



SPORTS
Hawks knock off Liberty
See A9



INSIDE
Poverty in the Valley
See A3

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This is the second in a three-part series on sex trafficking in the Lehigh Valley. In this issue we will look at the behavioral, societal and technological factors that promote and sustain the sex trade.



DID YOU KNOW

- 12% - 18% of all websites are pornographic.
- 30% of all data transferred across the internet is pornography.
- 25% (1 of 4) of all search engine requests are pornography related.
- Last year, porn sites got more visitors per month than Netflix, Amazon, and Twitter combined.
- 47% of families say pornography is a problem in their home.
- 8 - 11 years old is the average age of a child's first exposure to pornography.
- 90% of high school males will view pornography before they turn 18.
- 64% of Christian men/15% of Christian women say they watch pornography at least once a month.

PEOPLE SAY

BY DANA GRUBB

This week the Mayor of Bethlehem proposed making it illegal to use your front lawn for parking your car. What do you think of that?



"It's okay."
Victor Clark
Hawker, South Australia

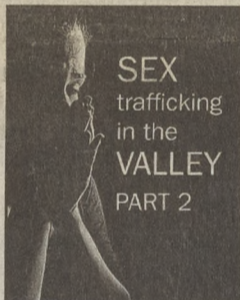
Todd Clark
Church, Curious Living, Faith, Social Media

Sex Trafficking in the Valley

Fueled by pornography; promoted on the Internet



"It could be unsightly."
Linda Lewis
Lewistown



BY CAROLE GORNEY
Special to the Bethlehem Press

We'll call her "Tiffany." She was from Philadelphia and she was angry with her dad, and just as many teenagers might do, she complained about him to her "friends" on Facebook. Someone named "Gracie" responded, saying that the same thing had happened to her. The two began conversing online. Soon Gracie suggested that Tiffany might like to meet another friend - a man - which she did, only to find herself being trafficked in New Jersey. Tiffany managed to escape from bondage to tell her story, but many others aren't so fortunate. Her story is true and all too common. Vulnerable teens, homeless women or addicts lured into prostitution by traffickers promising love or security or needed drugs. "Sex traffickers are master manipulators," according to William Walker, who oversees the work of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigative

70% OF WOMEN KEEP THEIR CYBER ACTIVITIES SECRET.

17% OF ALL WOMEN STRUGGLE WITH PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION.

13% OF WOMEN ADMIT TO ACCESSING PORNOGRAPHY AT WORK

20% MEN ADMITTING TO ACCESSING PORNOGRAPHY AT WORK

10% OF ADULTS ADMIT TO INTERNET SEXUAL ADDICTION

WOMEN

BREAKDOWN OF MALE/FEMALE VISITORS TO PORNOGRAPHY SITES: **72%/28%** MALE/FEMALE

WOMEN FAVOR CHAT ROOMS 2X MORE THAN MEN.

1 IN 3 VISITORS TO ALL ADULT WEB SITES ARE WOMEN

9.4 MILLION WOMEN ACCESS ADULT WEB SITES EACH MONTH.

53% PROMISE KEEPER MEN WHO VIEWED PORNOGRAPHY IN LAST WEEK

420 MILLION PORNOGRAPHIC PAGES

\$89/SECOND IS SPENT ON PORN

MEN

CHRISTIANS WHO SAID PORNOGRAPHY IS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE HOME - 47%

4.2 MILLION (12% OF TOTAL WEBSITES) PORNOGRAPHIC WEBSITES

68 MILLION (25% OF TOTAL REQUESTS) DAILY PORNOGRAPHIC SEARCH ENGINE REQUESTS

2.5 BILLION (8% OF TOTAL EMAILS) DAILY PORNOGRAPHIC E-MAILS

INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY SALES **\$4.9 BILLION**

43% OF INTERNET USERS VIEW PORN

40 MILLION U.S. ADULTS REGULARLY VISIT PORNOGRAPHIC WEBSITES

Get some accountability - www.x3watch.com A FRIENDLY MESSAGE FROM XXXCHURCH.COM

agency for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Philadelphia. He has been working with local law enforcement and social agencies in the Lehigh Valley to identify and convict traffickers and to provide help for the victims.

"Victims are living, breathing people with real world needs," Walker says. "It is important to focus on the vulnerability of the victims." Those vulnerabilities, he adds, are based on "a need for something - food, shelter, narcotics, love. Women most often believe their trafficker is a boyfriend or going to be their husband." That is why, Walker says, they often are not willing to disclose their victimization.

Kidnapping can be involved, but psychologist Heather Evans says it more likely involves deception and coercion in the context of a relationship with the trafficker - "posing as a boyfriend or father figure, showing attention and affection, promising to take care of them, or a promise of a job."

Online trafficking
There's another aspect of the Tiffany story beyond her psychological vulnerability. That has to do with the role the Internet is playing in providing victims and attracting customers for

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PEOPLE SAY
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BETHLEHEM PRESS

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PEOPLE SAY
BY DANA GRUBB

This week the Mayor of Bethlehem proposed making it illegal to use your front lawn for parking your car. What do you think of that?



"As long as you're not trashing your property I think they're infringing on everybody's rights, especially given the way they ticket you here in Bethlehem."
Frank Shovelin
South Whitehall



"You have to be flexible. It may not be aesthetically pleasing, but it is more practical."
Laura Richardson
Allentown



"I think that's stupid. It's your property."
Colleen Doerr
Milford



"Absolutely not."
Diane VanAntwerp
Los Angeles

CORRECTIONS

Last week we reported that the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) was granted a "Certificate of Appropriateness" for proposed signage for the properties at 531 and 544 Main Street by the Bethlehem Historic Conservation Commission Sept. 7. In fact it was the Historic Architectural Review Board granting the request. We apologize for our error.
In our story about the Spiritual Healing Center, we gave the wrong address. The correct address is 1019 West Broad St. and we misspelled Reiki. We apologize for our errors.

PLEASE NOTE

Obituaries in the Bethlehem Press run free of charge but are subject to Bethlehem Press guidelines.

Send us your event photos

- We invite you to send us photos from your event. Here's what we need:
1. High resolution jpeg image files
 2. Well-lit and in focus photos
 3. A general caption answering the who, what, when, where, why and/or results of your event.
 4. A specific caption for each photo identifying those in the photo and what they are doing if it isn't obvious (3 and 4 may be combined if you send one image).

Send copy and images as email attachments to: gtaylor@tnonline.com.

PREGNANT?

You have options

Care Net Lehigh Valley Pregnancy Support Centers

Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton
610-821-4000
1-800-395-HELP



VALLEY

Continued from page A1

the sex trade. Traffickers often prey on victims like Tiffany online.

