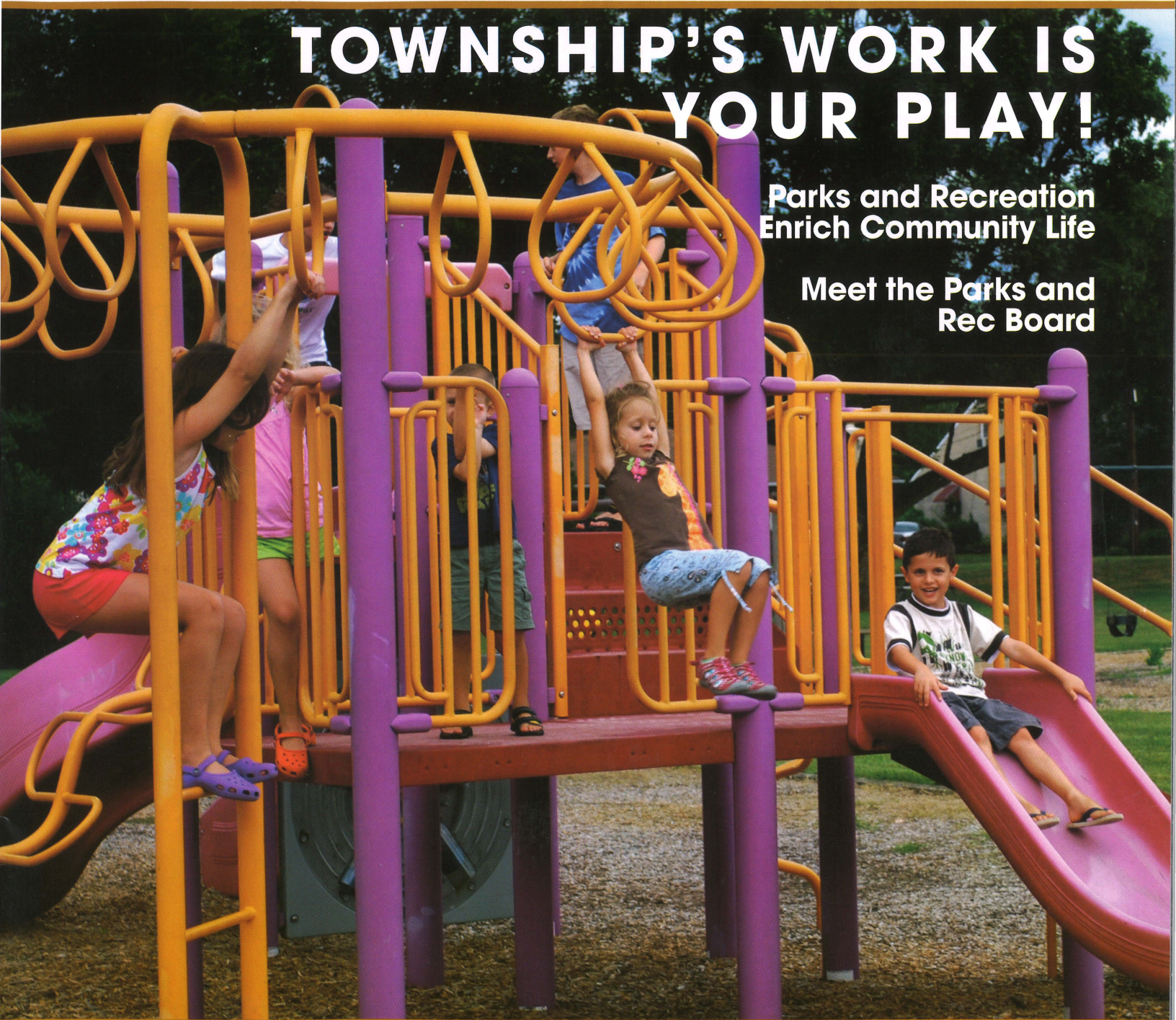


TOWNSHIP'S WORK IS YOUR PLAY!

**Parks and Recreation
Enrich Community Life**

**Meet the Parks and
Rec Board**



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LIBRARY EXPANSION A REALITY**

**SOCCER FRENZY SWEEPS
WHITEMARSH PLAYING FIELDS**

+ PLUS!

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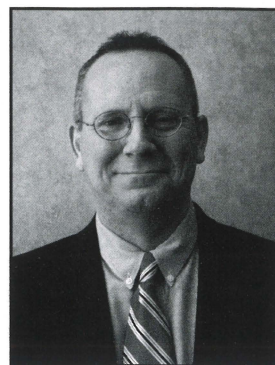
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Whitemarsh Living

FALL 2010



Dear Whitemarsh Residents:

It's always with some regret that we say goodbye to summer, so with this issue of *Whitemarsh Living* we try to hang on a little while longer by focusing on parks and recreation.

But first, I must thank the Karabots Foundation for its generous \$4.4 million grant to help fund the renovation and expansion project currently underway at the William Jeanes Memorial Library. Soon, the Library will be a renewed, cutting-edge center of learning and discourse in the community, for kids and adults alike.

To learn how you too can support the William Jeanes Memorial Library see pages 6 and 7.

In addition to breaking ground on the Library project this summer, the Township also celebrated the opening of Koontz Park, our newest park, complete with the Township's first 100 percent ADA accessible playground.

Our parks are busy places in the summer and throughout the rest of the year. In this issue, you'll hear from Director Doug Knauss about the Township's commitment to providing quality, year-round recreational opportunities for everyone.

You'll also meet Recreation Program Coordinator Jon Walker and might even be inspired to get involved in one of the Township's many programs as the weather cools and sports season begins. Find out what's offered at www.whitemarshtwp.org.

After you've worked up an appetite on the playing field or if you're just looking for a good place to watch the game, check out MaGerk's, the new sports bar and restaurant in town that's already earned a loyal following among hungry – and thirsty – residents.

If sports aren't your thing, don't worry; there are plenty of other fun activities to pursue.

Check out the Militia Hill Hawk Watch, where a pair of binoculars buys you admission to one of nature's most awesome aerial shows. Or hop on the history bus. Local buffs have put together a fascinating tour that travels by bus to Revolutionary War battlegrounds, shuttered mansions, and old churches.

Even as summer fades away, this issue should help fix your eyes on the many upcoming treats of autumn in the Township. Halloween pumpkin carving, hawk watching, history touring, hot wings before the big game – there's a lot to look forward to, so read on.

Sincerely,

Bob Hart,
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

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AT (484) 533-2214.

Park and Recreation Board Brings Community Voices to the Table

BY DEBORAH STANISH

The Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Department relies on many different resources in order to provide award-winning programs to Whitemarsh residents. One of its most valuable assets is the seven-member Park and Recreation Board.

“Our purpose is to be a sounding board for the Director of Parks and Recreation – as well as a voice for the community,” says Board Member Beth Moy Jang.

The Park and Recreation Board represents a broad cross-section of Whitemarsh Township residents. Members range in age and possess varied skill sets, from public relations, fundraising and strategic planning to education and recreation department management.

Their unique perspectives give the Board as a whole the complex insight needed to provide a rich and varied recreation experience for Township residents.

The Board members act as liaisons between the public and its leaders. They help the Department meet the real needs of residents by making recommendations based on what they see and hear in their neighborhoods.



Park and Recreation Board members, from left: Chairman Jonathan Picker, Beth Moy Jang, Kevin Kissling, Vice Chair Thomas Manley, Joanne Crawford and Brian Rosenthal.

PHOTO BY KELLY K. BROWN

The Board interprets and implements the Department’s Master Plan, a document that provides a road map for the future of Parks and Recreation in Whitemarsh.

Being a board member often means fielding questions in parking lots and grocery stores. Working with Department Director Doug Knauss, Board members use their interactions with community members to provide constructive recommendations that are then taken to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Board Chairman Jonathan Picker says the board’s strength and effectiveness is in large part due to its proactive nature.

“While the master plan gives us direction,” Picker notes, “we also have to be ready to take advantage of unexpected opportunities and prioritize our goals.”

