-generations involved in community and civic organizations was the norm rather than the exception.

"It was part of our family," Lebold said. "My dad was the second chief, my cousin was the first; my mother was part of the Ladies Auxiliary and my grandparents rang the alarm in the original Cedar Grove fire house. It wasn't that I was expected to join, I couldn't imagine not joining."

A retired Whitemarsh Police officer, Lebold, 75, joined Spring Mill Fire Company in 1950. Currently the vice-president, a position he's held for the past 20 years, Lebold said there isn't a position at the fire company that he hasn't filled. But he acknowledges that times have changed. When he first joined Spring Mill he remembers there being an important social aspect to the organization.

"When I was younger the fire houses and the churches were considered your community centers," Lebold said. "It wasn't only about fighting fires it was where you went for social events and met

Left: Herb Lebold, 75, has been a volunteer with Spring Mill Fire Company for the past 57 years. Center: Robert "Bobby" Langerfeld, 17, is a certified EMT with Whitemarsh Community Ambulance Association. Right: Kevin Kissling, 41, is chairman of the Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Board.

people from the neighborhood. The Ladies Auxiliary was one of the biggest organizations in the fire company, so it became a family affair."

Today, the fire companies still provide a social outlet but according to Lebold the days of joining and hopping onto the back of a truck are over.

"Our volunteers put in hours of mandatory equipment, vehicle and safety training in order to fight fires," Lebold said. "It's a different environment, but they are a dedicated group that provides a vital service to the Township."

While times may not be as simple and the pressure on already busy schedules can seem daunting, families still exert a strong influence when it comes to volunteer service.

Robert "Bobby" Langerfeld, a 17-year-old Plymouth Whitemarsh High School junior, became a certified EMT with Whitemarsh Community Ambulance Association in large part because of his mother, Nancy Langerfeld.

"I grew up watching my mom, who is the assistant

chief at Whitemarsh Ambulance, and thought what she did was the coolest thing ever," said Langerfeld. "I joined when I was 13 and finally got my EMT certification when I turned 16."

For Langerfeld, volunteering meant adjusting his expectations of the experience. Not every call is a dramatic rescue or life-saving mission but he soon realized that he was still providing an important service to those residents suffering from minor medical issues.

"When you first start out you imagine responding to car accidents or big incidents but you learn pretty quickly that every call can make a difference," Langerfeld said.

The busy teen is on the drum line at high school and spent two weeks this summer touring Europe with American Music Abroad. After high school he hopes to continue his EMT career by joining the Coast Guard and training as a rescue diver. Fitting time into his schedule to give back to the community can be difficult, but Langerfeld makes it a priority.

"This is where you live, you know?" Langerfeld said.



Liz Zeitz coordinates film discussion programs for the William Jeanes Memorial Library.

"You want to live in a good place you have to put something into it to get something out of it."

Kevin Kissling, 41, chairman of the Whitmarsh Township Parks and Recreation Board, echoed Langerfeld's sentiment.

Kissling's call to public service literally began with the call of nature. When the Parks and Recreation Department installed a portable toilet at Leeland Park, Kissling was the spokesperson for the neighbor's concerns.

"I was working on this issue with Laura Marks who was on the board at the time and when she stepped down, she recommended me as a replacement," Kissling said. "So, basically, I got involved by complaining."

Kissling fits his work on the board into a busy schedule of professional and family commitments. He sees his service as an obligation and a privilege.

"Once I got on the board I learned how much goes on behind the scenes and realized how much of an impact we can have on the community," Kissling said. "My opinion is if you have time to complain you have time to be part of the solution."

During his time on the board, the Parks and Recreation Department underwent a complex and detailed process to create a comprehensive plan to guide the Township's parks. While it was a task that

may not have garnered a lot of public attention, Kissling said the project was a rewarding experience.

"The comprehensive plan covers everything from day-to-day operation to growth to keeping the parks moving forward," Kissling said. "The public may not even realize the plan exists but providing guidance and suggestions as to the direction and purpose of the parks and how they affect our community is probably the most important thing we've done."

Giving back to the community is a sentiment shared by most volunteers, the majority of whom receive a sense of personal satisfaction from their contributions. For Elizabeth Zietz, volunteering at William Jeanes Memorial Library provided solace at a time of personal turmoil.