Working as a licensed psychologist with the Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST) group, Linda Brownback explains.

"I have nine grandchildren and I began because I had this idea that I wanted to keep them from being abducted. Now I'm aware that there is more danger on their cell phones than on the street.

"Now they have apps that students can use to hide their online conversations. Parents have no idea how dangerous the Web is," she says.

Clients are also solicited online.

"Cell phones and the website make it easy," according to Sgt. Rick Blake of the Bethlehem Township police. Traffickers post photos of the girls for sale openly online under "adult escorts." On the day of his interview for this article there had been 30 local ads posted on just one site since 8:30 that morning.

According to a 2012 Department of Justice report on prostitution and sex trafficking, there are dedicated websites that cater to customers of the sex trade, including posting tips on how to avoid arrest, and sharing information about police decoy operations.

Porn's role

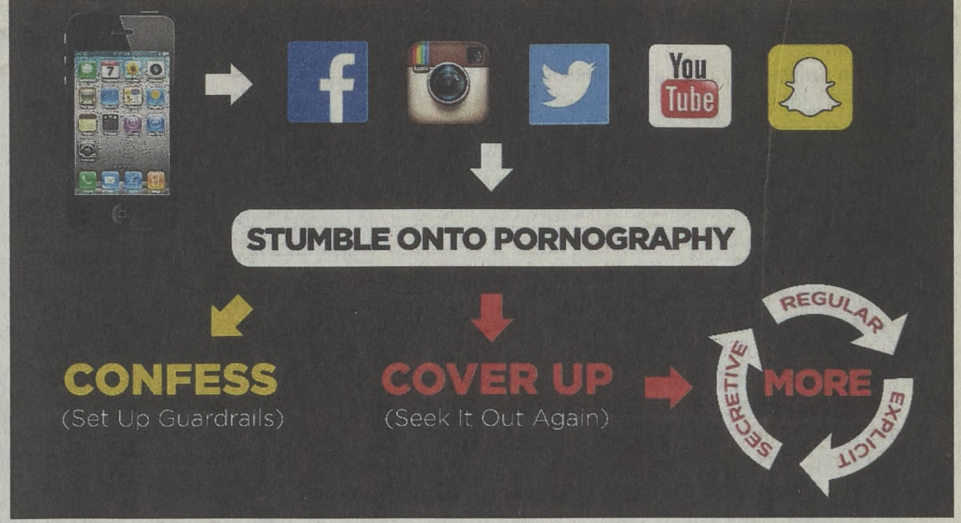
The Internet has an even more insidious connection to sex trafficking.

"Pornography is fuel for the sex trafficking industry," according to VAST co-founder, Heather Evans. That includes websites exploiting child pornography in images and videos. Many women and children who are being sexually exploited and trafficked are also being used for the production of pornography, sometimes without their knowledge or consent.

In 2013, two Lehigh Valley men were prosecuted for possessing and disseminating child pornography. The 20-year-old Whitehall man had 73 child porn movies, including a video of a 1-year-old girl being raped. The 24-year-old Allentown man's hard drive included a video of the rape of a 2-year-old boy.

"Pornography is the primary gateway to the purchase of humans for commercial sex," according to Shared Hope International, an organization dedicated to bringing an end to sex trafficking. Quoted in a blog on the CovenantEyes website, Harvard University Professor Catherine Mackinnon concurs:

"Consuming pornography is an experience of 'bought sex' and thus it creates a hunger to continue to purchase and objectify, and act out what is seen. And in a very literal way, pornography is advertising for trafficking, not just in general but also in the sense that traffickers and pimps use pornographic images of



If people have a smartphone or access to any other digital device, they have stumbled onto and been exposed to explicit content. If there has not been a conversation and some level of confession then they have secretly moved in the other direction and are likely currently covering up their exposure to this content. They might not be "seeking" it out yet, but they will repeatedly stumble onto it again and again as long as they are online.
Source: Todd Clark in Church, Curious Living, Faith, Social Media

"Research shows that 90 percent of prostitutes were sexually abused as children. Their mindset is already affected by how they were treated. They think this is how people are treated, so it's OK."

Linda Brownback
Valley Against Sex Trafficking



victims as specific advertising for their 'products.'"

The added problem, Brownback says, is that "pornography is highly addictive. It affects the prefrontal cortex - the decision-making part of the brain. The more you watch, the more loss of self-control there is. It transforms the brain." She adds that it is difficult to reverse the effects, because unlike a drug that eventually leaves the body, images stay in the brain, and it takes a lot of discipline not to access those images.

Media and attitudes

During their interviews, both Brownback and Evans broadened the discussion on contributors to sex trafficking to what they called the sexualized media, and to issues of public attitudes toward prostitution and the objectification of women.

Evans says the public doesn't want to know sex trafficking is happening. It wants to believe that prostitution is a "victimless" crime. In other words, the rationale: "Who am I to speak up - it's someone else's right to choose."

By definition, sex trafficking involves some form of coercion or force. While Brownback acknowledges that there are some women who will become prostitutes because they think they can make a lot of money, she still challenges the idea that those women are really acting out of free choice.

"Research shows that 90 percent of prostitutes were sexually abused as children. Their mindset is already affected by how they were treated. They think this is how people are treated, so it's OK."

She asks, "When your daughter is six years old and blows out the candles on her cake, would you

be OK if her wish were to grow up to be a prostitute? No one would agree, but we mentally suspend good judgment and believe that the victim wants to do this."

For those who support the idea of legalizing prostitution, Brownback argues that doing so would say it is all right to buy and sell people.

"It is not OK for me to purchase a person even if she wants to sell, which I question."

The Department of Justice report supports her position: "Numerous studies show that most women engaged in prostitution want to exit 'the life,' but the emotional and physical harm resulting from commercial sex, compounding pre-existing vulnerabilities, can make leaving difficult."

"No one really enjoys getting sold. It's like you sign a contract to be raped," a woman in a legal Nevada brothel told Dr. Melissa Farley during the author's two-year research on her book "Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections."

Farley studied Nevada's legal and illegal prostitution sectors and concluded that there wasn't much difference between the two.

Social keyholes

Another part of the discussion on sex trafficking involves what was referred to by one source as "the gradual dumbing down of our tolerance for conditions like trafficking and the objectification of women." The finger is often pointed at media, specifically television and movies. Media messages normalize or even romanticize prostitution, such as was done in the movie "Pretty Woman," or through advertising that presents children as grown-up sexual objects.

On the flip side, according to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, "Women are being presented as childlike - the effect being to cultivate a female sexuality associated with childlikeness, i.e., passivity, dependence, and vulnerability."