Board of Supervisors Appoints Bruce G. Horrocks Township Manager

After an extensive selection process involving more than 50 candidates, the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint Bruce G. Horrocks as Township Manager.

“We had many extremely qualified candidates,” said Bob Hart, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. “It was clear after careful review that Bruce Horrocks was the best choice for the Township and the residents.”

Horrocks has been serving as Acting Township Manager since January of this year. He was hired as the Whitemarsh Township Director of Planning and Zoning in May of 2005 and was appointed Assistant Township Manager in August of the same year.

A resident of Souderton, Horrocks served as the Manager of Hilltown Township in Bucks County for nearly 10 years and was the Skippack Township Manager in Montgomery County for three years.

The Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Board consists of seven members: Jonathan Picker, Chairman; Thomas Manley, Vice-Chair; Joanne Crawford, Kevin Kissling, Brian Rosenthal and Beth Moy Jang. The seventh, Beth Suchsland, is the Colonial School Board representative.

The Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation Building, 4021 Joshua Road, Lafayette Hill.

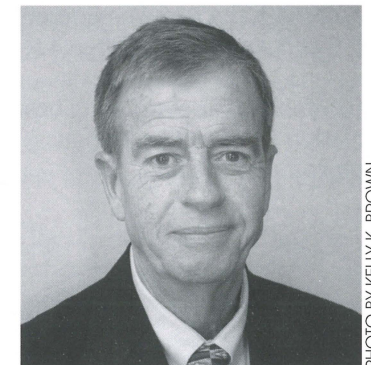


PHOTO BY KELLY K. BROWN

Horrocks is a member of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Planners Association. He completed the two-year Pennsylvania Rural Leadership Program in May of 1999.

Previous to municipal experience, Horrocks was employed in private business management positions and obtained the National Association of Purchasing Management designation as a Certified Purchasing Manager.

“I look forward to continuing my service to the Township and am honored to work with a Board and a staff that is dedicated to our residents,” said Horrocks.

Whitemarsh Gets a Kick Out of Soccer

BY KELLY K. BROWN

Spain has just been crowned the new world soccer champions. Philadelphia now has a professional soccer team with an official fan club. Manchester United played football (soccer to us) at the Linc this summer where the Eagles play American football.

And here in Whitemarsh, every available area field is buzzing with soccer activity. Parents are hanging out in the evening to watch their children practice passing and shooting – a soccer ball.

What is going on?

“The popularity of soccer has increased enormously,” says Jeremy Brodovsky, Whitemarsh resident and Head Coach of the women’s soccer team at Neumann University. “It is exponentially more popular.”

It seems that Whitemarsh Township is catching up with the rest of the world and embracing soccer.

The Township caters to those who display an early interest in soccer with the Pee Wee Soccer program, offered in both the fall and spring for children 4 to 6 years of age.

“It is bumble bee soccer at its best,” notes Parks and Recreation Director Doug Knauss, “with the children all buzzing around the ball.”



The Parks and Recreation Department also offered a soccer camp in late July for children from the ages of 3 to 12, run by the United Soccer Academy.

The day session was packed with 29 boys and girls, many of whom were “returners” according to Coach Josh Brown. Brown and his fellow coaches are visiting from England, to run the camp.

The players came equipped with soccer cleats, shin guards and enthusiasm, some proudly sporting the jersey for their favorite team, be it Brazil or the Philadelphia Union.

“The children are a lot more interested in soccer this year,” said Brown, “with the Union starting and the U.S. in the World Cup, there is definitely a change in interest.”

After boys and girls have been introduced to the basics of dribbling and shooting, the Plymouth Soccer Club provides the next level of play.

To dispel a common misconception that players must be Plymouth Township residents, the club is in the process of changing its name to the Colonial Soccer Club to better reflect their membership.

Joe Hunter, Club President, pointed out that players come from all around the area, with the majority of them from the area encompassed by the Colonial School District. Hunter describes the Plymouth Soccer Club as “the largest sports organization around” for children, with “just under 1,500 registered players.”

Hunter has witnessed an increase in registrations, especially since the club changed to electronic registration five or six years ago. Before then Hunter estimates that there were 900 registered players.

Players can participate in the intramural/recreational league, “which is more for fun with relaxed rules,” or tryout for the travel teams. Only the U6 (under six) team for kindergarten students is coed.

Many of the travel team players also elect to tryout for their school team. The Colonial School District offers soccer as an after school sport from 7th grade on for both boys and girls. St. Philip Neri Catholic School in Lafayette Hill has a boys’ and girls’ soccer team for their sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

The Plymouth Whitemarsh High School has a ninth grade team, as well as the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams.

PWHS Athletic Director Charlie Foster has seen a “real spike in the interest in soccer, especially for boys” recently. Given that there are so many other choices available to the students, he is glad to see that interest remains high.



According to Foster, colleges have now put more significance (money/scholarships) into sports other than football and basketball, so there is now a reward system for athletes who want to pursue different sports.

“Before, if a player was good at soccer - good at kicking - he would probably have been a football kicker,” said Foster. “Today, that same player might choose to stay with soccer, since there is now a chance for a scholarship.”

In addition to support at the college level, the success of Major League Soccer gives talented players a new career path that didn’t exist 15 years ago.

The FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) World Cup soccer finals happen once every four years and they caught the attention of even the occasional soccer fan in our area this summer. Few local residents traveled to South Africa to view the games first hand, but many tuned in and were part of the excitement.

Crowds flocked to the local restaurants and bars to watch the games, especially when the United States team was still in the action.

Mandy Cole, of Roxborough, was bartending at Brittingham’s Irish Pub and Restaurant in Lafayette Hill when the World Cup final pitting Spain against the Netherlands was being played. Customers called in advance to make sure that the World Cup games were going to be on.

Surveying the crowd gathered at the bar, Cole said: “They would rather watch this than the Phillies.”



OPPOSITE PAGE: A warm summer evening finds a host of young soccer players practicing their dribbling skills at Miles Park under the direction of coaches from England during the United Soccer Academy camp.

TOP RIGHT: A keeper in training guards the goal during a game at Miles Park.

BOTTOM: The action on the pitch entertains campers and parents alike this summer in Whitemarsh.

PHOTOS BY KELLY K. BROWN

William Jeanes Memorial Library Expansion is Underway

BY KELLY K. BROWN

Construction on the William Jeanes Memorial Library expansion project got underway in early June with help of a \$4.4 million grant from Athena and Nicholas Karabots of the Karabots Foundation.

Nicholas Karabots is the chairman of the Spartan Organization and its family of companies, including Kappa Publishing Group Inc., the largest publisher of puzzle magazines in the nation.

The Karabots have lived in Whitemarsh Township for more than 50 years and raised and educated three daughters within the Whitemarsh school system. Nicholas Karabots noted that the library was always a focal point in the community.

"Athena and I would like to see it become an even broader community center," Karabots said. "We are hopeful that its updating and expansion will encourage more children and adults to come and learn."

The grant will underwrite a major renovation of the existing library facility together with the addition of a new wing to house an innovatively designed expansion



of the young adult and children's library together with conference and study rooms. The expansion project is intended to make significant improvement to the original building, which was constructed in 1971.

"The generosity of this wonderful couple and the magnitude of this one gift are simply unprecedented in Whitemarsh Township," said Library Board President Donald Mattson. "For decades to come, tens of thousands of local residents and their children will benefit from what they have done today to make Jeanes Library a state-of-the-art information center."

Sara Erlbaum, a member of the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors, expressed appreciation to the Karabots and the many people involved in the expansion process.

"This generous gift from the Karabots will transform the library and the Township for all our residents for generations to come," Erlbaum said. "We are truly grateful."

The Township has loaned the Library \$300,000 for the purchase of new furniture, fixtures and equipment. Additionally, the Board of Directors for the library is developing a multi-million dollar endowment campaign.

While the Joshua Road location is under construction, Jeanes Library is still open for business at its temporary location in the White Building at Koontz Park, on Harts Lane near Ridge Pike.

The Joshua Road building is expected to be renovated and opened in early 2011. ■

ABOVE: Athena and Nicholas Karabots, center, take part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion and new addition to the William Jeanes Memorial Library, along with library and local officials.