"I got involved at the library at a time when my husband, Stanley, was very sick," explained Zietz. "Volunteering became an outlet for me to step outside of that."

A volunteer at the library for the past two years, Zietz, once worked scheduling films for the Sedgwick Theatre in Mt. Airy. Today, she coordinates film discussion programs, matching films with guest speakers and creating programs of interest for the community. She also fills in as leader for the library's discussion group "Socrates Café," an activity she and her husband both enjoyed before his death.

"Socrates Café was very important to both of us,"

(continued on page 17)

Cop Camp Celebrates 10th Year

BY DOUG HERRSCHAFT

"FIRE IN THE HOLE! THREE-TWO-ONE."

There's a silent pause, laden with anticipation, as a young police cadet presses a button marked detonate.

Then...BLAM.

The crowd flinches, as the blasting caps shred two full-sized watermelons into bite-sized pieces, leaving a small plume of smoke writhing in their place. For the cheering cadets of Whitmarsh Police Department's 10th Annual Cop Camp, it's one of the biggest highlights of a week packed with unforgettable moments.

Begun in 1999, the weeklong June camp gives 10- and 11-year-old boys and girls the chance to explore some of the most interesting aspects of police work. They watch how K-9s subdue violent criminals, feel what it's like to stop a car and deal with an unruly driver, learn about bomb disposal, see up close how the fire department rescues car accident victims, and participate in the investigation of a staged crime, from lifting fingerprints at the scene, through prosecution of the suspect in court. The program is so popular that it has become a model for similar programs throughout the area and beyond.

"When I started this there was nothing like it anywhere," said Officer Tyrone C. Tate, program director. "The program is designed to be fun and to show that cops are your friends."

Kids can't just breeze through the camp, though. Discipline and teamwork are required to excel in the various components of the program, which include military style marching drills and an obstacle course. The need to work together to accomplish goals has a marked



Above: Cop Camp celebrates obstacle course victory against Miles Park team. Below: Prosecutors and defense counsel confer with District Justice Deborah A. Lukens during mock trial.

effect on the camaraderie of the class. Friendships and team pride flourish through the week.

But, camp counselors and volunteers always find room for fun.

Tate elicited laughs from the cadets and a smile from camp counselor Sgt. Francis Wheatley with this cadence during one of the military drills: "I don't know what you've been told. Sergeant Wheatley's mighty old."

The cadets reaped the rewards of all their hard work and commitment with a decisive obstacle course victory against the Miles Park summer camp. The win, in what has become a hard fought, yearly grudge match, returned to Cop Camp the trophy that Miles Park has held for three straight years. Turning over the trophy was tough for Parks and Recreation Director Doug Knauss, because he knows what's coming from Tate, who described the depth of the rivalry.

"It's really not about the trophy," Tate said. "It's about the bragging rights."

In the end, the cadets came away with memories no other camp can provide, and a new relationship with the dedicated men and women of Whitmarsh Police Department.

"I had so much fun at Cop Camp" said Gillian Mencken, this year's Cop Camp Spirit Award winner. "My favorite part was blowing up the watermelons."

Tate said that cadets from previous Cop Camps always say hello when they see him. It's clear that a lasting bond has been forged, and that bond, he said, is what lies at the heart of the Cop Camp experience.

Said Tate: "If they take that away with them, I did my job."

Whitemarsh Police Department Wins State Accreditation

BY DOUG HERRSCHAFT



The Whitemarsh Police Department has another reason to count itself among Pennsylvania's premier police agencies. The Department completed a rigorous, two-year process to gain accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) in July, making it one of only 55 police departments in Pennsylvania to attain the distinction.

Overseen by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, the Accreditation Commission sets professional standards for Pennsylvania's more than 1,300 law enforcement agencies. An accredited department has invested hundreds of hours reviewing and standardizing its approach to such things as prisoner handling, evidence collection and storage, ethical standards, use of force, training and career development, fiscal management, and disaster preparedness.

"The process was a great opportunity to truly understand this agency and the role that we play," said Lt. Michael Beaty, the accreditation manager for the Whitemarsh Police Department.

As the point of contact, Beaty had more to do than most in driving the process forward. He is quick to point out, however, that accreditation would have been impossible without the police force's collective effort.