A course on "How to Watch TV," taught for a few years at Lehigh University, explored the role of MTV and music videos in objectifying women. Many of the music videos shown in the class were of women groveling at the feet of their men, begging to be taken back by their male lovers, being dragged across the floor, and showing despair at being alone. Costumes and camera angles focused on body parts that were presented as being interchangeable. Individuals ceased to exist.

The American Psychological Assn. published a task force report on the sexualization of girls in America. The report found that American culture is so widely transforming females into sexual objects that it has become increasingly difficult for females to see themselves as valuable outside of being sexual.

"The media subtly but powerfully impact our value and belief systems," Evans says. "While seeking to sell us products, it is telling us what is valuable, what is not good enough and what we need to do, who we need to be, and how we need to look and act to have power, attention, success and belonging in this world. It gives solutions to what we naturally crave and need."

Trafficking survivor Holly Anne Smith, in her book "Walking Prey," wrote "...negative messages in the media might sound trivial to an adult but to a 12-year-old girl, movies and other media are not only entertainment, they are keyholes to society. And these keyholes have multiplied with cell phones, video games, and the internet. Without supervision and interpretation, media messages can be channeled unfiltered into a teen's value system. My TV told me secrets about the world and about my place within the world."

BETHLEHEM HEALTH BUREAU
2016-17 INFLUENZA CLINIC SCHEDULE

We accept many insurance plans. Please bring your insurance cards to determine eligibility. \$30 (cash or check only) for those insurances not accepted.

SITE	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Northeast Ministry	Thursday	9/29/16	9-11am	1161 Fritz Dr.
City Hall	Tuesday	10/11/16	5-7pm	10 E. Church St.
YMCA	Monday	10/17/16	5-7 pm	430 E. Broad St.
Lutheran Manor	Thursday	10/27/16	9-11am	2085 Westgate Dr.
Moravian House	Thursday	11/3/16	9-11am	720 Old York Rd.

Did you know there are now 2 pneumonia vaccines recommended for those 65 years and older? These vaccines will be available at these clinics, please ask for more information.

The flu consent forms & vaccine information statements are available on our website at www.bethlehem-pa.gov/health

For questions call 610-865-7083



Pastor's Comments

In large print at: www.NAOG.ws/pc
Northampton Assembly of God
3449 Cherryville Rd., Northampton • Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm
Daniel E. Lundmark, Pastor • 610-262-5645 • pastor@NAOG.ws

Rites and Rituals

Every religion in the world has rites and rituals, from the idol worshiper in the third world to modern Western faiths. The question is: Do they profit us in knowing God and truly worshipping Him? Many trust in them for their eternal hope. How many will reply when asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Oh yes! I was baptized, confirmed, passed my catechism," and go on and on naming rites they have followed. Jesus told the woman at Jacob's well in John 4, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23).

We must know God in our spirit (heart) and worship Him in the light of His revealed truth, the Bible! True faith in God is a matter of your heart being right with Him, not in the following of some prescribed procedure. Isaiah warned his generation, "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:" (Isaiah 29:13).

Rites, ceremonies, and rituals benefit us nothing regarding a right relationship with God. You must experience His mercy and grace in your own heart and life! "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10).

Confess that you are a sinner, repent wholeheartedly, believe in Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation and you will be saved! Then, in obedience, be baptized and commemorate His death in partaking of the communion bread and cup. But remember, that can NEVER save you!

-Submitted by Carl Edwards

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A full calendar appears on the Bethlehem Press website, but due to space constraints, for ongoing events, please email, visit or call the following:

Salvation Army: every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call 610-867-4681 for schedule.

Cops 'n' Kids Reading Room: 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Wednesdays. Call 610-861-5526 or email lvocops-n-kids@att.net. Must be accompanied by an adult. Northampton Community College, Fowler Family Southside Center, Room 403. Visit www.copsnkidslv.org.

Bethlehem Area Public Library: daily. Call 610-867-3761 (main) or 610-867-7852 (south side) or visit www.bapl.org or www.bapl.org/southside/ssprograms.htm.

Moravian Book Shop: 428 Main St. Call 610-866-5481 or visit www.moravianbookshop.com.

Bethlehem Farmers' Market: 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 27. Farrington Square at New and Morton streets.

Saucon Valley Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday, Water Street park, Hellertown.

Thursday, September 29

Quilt and Quip with Sandra Engle: 2 to 4 p.m. 428 Main St. Call 610-866-5481 or visit www.moravianbookshop.com.

Friday, September 30

Octoberfest, 5 to 11 p.m. SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way. **Brewers' Village:** 7 to 9 p.m.; **Oktoberfest Arena:** 7:30 to 9 p.m.; **Yuengling Town Square Biergarten:** 6 to 11 p.m.; **strolling musicians:** 6 to 10 p.m. Visit <http://www.steelstacks.org>.

Saturday, October 1

Spartan Sprint, Northampton Community College's 5K Run/Walk and a health festival with demos, yoga, an obstacle course, a pet walk, speakers, healthy food and more. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 3835 Green Pond Road.

Bethlehem Longboard Jam, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (rain or shine). Second stop of the Faceplant Freestyle Cup. Win prizes and cash. Downhill skatepark, boardercross race, freestyle/slide jam. 1538 High St. Visit www.faceplantboardriders.com for information.

Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites, Kids' Club: Draw, explore and paint in the museum. Drop-in hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, 427 N. New St. Cost, information: visit www.historicbethlehem.org or call 610-882-0450 or 1-800-360-TOUR.

Octoberfest, noon to 11 p.m. SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way. **Brewers' Village:** 1 to 9 p.m.; **Oktoberfest Arena:** 12:30 to 9 p.m.; **Yuengling Town Square Biergarten:** 2 to 11 p.m.; **strolling musicians:** noon to 10 p.m. Visit <http://www.steelstacks.org>.

Sunday, October 2

Octoberfest, noon to 11 p.m. SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way. **Brewers' Village:** 1 to 9 p.m.; **Oktoberfest Arena:** dachshund race, 3 p.m.; **Yuengling Oktoberfest 5K Run/Walk:** 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; **Yuengling Town Square Biergarten:** noon to 8 p.m.; **strolling musicians:** noon to 5:30 p.m. Visit <http://www.steelstacks.org>.

Tuesday, October 4

Civil War Roundtable, Eastern Pennsylvania, Lehigh Brigade: Sutler's Call 6 p.m., dinner (cost, reservations required by Sept. 29), 6:30 p.m. followed by program: The Battle at Falling Waters, the end of the Gettysburg Campaign, by George Franks (cost, no reservations required), 7:30 p.m. The Center at Holiday Inn Lehigh Valley, 7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, 18031. Call 610-253-4549, 610-882-9228 or 215-234-4884 or visit www.cwrteasternpa.org.