BOTTOM: Ceremonial shovels and hard hats for the groundbreaking ceremony at the new William Jeanes Memorial Library.



PHOTOS BY KELLY K. BROWN

SUPPORT THE WILLIAM JEANES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The \$4.4 million grant from the Karabots Foundation sets the stage for an expansion and redesign that will make the William Jeanes Memorial Library a renewed center of learning, one with innovative and creative education programs for young people.

In September, the Library will kick off the major gifts phase of its fund-raising campaign: The Library of the Future: A Community Center for Lifelong Learning.

A public phase in which all Township residents and businesses will be asked to participate, will begin in March.

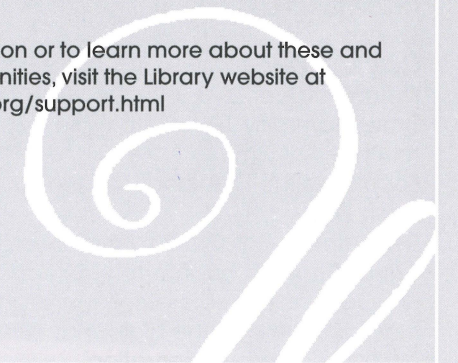
Fund raising will focus on two areas: the purchase of new furniture and equipment for the renovated library and the creation of an endowment that will support the increased operating costs for the expanded building and programming services.

If you're looking to contribute now, consider joining the Friends of the William Jeanes Library group, established in 1950, which collects membership dues, holds semi-annual book sales, and organizes volunteer activities in support of various Library initiatives.

You can also contribute through the Tribute Gift program. Make a donation that covers the cost of a book or DVD in the name of a special person or event. A librarian can help you to choose a fitting resource, and when it becomes a part of the Library's collection, it will bear a commemorative bookplate with an inscription of your choosing.

Or you could speak with your employer's human resources department about its matching gifts program. Many companies match charitable contributions made by their workers, enabling them to make a big impact with a small gift.

For contact information or to learn more about these and other giving opportunities, visit the Library website at www.JeanesLibrary.org/support.html



Employee Spotlight: Jon Walker

BY DOUG HERRSCHAFT

Jon Walker, Whitemarsh Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator, grew up in Lafayette Hill, in the Springfield Township panhandle. He's been an employee of Whitemarsh Township since 2000, when he graduated from Springfield High School.

How he got his start in the Township:

I was hired as a part-time lifeguard for the Friday night recreation program, Parks and Recreation Director Doug Knauss' second hire. I remember making my way to the interview in a snowstorm. Within two years I was promoted to Aquatic Supervisor.

What he likes about his job: I love teaching and running programs. Picking a favorite is kind of tough. One would be Pint Size Players—football, soccer, and baseball for young kids. During a recent class, we had 4 year olds playing football, huddling up on a full field and playing a game. It's fun to watch them

develop. Overall, providing people with opportunities to fill voids in their life—helping them to relax and find something they've been looking for—is great.

How he stays involved in his community:

I've been a volunteer with the Flourtown Fire Department for almost 10 years. I was also an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) for a number of years before that.

When he's not working:

I'm into independent sports, like mountain biking. Using my experience on the trails of the Wissahickon, I've been able to train other mountain bikers. I'm also a certified scuba diver. I've done some quarry diving, and I'd like to explore some of the other cool spots in the region. As an enthusiastic jogger, I run three miles every day, and participate in charitable runs like the Multiple Sclerosis 150. ■



Jon Walker, Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator
PHOTO BY KELLY K. BROWN

— Special Events for a Whole Season of Fun —



Touch-a-Truck

Date: October 2
Time: Saturday 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Miles Park
Cost: Free
Details: www.whitemarshparks.org
Vehicles from the Fire and Police Departments, Public Works and the Ambulance Association. Come see and touch them all.

Craft Show

Date: October 2 - 3
Time: Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: The Highlands Mansion & Gardens
Cost: \$8
Details: www.highlandshistorical.org
Artisans from throughout the United States display unique crafts for sale at this longstanding favorite fundraiser held at the Highlands. Friday preview party also available by reservation.

Pumpkin Festival

Date: October 9
Time: Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Miles Park
Cost: Admission is free, but there is a small charge for some events
Details: www.whitemarshbusiness.com
This annual Whitemarsh Business Association community event features games and entertainment, food, arts and crafts, and rides. Proceeds help fund the WBA's College Scholarship Program.

Haunted Barn

Date: October 21 - 23
Time: Thursday 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Location: Cedar Grove Barn
Cost: \$8-\$12
Details: www.whitemarshparks.org
An intense, creepy, noisy tour of the barn in darkness. Fun for those who like to be scared. Eight years old and over only. Wristband option also available for all three nights for \$12-\$15.

Pumpkin Show

Date: October 24
Time: Sunday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: The Highlands Mansion & Gardens
Cost: \$10/car for members, \$15/car for non-members
Details: www.highlandshistorical.org
Stop by for an enchanted evening viewing intricately carved pumpkins arranged throughout the formal garden. Attendees of all ages will be impressed by the artistic display. All proceeds benefit the Highlands.

Halloween Decorating Contest

Date: October 30
Time: Saturday evening
Location: Township residences only
Cost: Free, October 25 registration deadline
Details: www.whitemarshstp.org
Enter for a chance to win honors in one of three categories including Scariest House in Whitemarsh. Registration forms available at the Township Building and online under the Community link.

Whitemarsh Encampment

Date: November 6 - 7
Time: Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Hope Lodge
Cost: Admission charged
Details: www.ushistory.org/hope
Relive the 1777 Whitemarsh Encampment of the Continental Army. Interact with Revolutionary War re-enactors and learn about colonial crafts while supporting Hope Lodge.

Natural Holiday Decorations

Date: November 10
Time: Wednesday 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: Township Building
Cost: Free
Details: www.whitemarshstp.org
Decorating ideas for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas using plant materials, presented by Master Gardener, Julie Phillips. Register for this free event through Parks and Recreation.

Hunt Breakfast

Date: November 14
Time: Sunday noon to 2 p.m.
Location: The Highlands Mansion & Gardens
Cost: Admission charged, reservations required
Details: www.highlandshistorical.org
Enjoy a delicious Sunday brunch with live music and see the riders return from this time-honored tradition at the oldest fundraising event for the Highlands.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Date: December 8
Time: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Location: Bus leaves from Miles Park
Cost: \$85 for residents, \$91 for non-residents; November 8 registration deadline
Details: www.whitemarshparks.org
Travel to the Radio City Music Hall in New York City for this amazing holiday show with the Rockettes and a whole lot more. Don't delay - this trip sold out last year.

A Magical History Tour

BY CAROL BEAM

On a picture-perfect day in May, 88 Whitemarsh residents set out on an adventure into the past. In one head-spinning afternoon, they took in 27 different sites, places where history was made 200 years ago. These places are still here, right in our backyard, with tales of bygone times to tell to anyone who looks and listens.

The tour began at St. Thomas Church. Prior to boarding the bus, the group toured the church and learned that the original wooden version was built in about 1690. But this version was intentionally destroyed and rebuilt in stone about 20 years later.

What then followed was an afternoon of Revolutionary War stories and tidbits of Colonial history, delivered by bus-borne narrators Jack Coll, Robin Costa and Rick Moraux, and by guides at the individual stops.

Hope Lodge, which has been closed to the public due to a lack of funding, opened especially for the tour. Costumed guides led people through the garden, told the story of Samuel Morris (who built the home in the 1740s) and walked visitors through the long-darkened rooms inside.

A visit to St. Peter's Lutheran Church set a very different tone. Centuries ago, scouting from the church's steeple, General Lafayette spotted approaching enemy troops and plotted the escape route of colonial soldiers - a tactical move that was critical to our revolution's success. With the strains of a rousing recital of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," ringing in their ears, the time travelers continued on their adventure.

Many of the places visited have names that everyone knows: The General Lafayette Inn, The Highlands, Mather Mill. The Whitemarsh region is steeped in history.

Bus passenger, Linda McNally, noted, "I've often sat at traffic lights en route to work, reading small historical plaques."