"There were many officers and staff that went above and beyond in their assistance in accomplishing accreditation," said Beaty. "Everyone was prepared and that is what made this happen."

The result is a forward-looking organization committed to bringing the best new thinking in law enforcement to Whitemarsh Township, while adhering to exacting professional standards.

Wrote Chief Gregory Dorney, of the Forks Township Police Department, in his final assessment recommending accreditation: "This agency is one that lives and breathes what accreditation is all about, the living up to a higher standard of operation on a daily basis."

Students Honored at D.A.R.E. Graduation

BY DOUG HERRSCHAFT

The fifth graders at St. Philip Neri School know a lot more about making responsible decisions, now that they are graduates of the Whitemarsh Police Department's D.A.R.E. program. The 10-week course concluded with a graduation ceremony, June 5th. On hand to recognize the efforts of the nearly 60 graduates were Chief Eileen Behr, D.A.R.E. Officer Tyrone C. Tate, and about two dozen supporters.

The D.A.R.E. program, attended by nearly 1,100 students in the past three years, teaches children the skills to steer clear of drugs and alcohol, resist negative peer pressure, overcome bullying, and avoid gangs and violence.

The results are especially gratifying for Tate, who grew up in a neighborhood where negative influences abounded.

"I wanted to get involved with kids doing the right thing," he said. "I'm confident they're prepared to go out and make good decisions."

Students in each of St. Philip's two fifth-grade classes wrote essays about their D.A.R.E. experience.

"D.A.R.E. has helped me resist peer pressure," and to hangout with kids who make good choices," said girls' first place essay winner Catherine Morris.

The boys' first place winner Angelo Bonani wrote: "It will help me not to make bad choices and to take care of my body."

St. Philip Neri fifth grade teachers Teresa Antenucci (left) and Mary Beth Finley join Whitemarsh police officer Tyrone C. Tate with student essay winners (from left to right): Keelin McEleney, Catherine Morris, Angelo Bonani, and Michael Amoroso.



FOCUS ON WHITEMARSH BUSINESS



Pictured from left to right: Steve Sague, vice president and transportation manager; Jennifer (Sague) McMenam, office manager, and Bob Sague, owner and president.

PHOTO BY: KELLY K. BROWN

Four Generations of Providing Transportation Service to Whitemarsh Community

BY KELLY K. BROWN

Founded in 1933 by John A. Sague, Sague's Auto Service has been assisting with the transportation needs of the greater Whitemarsh community for 75 years.

What began as a gas station and store at the intersection of Germantown Pike and Chestnut Street in Lafayette Hill now focuses on bus transportation for a dozen private and parochial schools.

With a fleet of 32 buses, the company today is owned and operated by the fourth generation of Sagues.

Owner and President Bob Sague, 66, described the history of his family's business:

Bob's grandfather John Sague ran a shop in a rented gas station on the property that is now the entrance to Whitemarsh Woods. Bob's father, Elmer Sague, helped with auto repairs.

In 1946, when Elmer returned from serving in WWII, he opened a repair shop across the street from his father's gas station. Elmer also drove the bus route for his children to Barren Hill School, located in the building that now houses the Township offices.

The gas station was sold in 1985 and John joined his son at the auto repair shop across the street.

Meantime, Elmer purchased his first bus and slowly expanded the company's transportation service. The busing business became so successful that by the turn of the millennium the company had phased out the auto repair business to focus solely on bus operations.

The company, however, remains a family business.

Many family members, including Bob's wife Peggy, continue to work as bus drivers. His sister Pat retired last year after 36 years as a bus driver and



HISTORICAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB SAGUE

Right: This old photo shows the original Sague's gas station and store founded in 1933. Next page: John Sague, founder of Sague's Auto Service.

“Never be the biggest; just be the best.”

his children have all driven buses in the past or drive today.

In fact, Bob's younger son, Steve, 33, drove his own bus route to school when he attended Kennedy Kenrick High School. Steve earned his Commercial Drivers License at age 18 when he was still a student and actually picked up his fellow students in the morning, parked the bus at school while he attended classes and then drove everyone home at the end of the day.

Giving Back to the Community

“Never be the biggest; just be the best.”

That is how Bob describes the Sague's way of doing business.

The Sague family has been quietly putting this philosophy to work throughout the years by giving back to their community and donating buses for a variety of causes.