Wednesday, October 5

Free homework help in all subjects by Moravian College America Reads program tutors, grades K to 12. 4:30 to 6 p.m. No registration required. Youth Services department, main library, 11 W. Church St. Call 610-867-3761, ext.499 or visit www.bapl.org.

Spanish conversation, beginning basics: 5 to 6 p.m. Sept. 15 through Nov. 3; Bethlehem Area Public Library, Southside Branch, 400 Webster St. Call 610-867-7852 or visit www.bapl.org/southside/sskidsprograms.htm.

The Bethlehem Press calendar listings are, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of printing. We are not responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information submitted by external parties.

MEETING BOARD

Wednesday, September 28

Bethlehem Parking Authority, 4:30 p.m., 85 W. North St.

Bethlehem Zoning Hearing Board, as needed, 6 p.m. city hall, 10 E. Church St.

Bethlehem Township Zoning Board, 6:30 p.m. Municipal building, 4225 Easton Ave.

Lehigh Co. Commissioners, 7:30 p.m. Public hearing room, Gov't. Center, 17 S. Seventh St., Allentown.

Monday, October 3

Bethlehem Twp. Commissioners, 7 p.m. Municipal building, 4225 Easton Ave.

Fountain Hill Council, 7 p.m. 941 Long St.

Hanover Twp. Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m. 3630 Jack-sonville Road.

Hellertown Council, 7 p.m. 685 Main St.

See **BOARD** on Page A4

Poverty: A public conversation

'Until we can restore hope, the cycle will continue'

BY CAROLE GORNEY
Special to the Bethlehem Press

It started with a question about why poverty has been a forgotten issue in politics, and ended with a determination that the public needs to become educators on the issue, make government officials accountable, and keep the discussion going.

"It" was a public conversation on the voiceless in America, and more specifically the poor in the Lehigh Valley, hosted by the Bethlehem Area Public Library and sponsored by Friends of the Library. The program was held to discuss pertinent issues in advance of the Sept. 30 appearance of broadcaster, author, and social change agent Tavis Smiley at Lehigh University's Zoellner Arts Center.

Smiley, who hosts the late-night "Tavis Smiley Show" on PBS, will speak on "Accountable: Making America as Good as Its Promise."

Moderator Tyrone Russell, coordinator of racial and ethnic justice with the Community Action Agency of the Lehigh Valley, got the discussion going with the four-member panel and the audience by stating that "poverty isn't part of a national dialogue as it should be," then asking why that was the case.

Panelist Esther Lee, president of the Bethlehem Chapter of the NAACP, commented that she was born during the Great Depression, and it was different then.

"Everyone was poor," she said. "We forget so easily because we just want to move forward." She said after the depression "the world didn't get better. It seems to have gone downhill," adding that "caring today seems so removed from our society."

Bethlehem City Councilwoman Olga Negron said dealing with poverty "comes down to politics and wanting to be re-elected."

The conversation then turned to philanthropy and the emergence of nonprofits.

"How do they help?" Russell asked the panel. Lee responded that nonprofits "only provide jobs for those who already can get them." Earlier she criticized philanthropy. "It is so easy for rich people to



PRESS PHOTOS BY CAROLE GORNEY

Audience members contribute to the discussion on poverty at the Bethlehem Public Library. The consensus was that more meetings and discussions are needed, but more has to be done to include the victims of poverty in the conversations and to listen to what they had to say.



Audience member Susan McNamara, a retired Bethlehem resident, spoke up during the meeting, saying people deny the problem because they don't want to experience others' pain.



Bethlehem Councilwoman Olga Dipini-Negron also serves on the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley. Speaking about the assistance she received when she was a struggling single mother, she told the audience at the conversation on poverty, "I'll never have enough time to pay



Diane Elliott of New Bethany Ministries in South Bethlehem and **Brett Feldman**, a physician assistant who has practiced homeless medicine for the past nine years, offer the perspective from the victims of poverty as members of the panel of speakers.

write a check rather than grabbing a child warmly and moving them along."

"I don't think philanthropy is all bad," panelist Brett Feldman responded. A certified physician assistant and program director of the Lehigh Valley Health Network's Street Medicine Program, Feldman said philanthropy is

best done when mixed with hands-on experience working on a problem so it is understood.

"Sometimes that first donation leads to hands on," he said.

Negron added, "politics are killing our grants. Without the deep pockets, it would be impossible. We couldn't go

See **POVERTY** on Page A4



The conversation on poverty was moderated by Tyrone Russell, an award-winning higher education professional who works to develop high school leadership conferences.

Say you saw it in the Bethlehem Press

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AREA DEATHS

Anthony J. Getsko

biology teacher

Anthony J. Getsko, 77, of Bethlehem, died Sept. 13, 2016 in Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg. Born in Shenandoah, he was a son of the late Anton and Zuzi (Zongora) Getsko. He was the husband of Madeline S. (DeNofa) Getsko for 51 years.

He was in the U. S. Army. He earned both bachelor's and a master's degrees from Kutztown University.

He was a biology teacher for 34 years at Phillipsburg HS until he retired in 1999.

He was a member of Our Lord's Ascension Polish National Catholic Church, Bethlehem.

He grew roses and orchids, and was a member of the former Lehigh Valley Rose Society.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Anthony D.; two daughters, Kristen S. and her husband Peter Roumeliotis and Kara L. and her husband Brad Josar, all of Bethlehem; a niece, Brenda Sennecca; a nephew, Bill Kerchner; and four grandchildren, Ava, Brianna, Luke and Jacob.

He was predeceased by a sister, Caroline Kerchner.

Contributions may be made to the church, 2105 Jennings St., Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Arrangements were made by James Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

Robert M. Steidinger

city firefighter, BASD bus driver

Robert M. Steidinger, 77, of Bethlehem, died Sept. 13, 2016. Born in Fountain Hill, he was a son of the late Robert and Dorothy (Uttard) Steidinger. He was the husband of Barbara (Schultz) Steidinger for 55 years.

He was a 1958 Liberty HS graduate.

He entered the Marine Corps and transferred to the Army, and served during the Vietnam War.

He was a firefighter with the City of Bethlehem for 38 years, and was a school bus driver for the Bethlehem Area School District for 35 years, until he retired.

He attended St. Anne's R.C. Church,

Bethlehem. He was a member of the Bethlehem Firefighters Local #735, the Teamsters Local 773, the Northend Wanderers and the Triboro Sportsman's Club.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Timothy S. of Bethlehem Township; three daughters, Susan, Ann and Clareese, all of Bethlehem; a sister, Eleanor Kuhns of Bethlehem; five grandchildren, Crystal, Megan, Amy, Howard III and Matthew; and seven great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the Bethlehem Public Library, 11 W. Church St., Bethlehem, 18018.