HISTORY & HERITAGE



But there are even more spots without plaques—hidden, largely forgotten places with captivating legends to impart to savvy visitors. On this bus tour McNally not only got to hear the tales behind the region's plaques and established monuments; she also found historical truths buried like treasure in the many unmarked sites on the tour.

"People had a really good reaction to the tour," said Gene Hough, who not only helped put the tour together, but also took part in a brief bloodless take-over of the bus by revolutionary soldiers.

"This was a really good opportunity to highlight our historical sites and the historical societies who keep them going," Hough said. "People in this community want to know our history, and joining up with these groups is the best way to help keep it all alive."

Good news for those who didn't catch this bus: you can catch the next!

One is running on Wednesday, October 6th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and weekend tours are in the works for Spring 2011. Check the Whitemarsh Township website at www.whitemarshstp.org for details. ■

ABOVE: Friends of Hope Lodge volunteer Jack Gumbrecht welcomes participants to Hope Lodge during the first Whitemarsh History Tour in May.

PHOTO BY KELLY K. BROWN

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION: An Investment in Fun Brings Rewards

BY DEBORAH STANISH

Arden Krawitz, the busy mother of six kids, practically lives in Whitemarsh's parks during the summer. For her family, and many others, the parks are a peaceful, fun, and important part of life in the Township – and they just keep getting better.

"The improvements to Miles Park, in particular, have been great," said Krawitz. "The bathrooms and the concession stand are really important when you spend as much time there as I do, and they have made a huge difference to our family."

The Township's leaders have known for a long time that well-maintained, quality recreational spaces and programs make a difference in the lives of residents. Boasting five parks, an interconnecting trail system, greenways and open space areas, Whitemarsh Township has built itself an impressive recreation infrastructure demonstrating its commitment to parks and open space.

The Township also offers an expansive menu of recreational programs for residents of all ages and levels of fitness.

As Township Supervisor and Parks and Recreation Department Liaison Melissa Sterling said Whitemarsh Parks and Recreation provides something for everyone.

"We're fortunate that we have so many fantastic facilities within the Township," Sterling said. "From the expanse of Miles Park to smaller neighborhood parks such as Koontz and Leeland, we provide a lot of recreational opportunities for our residents. It is something that the Township recognizes as important and is committed to maintaining."

Moreover, parks also have a real world financial impact on a community. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, numerous studies across the nation have proven that homes in proximity to parks have significantly increased property values. The existence of parks in a community attracts residents and makes for a more desirable place to live—maintaining high property values.

Rita McGrath and her family are proof of the positive effect Whitemarsh's Parks and Recreation programs have on community growth. Education opportunities

first prompted the McGrath family to move from Roxborough to the Township, but they were also drawn to Whitemarsh's recreational programs and spaces. They've participated in family activities at Miles Park and 10 year-old Michelle has played Township basketball and softball.

"It's definitely an added bonus and a quality of life factor," said McGrath.

As parents of a special needs child, the McGraths were even more thrilled when Whitemarsh installed the area's first ADA-compliant playground in the new Koontz Park. "It shows that they are thinking forward and looking at what is best for everyone," McGrath said. "It makes you feel good about where you live."

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

Summer is the "big show" for Whitemarsh Township parks. Cedar Grove and Miles Park host summer playground camps while specialty camps are held in the Parks and Recreation building and on its fields.

Seventeen-year-old Diedre Heary is a counselor at the Cedar Grove summer program. She and her four siblings have all attended Whitemarsh programs and camps. They've all graduated and stayed on to become counselors and instructors.

Heary said her experiences in Whitemarsh camps have even helped her to determine her career choice. She is studying mid-level education at West Chester University.

"I love working at the Cedar Grove Camp," said Heary. "It's fun, and while I always knew I wanted to teach, working with Whitemarsh Township really cemented the fact this is something I want to do day in and day out."

Unforgettable summer camps aren't the only trick in the playbook. Year-round programming includes offerings for all ages from pre-school through seniors, indoors and out.

"We strive to provide quality programming for all age levels throughout the year," said Program Coordinator Jon Walker. "We listen to what people want and try to tailor our programming to meet those needs."

For example, many adult residents have told Recreation officials that their schedules often don't mesh with certain programs in which they would like to participate. By offering new times that work for career-oriented adults, Walker hopes to meet their needs and provide more opportunities for them to discover the Township's recreational offerings.

The Department also strives to create the best senior programming around. It's already host to the award-winning Monday Social program, which offers entertainment and educational opportunities along with catered lunches. New program coordinator Brianna Muller is excited to get ideas for future programming from the seniors themselves.

"We've had some incredibly successful fitness programs aimed toward seniors and I'd like to expand on that," says Muller, a former Philadelphia Parks and Recreation employee. "What's important to recognize is that people are continuing to be active as they get older."

This element of the senior programming strategy reveals yet another benefit of community parks and recreation: they work to promote healthy lifestyles. In cooperation with local organizations, the Department of Parks and Recreation has hosted seminars and information sessions on healthy eating, exercise, and safety.

Explore the Fun With Whitemarsh Parks and Recreation

Want to find out what's happening at Parks and Recreation, or sign up for a program? Visit the Parks and Recreation website at www.whitemarshparks.org. Programs are listed on the website and are also available through the award-winning Parks and Recreation publication "The Recreator," which is mailed to every Township resident.

You can register for programs by mail or in person at the Parks and Recreation Building located at 4021 Joshua Road, Lafayette Hill. You can also register by calling Sue Bradley at (610) 828-7276, extension 100. Most programs now offer convenient online registration at the Parks and Recreation website.



ABOVE: Miles Park on a spring night



ABOVE: Mid-pitch at the Miles Park Little League baseball tournament.



(Parks continued)

Reaching out to area organizations to partner with Parks and Recreation for programming is a strategy that the Department has employed with great success. In addition to the cooperative health and wellness programs, Parks and Recreation has partnered up with the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education and the Whitmarsh Art Center to create new and relevant opportunities for residents.

ALL PART OF THE MASTER PLAN

All of these initiatives—from summer camps to senior programs, wellness seminars to cooperative art classes—require planning and maintenance. In addition to answering existing needs, the Department must anticipate how those needs are changing in order to be ahead of the game. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan helps the Department do just that. This document is a coordinated road map designed to guide the Department into the future, and it's an essential tool for securing grants and public funding.

"We approached the Township Supervisors to put a pavilion in Miles Park in 2004 and they asked that we look at creating a global master plan," explains Doug Knauss, Whitmarsh Township's Parks and Recreation Director. "They didn't want to spend \$500,000 and to realize later that it would have made more sense to do something differently."

The master planning process began in late 2005 and concluded in 2007. The completed document provides clear direction for maintenance and improvements while anticipating future needs of the Parks and Recreation Department. It allows the Department and Township officials to determine how to best allocate financial and personnel resources while keeping the program moving forward.

"There's never a point where you can say you're finished or your programming is set," said Knauss. "If you're doing it right, it's a constantly evolving process." 📷



ALL PHOTOS BY KELLY K. BROWN

TOP: Spectators pack the pavilion at Miles Park for a performance on Township Day in April.

MIDDLE: Fierce competition at the Miles Park basketball court.

BOTTOM: Children dance to the cool tunes of band Cool Beans at a summer concert in the Miles Park pavilion.

Township Dedicates Newest Park in Honor of Recreation Visionary

BY DEBORAH STANISH

Whitmarsh officials this summer dedicated the Township's newest park – a 3.9 acre property named after Donald R. Koontz that includes the Township's first 100 percent ADA accessible playground.

State representative Mike Gerber, who was instrumental in securing a \$400,000 grant used for the purchase of the park, was on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony as was 83-year-old Koontz and his family.

Bringing parks and services to the residents of Whitmarsh Township was the life mission of Koontz. Serving as the Township's Recreation Director from 1950 through 1983, Koontz was responsible for the laying the groundwork for the parks and recreation programs still enjoyed by residents today.

Acknowledging the honor of the dedication, Koontz told the assembled crowd that it was their turn to take Township recreation to the next level.