They provide bus transportation for many Township events free of charge including the shuttles for Township Day, Cop Camp, and Max's Mission. The Sagues are part of the Emergency Planning Board for flood evacuation. The company donates shuttle buses for the Annual Boar's Head Festival held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. They provide free transpor-

tation for students attending a teacher's funeral for the schools they service. Half the buses that they send to the Annual Breast Cancer Walk-a-thon are also donated.

Bob credits his father, who he says was a “quiet, behind the scenes guy” with instilling the family with the values that encourage them to help others.

He tells the story of a group of Girl Scouts who were traveling from Rochester, N.Y., to the Philadelphia Zoo, when their rented vans were both disabled, leaving them stranded at the Plymouth Meeting Mall. When Bob heard of their plight, he took a bus to the mall and drove the girls to the city. When the group said that they were planning to leave their luggage unattended at the zoo, he offered to keep it safe on the bus for them and then delivered it to their new transportation back home. He refused compensation for all his help.

“That's the kind of thing our family has always done,” Bob said.

The Next Generation

Bob still drives the Miquon School route, though his children are now running the business. His daughter, Jennifer McMenamin, 39, is the office manager and Steve is the vice president and transportation manager.



Sague's Auto/Bus Service
502 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill

Both started out early in the business. McMenamin recalled arriving at the store at 6 a.m. before school.

“Gramps had hot chocolate waiting on the water fountain for us,” she said, adding that after school there was usually a bag of Smarties or penny candy for them.

McMenamin started bookkeeping in high school when “Gramps got sick.” She only planned to help out until the slow season. She's still waiting for it.

The fifth generation of the Sague family is already in training. Jennifer's daughters, Erin, 15, and Sara, 13, help with filing and preparing mailings of bus schedules for back-to-school season.

“Even though it's a wake-up call that school is coming soon, the rest of the job is pretty cool,” said Erin. “It's exciting to work there because it's fun having family around. When we do the bus mailing we have an assembly line with the whole family.”

Sara agreed.

“I like being able to help out the family,” Sara said. “No matter how old you get, there's always something to do.”

VOLUNTEERS
(continued from page 12)

Zietz said. “Stanley and I both attended, and everyone felt he was a positive addition. As I was celebrating the first anniversary of his death this past May, we talked about him during Socrates Café and it was very moving to hear how everyone had respected him so much.”

Matching skills and interests to volunteer opportunities is a key element in inspiring and keeping dedicated volunteers. For Zietz, having the opportunity to coordinate programs that speak to her interests solidified her commitment to the library.

“I thought I'd be checking out books or shelving items, and that would have been fine, but I was given the opportunity to do something that I loved and it was very exciting to me,” Zietz said. “I look forward to the task and keep looking for ways to make it more exciting and worthwhile for the participants.”

The impact Whitmarsh volunteers have on the community reaches far beyond their initial effort. The CNS volunteer study shows that strong communities with high levels of home ownership produce greater volunteer effort which, in turn, attracts residents and makes the community desirable. In addition, volunteer efforts help ease the burden on Township resources. Individual volunteers and organizations often provide services and support that would otherwise require resident tax dollars.

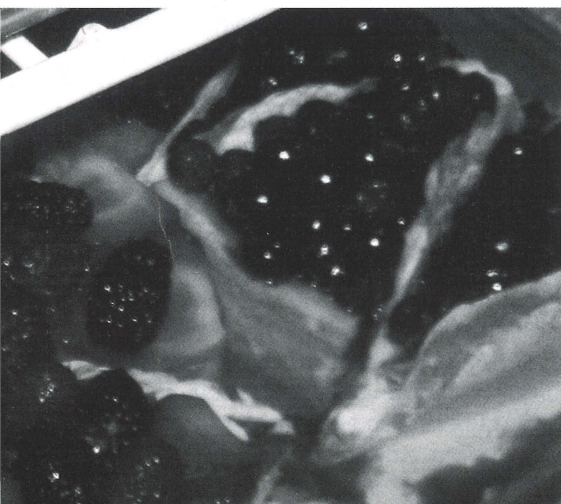
A 2001 survey conducted by the Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs, found that 83.9 million Americans volunteered for an equivalent of over nine million full-time employees, a value of \$239 billion. The organization's estimated dollar value of volunteer time for 2007 was \$19.51 per hour.