Arrangements were made by James Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

Helen Irby

born in Mississippi

Helen Irby, 89, of Bethlehem, died September 14, 2016. She was the former wife of the late Nemiah Irby. Born in Hazelhurst, Miss., she was a daughter of the late Tom and Mary (Collins) Allen.

She is survived by six children, Peggy, who has been caring for her during the last several years, Benny, Robert and his wife Karen, Paul, Tony and Sam and his wife Wanda; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews, Tommie McDonald, Lois

Harrison, Eloise Brodie, Shirley Parks, Seretha Morton, Patricia Merritt, Carolyn Miller, Mary Inez (Peachy) Jones and Venessa Lovell.

She was predeceased by brothers and sisters, Mae Buleah Hilliard, Johnnie B. Allen, Pealeaner Askerneese, Tom Allen Jr., Emaline Allen, Carrie Fantcher, Onelia Teresa Jones, Charlie B. Allen and William Henry Allen.

Arrangements were made by James Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.

Russell R. Gabel

G.E. assembler

Russell R. Gabel, 87, of Coopersburg, died in his home on Sept. 19, 2016. Born in Hellertown, he was the son of the late Raymond and Clara (Weaver) Gabel. He was the companion of Gerald Schoch for 53 years.

He was in the U. S. Army.

He worked for General Electric as an assembler for many years.

He was a member of Zion Hill Evangelical

Lutheran Church, Coopersburg.

He was a member of the Jim Beam Club.

In addition to his companion, Gerald, he is survived by a sister, Margaret Brown; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a sister, Virginia Bealer; and a brother, Leroy Gabel.

Arrangements were made by James Funeral Home Inc., Bethlehem.



PRESS PHOTOS BY TIM GILMAN

Musician Carol Yale of Bethlehem plays a viola on the back porch of the 1741 Gemeinhaus during an outdoor reception following the Zug lecture series.

Gemeinhaus marks 275th anniversary

The 275th Community Celebration of Bethlehem featured the anniversary of the 1741 Gemeinhaus in downtown Bethlehem on Church Street. The anniversary took place Sept. 17 and 18 with a variety of mostly free

activities for children and adults. The oldest log-cabin in historic Bethlehem and the United States in continuous use is operated by Historic Bethlehem Museums. An afternoon birthday party featured cake each day. Twenty

artisans showed their wares in the historic Sisters' House near the Gemeinhaus on Church Street. The celebration also coincided with the ongoing 275th anniversary of Bethlehem.



Ted Moyer, a tour guide for Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites, displays a paper model of the 1741 Gemeinhaus, available to assemble as a family-friendly activity during the two-day celebration.



A birthday cake with a picture of the 1741 Gemeinhaus is lit by Lindsay Jancay, director of the Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites collections and programs. The birthday party attracted Natalia Reyes who was with her mother Rosa Reyes of Bethlehem.



Hedge Seflovic of Emmaus and Nadine Novatnak of Bethlehem listen to crochet wire jewelry specialist Gina Rice of Tunkhannock displays her necklaces. An artisan pop-up show was held in the Single Sisters' House as part of the anniversary.



An outdoor reception was held in the backyard of the 1741 Gemeinhaus following the annual Jeanette Barres Zug lecture by Tim Noble about the building's architecture and construction by the city's Moravian founders.

POVERTY

Continued from page A3

forward."

A woman in the audience joined in the criticism of nonprofits, saying they "simply put a band-aid on the symptoms. We'll keep the system of have and have-nots. We could solve the problem, but we keep the system by writing a check."

Discussing the role of race in poverty, audience member Susan McNamara, a retired Bethlehem resident, told a story about a high school band leader who had one African-American boy in the group when it was playing in Washington, D.C., and wanted to take a boat trip down the Poto-

mac River. When the African-American student was refused passage, the band leader said, "If you don't take all of us, you don't take any of us."

McNamara concluded, "We don't see enough of that. It is much deeper than politics. We do the Robert Frost thing - putting up fences in our own communities. We deny the problem because we can make excuses that there are social service agencies to deal with them."

Panelist Diane Elliott, executive director of New Bethany Ministries, discussed poverty from the perspective of motivation and the poor.

"I don't say some aren't motivated, but I do say that the vast majority are. Part of the prob-

lem is the government. If you are making \$100, you get assistance. If you are making \$101 you don't." Getting cut off makes it hard to maintain motivation.

The other part of the problem, Elliott said, was making sure the poor are involved.

"We don't talk to them," she said. "How do we get them to sit at the table?"

She pointed out that they weren't participating in this public conversation.

"They're not here. They are working at jobs, or there are transportation issues."

She emphasized, "we have to take the meetings to them."

Beyond that was the matter of trust.

"We need to build trust - to encourage and develop that trust," Elliott concluded.

For Feldman, the key word was "hope."

"Until we can restore hope, the poverty cycle will continue."

Audience participants and panelists alike agreed that the conversation about poverty needed to continue. A suggestion was made to hold monthly meetings to which legislators would be invited; another, to continue the forums the NAACP is holding on homelessness and related topics. Everyone was also urged to write letters to or call legislators and other public officials; better yet, to pay them or their offices a personal visit.

BOARD

Continued from page A3

Tuesday, October 4

Bethlehem Council, 7 p.m. city hall, 10 E. Church St.

Freemansburg Council, 7 p.m. budget workshop, 6 p.m. (as needed), 600 Monroe St.

Wednesday, October 5

Historical Architectural Review Board, 4 p.m. city hall, 10 E. Church St.

The Bethlehem Press calendar listings are, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of printing. We are not responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information submitted by external parties.

BRIEFLY

BETHLEHEM

Opioid session set for Oct. 3

There will be a free, open to the public community discussion about the Lehigh Valley's opioid epidemic and its effect on local neighborhoods and schools from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 3 in the Liberty HS auditorium, 1115 Linden St.

The City of Bethlehem Chief of Police Mark DiLuzio, BASD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Roy, and representatives from the Bethlehem Bureau of Health and the Bethlehem Recovery Center will lead the discussion.

For more information, email khalkins@basdschools.org or call 610-691-7200, extension 50948.

ALLENTOWN

Crop Walk

set for Oct. 9

The Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk will be 1:30 p.m. Oct. 9, beginning and ending at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown. Registration begins at 1 p.m.

Twenty-five percent of the funds raised by the CROP Hunger Walk returns to the Lehigh Valley. The remaining 75 percent is used by Church World Service for disaster relief.

For more information, or to donate go to www.cropwalk.org.

NORTHAMPTON

County farms host tours Oct. 8, 9

Open gate farm tours will be held Oct. 8 and 9 at the following farms.