"It's up to you to get these kinds of results, to work together with residents, elected officials and the kind of people you have working in the Department today," Koontz said.

Chairman of the Township Board of Supervisors Bob Hart commended Koontz for his leadership and said the Township and Parks and Recreation Director Doug Knauss are carrying on his vision.

"Doug looked at this rundown property and saw what could be and what should be," said Hart. "The Board respects his dedication and commitment to helping create this park. It is a great addition to the Township."

Identified in the Township's Open Space Plan, the property was purchased in 2006 with the assistance of a grant provided by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The park features a basketball court, greenhouse, walking trail and the Township's first 100 percent ADA friendly playground, made possible by a grant from the Widener Memorial Foundation.

Currently the temporary home of the William Jeanes Memorial Library while it undergoes renovation, the building on the site will be used for recreational programming once the Library's construction project concludes.



ABOVE: Members of the Koontz family along with Rep. Mike Gerber, fourth from right. Also pictured Supervisors Bob Hart, chair, Melissa Sterling, and Leslie Richards, vice chair, and Parks and Recreation representatives.

(Koontz continued)

Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors Leslie Richards recalled the process that brought the park to fruition, noting that it was a case of planning and need coming together.

"To take this run down property and turn it into something beautiful and useful for Whitemarsh residents is a testament to good policy and good planning," said Richards. "We're providing another park in an area where none existed; we took traffic concerns into consideration and made it neighborhood accessible so people can walk to the park; we used porous surfaces to address groundwater concerns and created an ADA friendly playground that will allow more of our residents to use the park."

Christine Hansen who lives in the nearby neighborhood of The Reserve is particularly appreciative of the easy neighborhood access. She and her husband, along with their two children Jack, 3, and Luke, 2, visit the park several times a week. The access from Harts Lane onto the walking trail makes it easier to leave the car at home.

"We can take the stroller or put the kids in the bike trailer and be here in just a few minutes," she said. "The kids love the playground. It's a big hit with the boys."

The bright playground structure is a highlight of the park. Wheelchair-friendly surfaces and structures make it attractive and accessible to all children.

Whitemarsh resident Jody Miscannon, Director of Children's Programs at United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia and Vicinity (UCP), was particularly impressed.

"I just love it," Miscannon said. "It is a great area that allows all children to experience the joys of play."

It didn't take children long to discover that for themselves. Despite this summer's heat, the basketball court was host to teens practicing their jump shots and children stopping for a quick climb and slide on their way to the library.

For Donald Koontz, this, more than the honor of having his name on the sign, is what it is all about.

"The fact that these places are here and enjoyed by residents is what counts," Koontz said. "The program has grown so much and it is very satisfying to see the groundwork laid in place so long ago blossoming and growing. It is still a thrill to see so many children at the park." ■



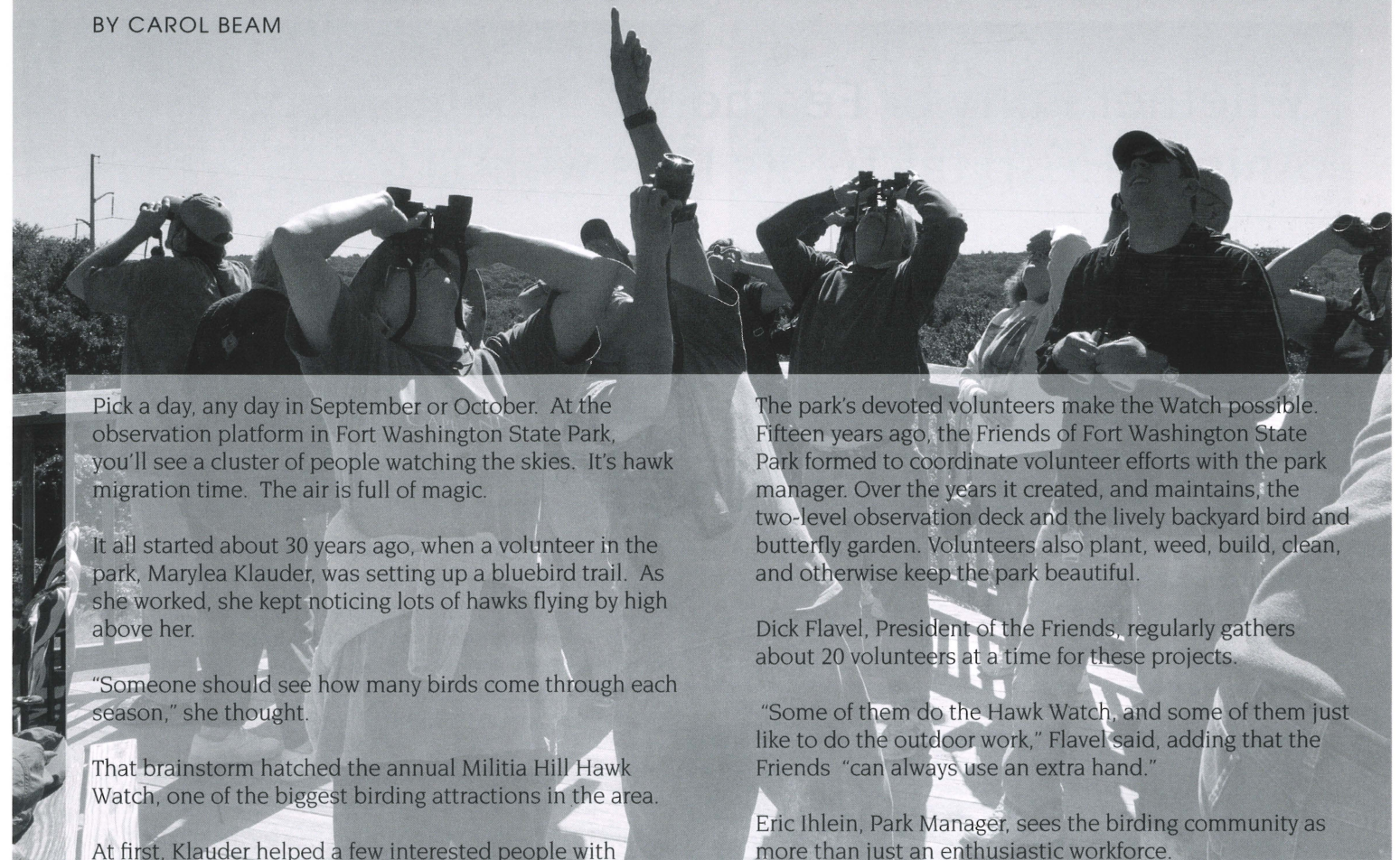
ALL PHOTOS BY KELLY K. BROWN

TOP: Kira Zadrejko, 13, tries out the ADA accessible features of the Widener Memorial Foundation Playground at Koontz Park while in town visiting with her aunt, Joanne Crawford, a member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Teens from the Township summer camp program also test out the play equipment.

BOTTOM: Children from the Parks and Recreation Summer Teen Extreme Camp participate in a day of community service at Koontz Park by painting in a mural on a retaining wall near the playground. The mural was created by Kari Spalding, children's coordinator at the Whitemarsh Art Center. For more information on the Art Center, call 610-825-0917 or visit their website at www.whitemarsharts.org.

Militia Hill Hawk Watch: More Than 20 Years Tracking One of Area's Biggest Sky Shows

BY CAROL BEAM



Pick a day, any day in September or October. At the observation platform in Fort Washington State Park, you'll see a cluster of people watching the skies. It's hawk migration time. The air is full of magic.

It all started about 30 years ago, when a volunteer in the park, Marylea Klauder, was setting up a bluebird trail. As she worked, she kept noticing lots of hawks flying by high above her.

"Someone should see how many birds come through each season," she thought.

That brainstorm hatched the annual Militia Hill Hawk Watch, one of the biggest birding attractions in the area.

At first, Klauder helped a few interested people with binoculars and clipboards to see the natural phenomenon. Now there's a full team managing the Hawk Watch every day, 9 to 5, from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31.

Thousands of visitors – and hundreds of thousands of hawks – have taken part in the show. And after 22 years running the Hawk Watch, Klauder has turned the burgeoning event over to joint coordinators Rich Conroy, Andy Fayer and Jamie Stewart.