Whitmarsh Township Manager Christopher van de Velde acknowledged the tremendous impact the volunteers have on both the Township's well-being and bottom line. He estimated the Township would have to spend close to \$3 million for firefighting and ambulance services if it didn't have the volunteers who staff these public safety organizations.

van de Velde further pointed out that the volunteers who serve on the various Township boards, commissions, committees and Authority, contribute more than \$100,000 of value annually using the national figure of \$19.51 per hour.

“It's difficult to put a dollar amount on contributions made by individual volunteers and volunteer organizations,” said van de Velde. “But it's not difficult to realize they bring a vital dynamic to Whitmarsh Township.

“The most important thing volunteers contribute is the brain power, an additional set of ideas, expertise and creative energy they bring at no significant cost which contributes to the well being of the Township,” continued van de Velde. “Their contribution and their spirit is invaluable, and we are all better for it.”



Eat Locally, Dine Globally at Zakes Café

BY KELLY K. BROWN

The bakery case at Zakes Café beckons with trays and trays of homemade desserts that are as beautiful to look at as they are delicious to eat.

With its strawberry-topped chocolate cakes and its cocoa-dusted tiramisu, the case is the centerpiece of this popular Fort Washington restaurant where visitors can dine locally and eat globally, says co-owner Marlene Zakes.

Zakes began as a bakery in the East Falls section of Philadelphia 28 years ago, but moved to its current location on Bethlehem Pike in 1993 as many of its loyal customers began buying homes in the Whitemarsh area.

Today, Zakes occupies a charming Victorian house – complete with a wrap around porch – and offers breakfast, lunch and dinner in addition to its desserts.

European and Asian influences highlight the unique menu with reasonable prices. Lunch offerings include specials such as pumpkin ravioli with toasted walnuts, dried cranberries and Gorgonzola cheese or a Jamaican jerk chicken sandwich served on fresh baked bread with a mango slaw.

Butter pecan pancakes with caramelized bananas and quiche filled with crab, mushrooms and cheddar cheese are just two reasons to stop by Zakes for breakfast. Brunch is served on Sunday.

Zakes added dinner, served Wednesday through Saturday, about three years ago. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings, the \$25 prix fixe dinner menu includes appetizer, entrée and dessert. Zakes also offers catering and carry out.

The restaurant is co-owned by Marlene's brother Joe McFadden who serves as the head chef and began work at the bakery when he was just 16.

The family feel, however, extends beyond the brother and sister team that makes Zakes so special to the long-time staff, which is welcoming and relaxed.

"Everyone helps out," says Marlene. "The staff is like family."

On a recent weekday, the tables within the two airy dining rooms fill up quickly as the "ladies lunch" crowd gathers. Often there are young women whose connections to Zakes go back to their teen-age years.



PHOTOS BY: KELLY K. BROWN



Opposite page: The dessert case at Zakes Café beckons with homemade treats. Left: Joe McFadden and his sister Marlene Zakes co-own Zakes Café. Above: Originally located in the East Falls section of Philadelphia, Zakes Café moved to its current location Bethlehem Pike in 1993.

Marlene has watched as girls in 7th or 8th grade visit Zakes for luncheons through the years, and then order their wedding cakes from Zakes, and then christening cakes for their children.

Whether serving breakfast, scheduling staff, or baking desserts, Marlene says she enjoys running Zakes and providing Whitemarsh residents with a warm and inviting dining experience.

"It is our pleasure to serve the Whitemarsh community," Marlene says.

Zake's Café

444 Bethlehem Pike
Fort Washington
215-654-7600

BYOB, credit cards accepted,
reservations recommended for dinner
www.zakescafe.com

butternut squash with celery root + apple soup

(COURTESY OF ZAKE'S CAFÉ)

- 4 Butternut Squash, peeled and diced
- 2 Large Onions, peeled and diced
- 1 Large Celery Root, peeled and diced
- 2 Granny Smith Apples, peeled and diced
- 4 Cloves Garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- Size of a quarter piece of Ginger Root, peeled and finely chopped
- 6 Quarts Chicken or Vegetable stock
- 1 Tablespoon Cinnamon
- 1 Teaspoon Nutmeg
- 2 Tablespoons Butter

Yield - Approximately 12 quarts.
Soup may be frozen if needed.