- Baarda Farms
- Apple Blossom Village
- Elvern Farms
- Purple Haze Alpacas
- Tolino Vineyards & Winery

- Spring Valley Farms
- Juniperdale Farms
- Point Phillip Perennials

- Equilibrium
- Clear Spring Farm
- Z Arch Barn Farms
- Klein Farms Dairy & Creamery

- Raub's Farm Market
- LaFarm
- Easton Urban Farm
- Burnside Plantation
- Amore Farms
- Unangst Tree Farms
- Seiple Farms

Sands promotes good hygiene



PRESS PHOTO BY KATIE WALLACE

Over 200 volunteers gathered recently at Sands Bethlehem casino and entertainment destination to help build 10,000 hygiene kits for social enterprise Clean the World. The kits will benefit nearly 20 charitable organizations in the greater Lehigh Valley. The effort is part of Sands Bethlehem's global corporate citizenship program, Sands Cares, and its ongoing partnership with Clean the World to support its mission of promoting good health and well-being around the globe through improved access to soap and hygiene education. "We're pleased to join forces with Clean the World again this year to provide valuable resources to those in need in our local community," said Mark Juliano, Sands Bethlehem president.

BRIEFLY

PSU/LV

Latino Month talk Oct. 4

The Global Education and Inclusive Excellence Center at Penn State Lehigh Valley, in celebration of Latino Heritage Month, will host "The Trouble with My Name" from noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 4 in room 135, Penn State Lehigh Valley, 2809 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley.

The free, open to the public one-hour show is about the American Latino experience in the 21st century. Northampton Community College English professor Javier Avila, Ph.D., will examine the complexities of identity as a cultural construction through his poetry, autobiography and humor.

Registration is not required. For more information, email akj113@psu.edu.

LCCC

Vendors, crafters wanted for fest

Independent designers, crafters and vendors are invited to sell their one-of-a-kind crafts and art at Lehigh Carbon Community College Foundation's fifth annual scholarship fall festival and car show Nov. 11 and 12.

The event will be open to the public 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 12.

For information, contact Jane Wilchak, LCCC's special events manager at jwilchak@lccc.edu or at 610-799-1929.

LUTZ-FRANKLIN

Apple festival

set for Oct. 1

The annual Apple Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse, 4216 Countryside Lane, Hellertown. The event is sponsored by the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society.

There will be apple tastings and products, a cake walk, the John Samuels Trio music and dancing, build a birdhouse, face painting, hayrides, apple dessert contest, and food and LST books for sale.

For more information, visit www.lutzfranklin.com or call 610-625-8771.

Just Born, workers at the table

BY NATE JASTRZEMSKI
njastrzemi@tnonline.com

BETHLEHEM

At 9 a.m. today representatives of Just Born Inc.'s hourly employees and management sat down with a federal mediator to try to find a consensus that will reopen the business to its regular schedule and workload. Contract negotiations began breaking down in May, though each side disagrees on why.

Three weeks ago about 400 of Just Born's 600 employees voted to strike. They are members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local #6, and they have worked four-hour shifts ever since picketing the Stefko Boulevard candy maker, which opened in 1923.

Their primary contention is proposed changes to the pension fund and a 401K for new employees, which Local 6 members say will eat into their

income and healthcare. They say their responding proposal would save the company hundreds of thousands in health-care costs but was outright ignored by the company. They say they are unable to legally negotiate on the pensions because of the nature of the multi-company fund.

However, Just Born Vice President of Corporate Affairs Matt Pye said in an interview last week they can, simply by voting to do so, as they have with amendments in years past.

The National Labor Relations Board sided with Just Born in a similar case at a Philadelphia plant, he said.

"Can a change be made at the pension fund trustee level? Yes it can. Do they want to make that change? No they do not. I think that's the sticking point."

"We're just trying to

do what's right for future people that we want to hire."

Pye said the proposed pension change would not even immediately affect current employees, but only new hires. He did say the impact would be greater as years pass and new employees match or outnumber older ones. But while new employees would receive a 401K, current employees already have that and the pension.

"Our plan would be just for new people - move them into a 401K so they have a future. That's being respectful and representing their interests. That is the major issue. Everything else is just noise."

Pye says at the Philadelphia plant employees continue to work through negotiations even after voting to strike, and Local 6's actions here made this a

more contentious argument.

"As soon as they went out on strike I think there was no win for anybody. This was a watershed moment."

Pye said the workers' pay is (average of \$22.42 an hour) more than 30 percent higher than average for plant workers in the Lehigh Valley and there are wage increases every year.

"At the end of the day these folks make great money, there's great benefits here, we could have easily stayed at the table. But you wanted to strike over one issue, which is the pension. We didn't even want to change the pension. We just want to make it right for the new people coming in."

"The last thing that's going to happen is the doors closing here. We're going to do everything to keep Just Born in the valley. We've been here since 1923 and we want to be here for another 93 years."

Walmart begins hunt for seasonal help

Walmart will be hiring several hundred people to work in its online fulfillment center in Bethlehem at 3215 Commerce Center Blvd. for the holiday shopping rush.

The company is also trying something new - it will keep seasonal associates in its HR sys-

tem, making it easier for them to pick up hours and earn extra money during the year, based on seasonal volume. In the past, Walmart used third parties to staff up during the busy holiday season.

"We want our seasonal workers to have a deeper connection to

Walmart and our customers and we think this is the right way to do that," said Justen Traweck, vice president Walmart eCommerce Operations & Fulfillment. "We want to create a long-term relationship with these seasonal associates by making them eligible to transfer

to open positions or giving them the opportunity to earn extra money throughout the year by picking up shifts as the need arises."

For many just looking to work during the holidays keeping them in the system will make it easier for them to come See **HELP** on Page A6

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**BRIEFLY
MIRACLE LEAGUE**

Vendors needed for trick or treat

Northampton County Miracle League is looking for vendors and businesses to participate in trick-or-treat night by handing out candy to children with handicaps and special needs 5-7 p.m. Oct. 22 at Charles Chrin Community Center, Palmer Township.

Rain date is Oct. 23. For more information or to volunteer, contact Shelly Alexander at 610-442-9026.

HELP

Continued from page A5

back year after year. "Not all of our seasonal associates are interested in a year-round position, and we are taking a new approach to keep those folks engaged for opportunities to earn extra money throughout the year and to come back year after year to help around the holidays," Traweck said.

These hourly positions also come with opportunity and flexibility. Each facility has a variety of shortened shifts for the candidates to pick from so they can have a schedule that fits their life.

The hiring process is open now and will remain open through November. Anyone interested in applying can visit walmartcareers.com/eComSeasonal.

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Residents speak first, police active

BY MICHELLE MEEH
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Residents had a chance to speak first at the Sept. 20 City Council meeting. The public comment section of the meeting was recently moved to the beginning of the meeting.