The modern Watch is both a captivating event and a research project. From the observation decks, birders of all ages, backgrounds and levels of experience scan the skies, keeping a running count of every raptor that flies through. They send this data to the Hawk Migration Association of North America, helping to monitor the country's shifting bird populations.

The most common type of hawk, the broadwing, travels in massive flocks. On one awesome day in 1995, the Hawk Watch reported a whopping 17,721 broadwings migrating through. The Watch also spots osprey, sharp-shinned hawks, red-tail hawks, northern harriers, and over a dozen other raptors including, once in a while, a bald or golden eagle.

ABOVE: Bird watchers flock to the Fort Washington Hawk Watch stand in September 2009.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE STEWART

The park's devoted volunteers make the Watch possible. Fifteen years ago, the Friends of Fort Washington State Park formed to coordinate volunteer efforts with the park manager. Over the years it created, and maintains, the two-level observation deck and the lively backyard bird and butterfly garden. Volunteers also plant, weed, build, clean, and otherwise keep the park beautiful.

Dick Flavel, President of the Friends, regularly gathers about 20 volunteers at a time for these projects.

"Some of them do the Hawk Watch, and some of them just like to do the outdoor work," Flavel said, adding that the Friends "can always use an extra hand."

Eric Ihlein, Park Manager, sees the birding community as more than just an enthusiastic workforce.

"They act as environmental educators," Ihlein said. "Their wealth of knowledge and friendly attitude is a real asset to the park."

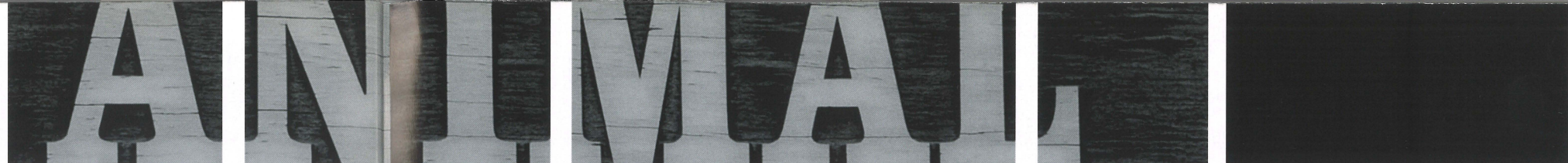
And it's not just about the birds. Hawk Watch members field questions about trees, leaves, caterpillars, and nuts. They're experts on the Park's natural phenomena, and in the event that they don't have an answer, they are likely to run to their cars to get the books that do.

This fall, right in our own backyard, the Hawk Watchers will have their sharp eyes fixed on the sky. You're all invited to stop by, rub shoulders with some avid birders, and appreciate this unforgettable aerial show. ■

IF YOU GO

The Watch runs from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The observation platform is handicapped accessible, and children are welcome. Free parking is available. **Don't forget to bring your binoculars!**

To contribute to the migration research efforts, you can find more information on becoming a volunteer data compiler in the "Hawk Watch" section of the Watch's website: <http://www.wyncoteaudubon.org/>.



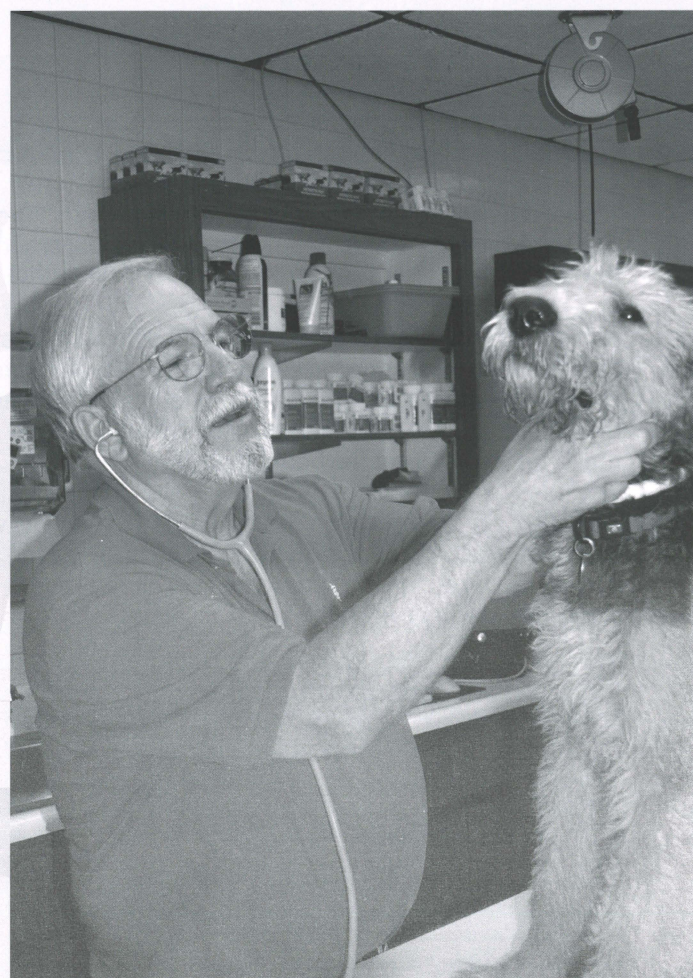
Whether Furry or Feathered, Montgomery Animal Hospital Treats Pets with TLC

BY DEBORAH STANISH

The waiting room at Montgomery Animal Hospital in Flourtown is filled with people, animals and a lot of smiles. Owners and pets alike are greeted like old friends – and that’s exactly how John Schrader, DVM likes it.

“If I can get you to come into my hospital, you’re going to be my client,” says Schrader. “We offer top veterinary care and have a great facility, but more importantly we have a great staff who do an excellent job of looking after people’s needs as well as the pets’.”

Mathew Smiley and his dog Rudy agree.



“We’ve been coming here for 17 years and wouldn’t think of going anywhere else,” says Smiley. “We became clients when our dog was a puppy and, after we had to put him down at 14 years old, we continue to come back with our new dog, Rudy. The staff remembers who you are and you feel like you’re more than just a file.”

This is exactly the sort of practice Schrader hoped to build when he purchased the Montgomery Animal Hospital in 1979 from Ray Weiner, DVM. The facility itself has been a veterinary hospital for 55 years. Weiner rebuilt and modernized the building during his time as owner, and also secured its membership in the American Animal Hospital Association.

“The American Animal Hospital Association comprises the top 10 percent of veterinary hospitals in the United States and Canada,” explains Schrader. “The association has extremely high standards and we are voluntarily inspected to make sure we are maintaining those standards.”

“When the building was remodeled by Dr. Weiner the design was based on his desire to be a member hospital,” continues Schrader. “It’s a lot of work, but we are proud of our membership, of being able to offer that confidence to our clients.”

A graduate of the University of Michigan and Michigan State Veterinarian College, Schrader says the facility and its affiliation are what attracted him to relocate to the Whitemarsh area. Today his daughter Carolyn, 29, is his head technician. Another daughter, Rebecca, lives in New York. His wife of 40 years, Karen, is a registered nurse and the current labor representative for the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

The hospital staff consists of Schrader and his associate Jeff Luetke, DVM. The support staff –receptionists, technicians, kennel workers, and the office manager – varies in number depending on the time of year, but usually hovers around 15.



The hospital’s client base is split roughly 50-50 between dogs and cats, but it also sees rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils and the occasional bird.

Every animal that comes in – whether furry or feathered – gets treated with loving and attentive care. It’s really this sincere, family-run feel that makes Montgomery Animal Hospital a place clients return to again and again. Employees say that it’s a pleasant place to work.

“Because we’re smaller it’s a more personal and intimate experience,” says technician Dana Epps. “We get to know the animals, the kennel kids know who is boarding, and it provides a comforting atmosphere for everyone involved.”

Luetke agrees, saying that taking the time to listen to and get to know the clients creates a connection, and gives them confidence in the care their pet receives.

“We keep our volume manageable so as not to stress out the animals or the employees,” Luetke says. “Not pushing volume makes for a better facility. We attract and keep good people and that, coupled with excellent care, keeps people coming back.”