Sautee onion in butter until golden brown. Add garlic and ginger, nutmeg and cinnamon. Sautee further 5 minutes. Add squash, celery root, apple and stock. Cover and simmer until vegetables are soft, approximately 45 minutes. Cool a little, puree in a blender until smooth.



PHOTO BY: DEBORAH STANISH

Mike Serratore, Founder, Whitemarsh Baseball Association

BY DEBORAH STANISH

Mike Serratore, a long-time Whitemarsh Township resident, is passionate about baseball. He became involved in the Whitemarsh Little League organization when his son Michael began playing t-ball. Now Michael is a catcher at West Chester University and Serratore remains a fixture on the field. He and his wife, Diane, recently founded Whitemarsh Baseball Association, a non-profit organization committed to providing children the opportunity to sharpen their skills and to compete at the next level of competition.

Q. How long have you been involved in Whitemarsh Little League?

A. Well, I started when my son, Michael, was in t-ball and he's 21 now so around 17 years. I started out as a coach and then an umpire. In 2001 there was a need for a league president and I raised my hand for that, so it's been a long run.

Q. What prompted you and your wife to start Whitemarsh Baseball Association?

A. I keep my finger on the pulse for baseball in our area and I see a need and tried to fulfill that need. When kids move up in the leagues they are often riding the bench so we sponsored a 13-year-old team and we're going to sponsor a 16-year-old team to give those kids some playing time and to help build their skills for the next level of competition.

We also sponsored an 11-year-old tournament at Miles Park this year and we're working on establishing a scholarship to give to a high school senior based on academics, community involvement, financial need and baseball skill.

Q. Now that your children are no longer involved in youth sports, what keeps you volunteering?

A. First, it's important to give back to the community. My son had a nice career in youth sports and you learn things along the way that can help make the organization better and more efficient. Plus it's a lot of fun. I enjoy the game, I enjoy the people and watching kids grow up in the league. Instead of gardening all the time I spend time at the baseball field. It's a hobby with benefits. If I can help one person, that's great, if I can help many people, that's better.

Q. What advice do you have for people thinking about volunteering in their community?

A. There will always be roadblocks and problems but it's just a matter of getting involved and doing what you can, no matter how small, to make things better.



BEST HORTICULTURAL DISPLAY
ANN MARIE DILAURO OF LAFAYETTE HILL



BEST NEW GARDEN
JON JIVIDEN OF LAFAYETTE HILL



MOST PLEASURABLE GARDEN
MARTIN & KARLA SHANTZ OF PLYMOUTH MEETING

Garden Competition blossoms in Whitemarsh

BY KELLY K. BROWN

Entryways overflowing with flowers. Backyards packed with whimsical garden ornaments and perennials in bloom. Hardy plants heavy with red, ripe tomatoes in custom made planter boxes. Yards designed with native plants to nurture wildlife.

These are some of Whitemarsh's hidden garden delights discovered during the first ever Garden Competition sponsored by the Township.

Thirty-one households from Conshohocken to Fort Washington participated in the contest. A five-member panel viewed the gardens over the last weekend in July and selected the following first place entries:

- **Best Horticultural Display**
Ann Marie DiLauro of Lafayette Hill
- **Best New Garden**
Jon Jividen of Lafayette Hill
- **Most Pleasurable Garden**
Martin and Karla Shantz of Plymouth Meeting
- **Best Vegetable Garden**
Richard and Stephanie Abraham of Flourtown
- **Most Wildlife Friendly Garden**
Christina Kobland of Lafayette Hill

Spring Mill Presbyterian Village in Lafayette Hill received the first place award for **best commercial garden**.

"The garden contest was an excellent idea," said John Loughridge, a Lafayette Hill resident for 54 years, who entered his wife's name in the competition without telling her in advance. "It was a good opportunity to get the garden in shape."

(photos continued on back)



BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN
RICHARD & STEPHANIE ABRAHAM OF FLOURTOWN



MOST WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDEN
CHRISTINA KOBAND OF LAFAYETTE HILL



BEST COMMERCIAL GARDEN
SPRING MILL PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE IN LAFAYETTE HILL

Whitemarsh Township
616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

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