During public comment, resident Barry Anderson spoke out against the proposed psychiatric hospital at Center Street and Dewberry Avenue. "I'm here to ask for your help discouraging development," he said, calling the proposed development "potentially dangerous."

Community and Economic Development Director Alicia Karner said Acadia Healthcare had withdrawn the plans for a proposed 80-bed psychiatric hospital. "I do not think they will resubmit," she said.

Council member Bryan Callahan asked if there was any reason

given for the withdrawal. Karner said no reason had been given. Callahan asked who owned the property. Karner said the property is still owned by Abraham Atiyeh, although she was not sure if this was as an individual or as a business.

Resident Stephen Antalics said he lives next door to a halfway house for recovering drug addicts. "I speak to them. Look into their eyes. They had a bad break," he said. He said the residents there are good neighbors who help out with shoveling snow and greet him when they meet.

In other business, Callahan asked if Karner had communicated with the school district on the recently approved Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assessment (LERTA) zone. The

BETHLEHEM

school district is waiting to see what council will do, she said. Callahan wanted to know if the school district was in favor. "I can't speak to that," Karner said.

Callahan said the council's finance committee met prior to the regular council meeting and discussed amending the general fund budget, the sewer fund budget, streetscape funds, and heard a presentation on the 2015 draft audit.

Police Chief Mark DiLuzio gave an update following the recent meeting with members of the city NAACP.

He said the police have been attending neighborhood meetings, church, public and senior groups. The police do an annual food for kids drive and a Christmas program. There is an adult police academy where "citizens can see

what we really do," he said. There is also a junior police academy for two weeks each summer. It is in high demand, DiLuzio said. This year they had to turn some away and next year two sessions are planned to accommodate the interest among youth to see what police do.

DiLuzio said police partner with businesses and community groups such as Wells Fargo and Big Brothers/Sisters. "A lot of the police department is involved in community policing," he said. He urged council to come and see what the police department does. "Door's always open," he said.

Council member Michael Colon said on Saturday he was part of the 100 trees for 100 years project. Volunteers planted 100 trees in city parks to celebrate 100 years of Bethlehem's unification.

**BRIEFLY
BETHLEHEM**

Farmers market now open

The 10th annual Bethlehem Farmers' Market is open every Thursday from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. through Oct. 27.

Located in Farrington Square, at New and Morton streets, it is a producer-only market offering local fresh produce, lunch items, baked bread, pastries and more.

MINSI

Scout's popcorn sale begins

Area Boy Scouts are participating in a popcorn fundraiser and will be heading to area neighborhoods in hopes of helping to achieve their Scouting goals.

Not only is the popcorn a delicious treat, the fundraiser helps pave the way for youth to reach goals they set for themselves throughout the coming year.

Some scouts choose to use their popcorn accounts to pay for special activities, while others choose a new uniform or equipment.

They may also use the funds to attend once-in-a-lifetime events like a national jamboree or a trip to an adventure camp across the country.

For other scouts, the funds raised from selling popcorn offer their only opportunity to attend summer camp, a week-long program where they gain valuable character attributes and skills.

Whether their dreams are big or small, community support of the fundraiser helps make a difference in Scouting by helping them to achieve their goals.

To purchase online, visit www.trails-end.com and click 'Support Your Community' to look for the Minsi Trails Council.

LERTA tax incentive talks continue

BY NATE JASTRZEMSKI
njastzemski@tnonline.com

City representatives Alicia Karner and Alyson Lysaght once again appeared before the school board Sept. 19 to discuss the LERTA incentive zone in north-central Bethlehem.

The proposed tax incentive zone is designed to assist local property owners with home improvements that may raise property values and eventually the quality of life in the neighborhood. The women said LERTA is one of several ongoing programs that could open numerous options for

homes and businesses between Liberty HS and Broad Street.

City council has approved the plan and is looking for the approval of the two other local taxing bodies - BASD and Northampton County - but is also suggesting an amended plan stretching further westward.

Moravian College President Bryon Grigsby appeared briefly to voice his support for the LERTA zone, saying properties around the college could benefit, especially in attracting

staff, faculty, graduate students and off-campus housing for students, which the school is newly refocused on.

Resident and Press freelancer Dana Grubb used to work in city hall, and spoke during public comment. He recalled public improvement projects 30 years ago as well as work on the TIF zone in the late 90s, and suggested the board and city ground their expectations. "I'm not for or against the LERTA," he said, but that from his experience it will prove more successful the better it's marketed. He said he feels it likely won't directly benefit residents much, but could be very helpful for


commercial properties.

Grubb said BASD will be the key to the LERTA's success, because the way taxes are distributed the school board can hold the city government to task in its social responsibilities for community betterment.

Meanwhile, Facilities chief Mark Stein announced a change in some upcoming capital projects, namely waiving a planned \$865,000 repainting of stadium bleachers to expand the replacement and maintenance of HVAC systems at East Hills MS. The work - which includes a boiler, dehumidifiers and the overall HVAC systems in the art and science wings, is scheduled as summer work for 2017.

BETHLEHEM AREA SD

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PRESS PHOTO BY TIM GILMAN

Bike riders Bill Dewalt and Samantha Kahoe stop for a cocktail break on Main Street in downtown Bethlehem during one of their local weekend rides. The recently engaged couple resides in Bethlehem.

BETHLEHEM AREA SD

Reports given to board

BY JAMES HALLEMAN
Special to the Bethlehem Press

Board members viewed four PowerPoint presentations Sept. 12 relating to improvements in both infrastructure and student curricula. D'Huy consulting engineers gave an update on the new Nitschman MS, currently under construction.

Main discussion points for the new Nitschman school were; projects that are already completed, and some tasks that should be completed a few weeks. B.A.S.D. is already planning ahead for projects for Summer 2017. Four projects have been green lighted for 2017, but one planned project may end up being put on the back burner for another year. Stadium bleachers painting project which is estimated to cost \$865,000 from capital funds. John Hawk of St. Luke's presented health and fitness sports medical updates that were part of the

agreement the district has with St. Luke's Hospital.

Susan Mauser, Chief Executive Officer of the Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School presented its renewal plans as part of the five-year cycle, she demonstrated progress the academy is making academically as well as increasing student enrollment. The charter school invited the BASD board members to visit the charter school, and presented binders with examples of K-12 student curricula for the charter school.

Capital projects were not the only improvements on Monday nights agenda, improvements in curriculum had BASD staff beaming with pride.

I announced that Broughal Middle School had been chosen to present Green Strides. Pennsylvania Department of Education Secretary Rivera may attend the Green Strides event.