Longtime client Felicia Greenfield-Blau, of Elkins Park, says the skill and kindness are what have kept her satisfied for 16 years.

“They deal with the animals peacefully and with a level of expertise that is comforting,” she says.

Montgomery Animal Hospital

827 Bethlehem Pike in Flourtown

Phone: (215) 233-3958

Email: mahflourtown@gmail.com

www.montgomeryah.com

Monday & Tuesday: 8 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday to Friday: 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LEFT: John Schrader, DVM, examines Abigail, an Airedale Terrier, at the Montgomery Animal Hospital in Flourtown.

ABOVE LEFT: Killian Lenahan, a kennel worker at Montgomery Animal Hospital comforts Princess in the cat boarding area.

ABOVE RIGHT: People and their pets in the waiting area at Montgomery Animal Hospital.

PHOTOS BY KELLY K. BROWN



Two Brothers Blend Food, Sports, and Music at Hit Hangout MaGerk's

BY DOUG HERRSCHAFT



Something old, something new, something borrowed, something... Well, there's nothing blue, but you get the idea. At MaGerk's, the new sports bar and late night hangout in Fort Washington, owners John and Paul Dolaway blend different traditions, both culinary and aesthetic, to come up with a unique dining and entertainment experience.

The brothers got their start in Baltimore several years ago, when they bought adjacent hole-in-the-wall bars in the Federal Hill section, near the Inner Harbor. They tore out the wall between the two properties, and created their first MaGerk's.

The first challenge for John, was breaking the news that he had bought a bar to his wife. He managed to find a way to soften the blow, though.

"To ease the shock, I told her I bought a bar, but I named it after the kids. She was shocked, but then she said that was nice," recalled John.

By rearranging the letters of his three daughters' first and middle names, John came up with the oddly spelled MaGerk's. The delightful alchemy that inspired the joining of the two bars and the choice of a name for the pub also influenced the Dolaways' menu decisions. Bringing real Philly cheesesteaks to Baltimore is a prime example of their mix-and-match ingenuity. The brothers even imported rolls from the Conshohocken Bakery to make the sandwiches that much more authentic.

Looking to establish themselves in the Philadelphia area, John and Paul discovered that the old Bent Elbo was up for sale. They jumped at the opportunity.

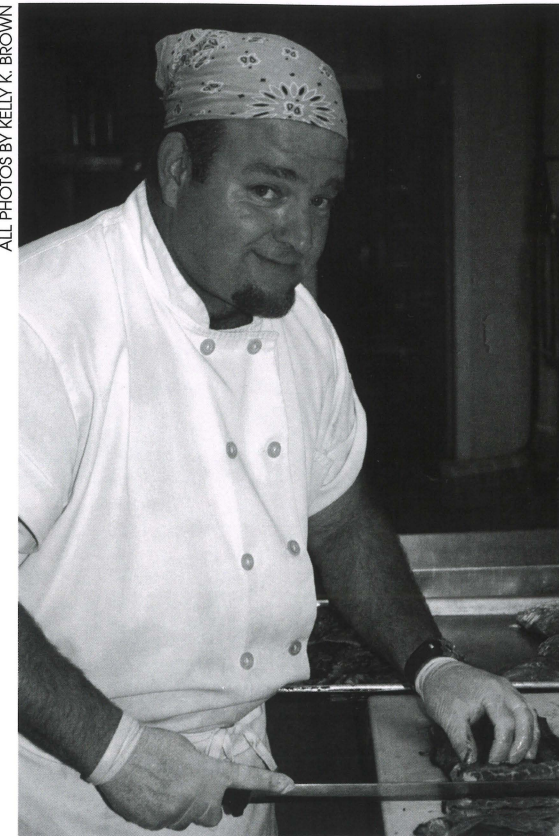
"When I went to the Bent Elbo five or six years ago with a friend, I thought, 'Wow, wouldn't this be great with the wall knocked out and a big circular bar in the middle,'" John said. "When the store went up for sale, I just had to have it. I knew the area needed good food and a place to bring children, as well as a place later at night for kids to come in and listen to music. Then on Sundays, football."

The Dolaways and their managing partner, Erin Tate, renovated the old building, knocking out walls as per their custom. They put in a much bigger central bar, but took care to preserve the building's charm and history. Much of the old wood finish remains, as does the stained glass from the late 19th century, when the Bent Elbo was a fashionable resort and eatery as well as the site of the Whitemarsh post office.

MaGerk's boasts 16 draft beers, including a nice selection of craft and local brews. Its two main bars are surrounded by 30 television sets, which are perpetually tuned to sports channels. There's even a colossal big screen where they show the local games.

"We're very sports-oriented," said Erin. "We keep up with the major sports packages. In the fall, we have all the football games on. The Eagles are on the big screen, naturally."

ALL PHOTOS BY KELLY K. BROWN



The kitchen is managed by head chef Sam Walters. A graduate of the Philadelphia Restaurant School, Sam completed a cooking internship in France in 1994, at one point making crepes from a cart on the streets of Paris.

"At the age of 6, I told my dad I wanted to be a chef," said Sam. "I've always been around food. My uncle owned a restaurant in Kimberton, and I helped him out whenever I could."

The eclectic menu features favorites like the colossal crab cake and the crab pretzel, a combination of a Philadelphia style soft pretzel smothered in crab dip and cheese. You can also munch on Tempura pickles, Ahi tuna

With football season in full swing, thoughts turn to gathering with friends to cheer on the local heroes. Of course, such a gathering isn't complete unless one is chowing down on classic gridiron food. One of the best, and an all-time favorite, is the chicken wing, dripping with savory, lip-smacking sauce, and served with a side of tongue-cooling celery and blue cheese dressing.

- 1/4 cup of BBQ sauce
- 1 cup hot sauce
- 1/8 cup white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 oz. butter
- 1 teaspoon of cracked black pepper
- 1 teaspoon of paprika



This recipe will cover at least two dozen wings, depending on how much sauce you like on them. Just melt the butter and blend it with the rest of the ingredients in a bowl big enough to toss the wings in when they come out of the fryer. The wings can also be baked for 20 minutes or so in a 400-degree oven if you'd rather make the dietetic version.

tenders that come seared or tempura, and cheesesteak egg rolls. Those looking for typical pub fare can find that too. Hamburgers, onion rings, and chicken wings, served in varying degrees of spiciness with barbecue, jerk, Old Bay, or piquant barbecue sauce. The menu also features an array of sandwiches, wraps, and melts to entice the hungry. MaGerk's has food specials every night of the week, and \$2 draft beers for all brews on Tuesdays.

Live entertainment is a key ingredient at MaGerk's.

Featured acts include the Amish Outlaws, Bonehead, and longtime area favorite Love Seat Momma Jump.

"We looked for local bands with a local following," said Erin. "Many of them have been playing here for years and we're happy to have them back."

The joy of creatively blending styles and experiences is the soul of MaGerk's, a place that truly offers something for everybody, from families and foodies, sports nuts and music lovers. ■

MaGerk's

582 S. Bethlehem Pike
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Open 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily

For more information call
(215) 948-3329

<http://www.magerks.com/fort-washington>

MIDDLE: Head Chef Sam Walters slices marinated London broil for "The Godfather" sandwich.

TOP BAR MIDDLE: The Dolaway brothers' spin on the Philly cheese steak
TOP BAR RIGHT: The delectable Philadelphia-style soft pretzel with crab dip and cheese.

Scout Leader Bill McMenamin

BY CAROL BEAM

For this father of four, who enjoys wearing a Mr. Incredible T-shirt, volunteering for the Girl Scouts, the Cub Scouts and St. Phillip's is all about making the family and the community stronger. His motto: "You get as much out of it as you put into it."

Q. Were you a Scout when you grew up?

A. No. I grew up in Northeast Philly, where I played ball in the alley. But there were two guys I knew who were in the Boy Scouts and became Eagle Scouts. I liked their sense of accomplishment. Those guys are now my brothers-in-law.

Q. How did you get started with the Scouts?

A. When our two girls were in Girl Scouts they wanted to sell cookies but there was no one to coordinate the program. I wanted them to have the opportunity, so I stepped in and ended up coordinating the cookie sale. For several years our living room was full of cookies. Then the boys joined the Cub Scouts. I became Membership Coordinator for Pack 107 and then Assistant Cub Master. I'm "crossing over" with them as my boys move up into the Boy Scouts, so I'm Assistant Scout Master for Troop 12.

Q. What's your favorite Girl Scout cookie?

A. That would have to be Thin Mints. It's the mint that does it, not the chocolate. I love anything with mint in it.

Q. What is it about Scouting that makes you devote so much time to it?

A. The pack meetings are always fun, plus there's always an element of learning. Kids get a sense of community from the projects, whether it's a cleanup of Victory field or a drive to collect and distribute canned goods. It all really does build character.

Q. Who is Mr. Incredible?

A. I put on my Mr. Incredible T-shirt to run the family bingo night at St. Philip's. The kids have lots of fun.

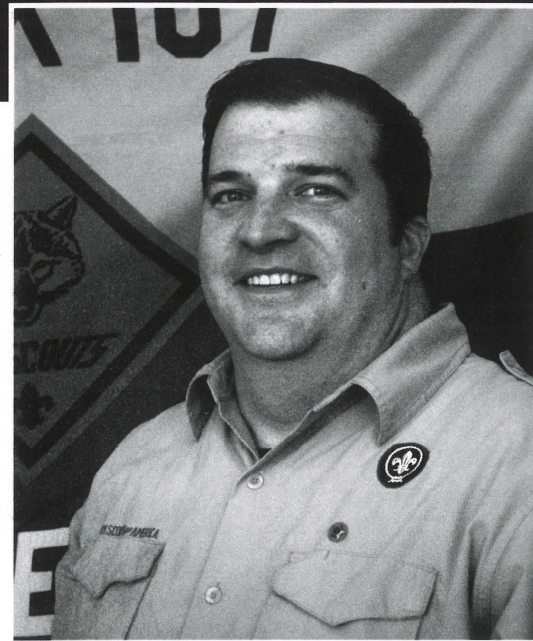


PHOTO BY KELLY K. BROWN

There's no cash prize, and it's not a fund-raiser, it's just a great chance to bring the school and the parish together. But as a fund-raiser, my wife Jennifer and I have run an annual trivia night for about seven years. I emcee it, get the questions together, and we have a beef-and-beer dinner. This year we raised about \$10,000 for technology and the library.

Q. Can you describe a great moment in your volunteering?

A. I chair the Pastoral Council for St. Philip's. We provide feedback on parish activities and serve as a sounding board for Msgr. Vance. We ran a drive for gently used items and had a truck to hold them. When we were done it was stuffed – to the brim. That was great to see, and a great time to share with my kids.

Q. How do you relax?

A. I'm not good at sitting still. Even when we go to the beach we have an agenda. Whatever it is, we tend to do things together as a family.

Q. Do you ever slow down?

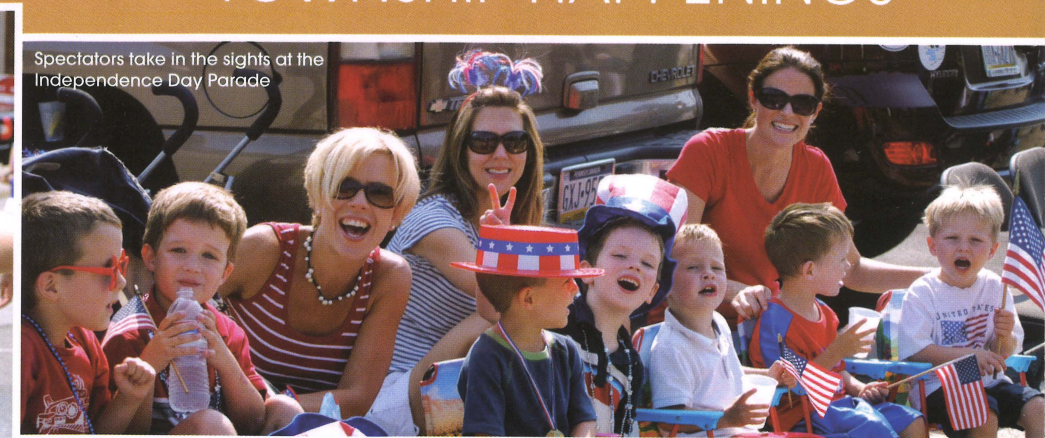
A. Well, we've got full plates. But with a job in Jersey City I can sometimes read on the train. I like books by Harlan Coben. I like to listen to all kinds of pop and rock music when I'm at home: Michael Buble, Chicago, Rascal Flatts.

Q. What is your most important reason for doing all that you do?

A. It's all about being part of our kids' lives. ■



Parade participants



Spectators take in the sights at the Independence Day Parade



Parade participants show off their colors



The Board of Supervisors float with Rep. Mike Gerber



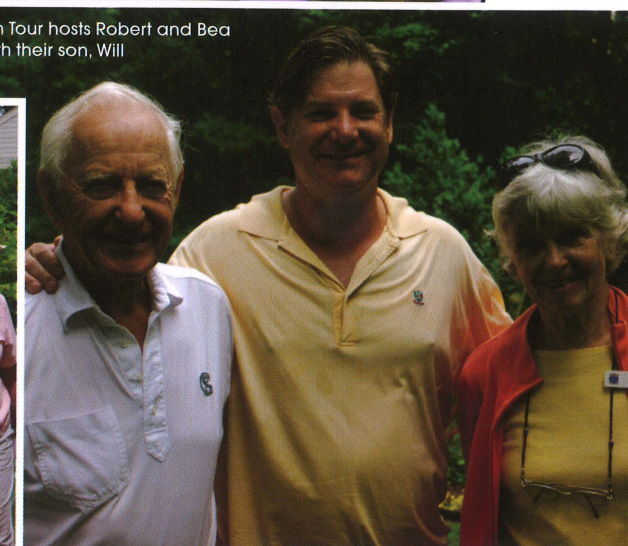
Kushner garden



2010 Garden Contest judges



Garden Tour participants admire the scenery



Garden Tour hosts Robert and Bea Bast with their son, Will



Garden Tour participants

A COLORFUL SUMMER

Whitemarsh residents painted the town red, white and blue at the Township's annual 4th of July Parade - a hit for young and old alike. The summer then turned green with the Township's annual garden tour and garden contest. This year's contest had 16 entries in a range of categories. For winners, check the Township's website at www.whitemarshwp.org

ALL PHOTOS BY KELLY K. BROWN



CHECK OUT WTV FOR ALL YOUR WHITEMARSH NEWS

HERE'S A PARTIAL LIST OF FALL PROGRAMS

Live Board of Supervisors Meetings at 7 p.m. on select Thursdays

Rebroadcast Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. after the meeting date until the next live meeting.

Stormwater Update:

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Monthly Series with Board of Supervisors Chair Bob Hart and Township Engineer Jim Sullivan delivering on-site progress reports on the Township's numerous stormwater projects.

Town Hall Flood Insurance Meeting

Supervisor Sara Erlbaum and Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator Cal Bonenberger host a town meeting about flooding.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Trees

With Township Arborist Dennis Metz. If you have any possible questions about planting or caring for your trees, Denny has the answers.

Whitemarsh Garden Tour

Whitemarsh gardeners show off their unique and exquisite backyard greenery. If you were "rained out" this year catch this event on WTV.

Cop Camp 2010

A group of young campers learn what it's like to be in the shoes of a policeman. This camp covers all aspects of "very cool" police training and is a whole lot of fun.

Water Rescue Training

Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator Cal Bonenberger take residents on a water rescue drill on the Wissahickon Creek in Ft. Washington State Park.

Whitemarsh History's Mysteries

A program focusing on Whitemarsh history and landmarks hosted by noted author and Chestnut Hill College History Professor David Contosta.

For more programming information visit the Township's website at www.whitemarshntp.org.
Catch WTV programming on Comcast channel 965 or Verizon channel 46
from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. every day of the week!