BY BERNIE O'HARE
Special to the Bethlehem Press

In 2000, then County Executive Glenn Reibman advised council that a new jail was needed to replace one built in 1871. He proposed a multi-phase plan, and got one \$29 million addition.

In 2008, then Executive John Stoffa informed council that a new jail was needed, and proposed moving county offices to Gracedale while building a new jail at a cost ranging between \$130 and \$160 million. Stoffa got a work release center in West Easton for a maximum of 100 residents.

Now, it's Executive John Brown's turn. At a Sept. 14 meeting, Corrections Director Dan Keen pitched a new jail.

Sometimes jokingly called Chez Northampton County, the jail is currently home to 732 inmates. "It's a beast!" is Keen's flat assessment. He described a maintenance nightmare that offers only two treatment programs for an unstable inmate population. He complimented professional corrections officers who "come in, day in, day out," despite being subjected to 304



PRESS PHOTO BY BERNIE O'HARE

Northampton County's jail was first built in 1871. In 2008, then Executive John Stoffa informed council that a new jail was needed, and proposed moving county offices to Gracedale while building a new jail at a cost ranging between \$130 and \$160 million.

assaults or acts of aggression over the past three years.

Keen made the case for a new jail, ideally on a 60-acre tract, that would be safer for inmates and staff. It would be built without the intimidating, fortress-like style of the current facility.

Where it will be located and how will it be funded are concerns that Keen left to council and Brown.

Jail exceeds capacity

Stoffa's prison study, done at a time when there were triple beds and inmates were sleeping in hallways, projected that 1,308 beds would be needed by 2015. "We treat animals better than we treat our prisoners," he complained.

After that study, courts became more willing to sentence offenders to state prison and the census began to

drop. There were only 732 inmates at the time of Keen's presentation, a far cry from the 1,308 projection in 2008. But this still exceeds the functional capacity at the jail, which is 605. Keen explained that once the jail has more than 605 inmates, there are challenges. It becomes more difficult to keep rival gang members apart. It is harder to segregate juvenile offenders from the adult population, which is required by the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Female Population

"We're out of room," said Keen. When female inmates are scheduled for court, they must walk through the male housing unit to get to what is called the bullpen. So on a weekly ba-

See **NORCO** on Page 8



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NORCO

Continued from page 7

sis, male inmates expose themselves, resulting in complaints that must be investigated.

The current female population is 117, and there's no room for more. Yet Keen is projecting an average increase of 2.7 percent per year.

This has resulted in added cost. It was at \$4.2 million in 2013. Females tend to be sentenced to longer periods than males

Mentally Ill Inmates

Since 1955, Pennsylvania has closed 10 state hospitals, including Allentown State Hospital, reducing the number of patients from 41,000 to just 1,500. It's a 96 percent drop inspired by the belief that mentally ill people do better in the community. Instead, they're ending up in county jails. Keen told council that 42 percent of NorCo inmates are on some form of psychotropic medication. He is trying to have eight inmates transferred to a state hospital. For two of them, he has been waiting for nearly a year.

These inmates are housed on the old side of the jail, built in 1871. There is no air conditioning, and even in the winter months, average temperatures inside are 85-90 degrees.

"We're doing more harm than good," said Keen.

The number of mentally ill inmates has increased 48 percent since 2010. For mentally ill women, commitments have increased 65 percent in that period. Over half of those committed each year (52 percent) are mentally ill.

Corrections officers now undergo crisis intervention and mental health first aid training.

Maintenance costs

Just last week, Keen discovered a 70-foot long pipe at the jail with a dozen leaks. This unforeseen repair will cost \$21,000. At a jail that was first built in 1871, these things happen frequently. Over the past three years, the county has spent \$1.9 million on emergency facility repairs.

Just last month, Keen was forced to ask council to approve an additional maintenance employee to deal with several hundred maintenance issues, small and large. He has also just learned



NorCo Corrections Director Dan Keen calls the jail a "beast." Keen indicated the jail is scheduled for inspection by state corrections officials. If it falls below the minimum standards set by the state, the county will eventually be forced, at its own expense, to house inmates in other counties.

that the walls surrounding the jail are corroding from the inside and must be replaced within the next three years.

Officer safety

In addition to the inherent danger to corrections officers posed by inmates, they often fall and injure themselves while responding to emergencies. Uneven slate floors, improperly aligned steps and condensation build-ups on floors have resulted in \$1.84 million in worker's compensation claims over the past three years.

On the older side of the facility, the cells have open bars. This makes it possible for an inmate to grab and injure a corrections officer or hit him with a "feces grenade" (a shampoo bottle containing a mixture of feces and urine). These older cells also lack wickets through which food trays can be passed, meaning the officer has to open the cell door to feed someone.

While Adams County has had one assault in the last 18 months, Northampton County experiences 100 a year.

"My hat's off to the officers," said Keen, saying they work under stressful conditions.

Poor Design

The current layout of the jail is what Keen calls a linear or "old school" design, making it impossible for corrections officers to see all inmates under their supervision. In one area, cell blocks are arranged in a linear design on an

upper level, with a gate that is only at thigh level.

Keen, who is built like an NFL lineman and did play college football, said it is impossible for someone his size to walk through the area without his shoulders rubbing up against the open cells. If he attempt to move away from the cell, there is a risk that he could go over the railing and fall onto the floor below.

State law and liability

Keen indicated that the jail is scheduled for inspection by state corrections officials. If it falls below the minimum standards set by the state, the county will eventually be forced, at its own expense, to house inmates in other counties.

This combination of increased census, mental health issues, growing female population, maintenance issues, poor design and officer safety issues makes the county ripe for a civil rights lawsuit. Keen warned that eventually, someone is going to be hurt seriously or fatally. "Then we'll say, 'Why didn't we do something earlier?'"

New facility

Keen said a new facility might surprise some people. Instead of having a fortress-like look, most new jails look like a school or office building. Urban yards would be built inside the walls on a tract between 40 and 60 acres.

Keen said there are three options.

First, move everything to a new location. Second, keep female inmates in Easton and the work release facility in West Easton and build a new facility for males. Third, keep the female inmates in Easton and bring the work release inmates back to Easton, but build a new facility for the males.

Keen said several sites have been studied, though he did not say where. It seems unlikely it would remain in Easton. It would cost \$20 million just to tear down the current facility, and at least half the inmates would have to be sent to several locations for two years.

Keen said no one would be able to walk around in the new facility and would be released from Easton. Bob Werner suggested that it might be possible to market a new jail to another community on the basis of jobs produced. But John Cusick said a jail in another community like the Gracedale campus will be controversial, and recommended the county retain good zoning counsel for what will obviously be a fight. "It's gonna take time, effort and political will to move this ahead," he said. He added that this is not a Democratic or Republican issue, but is something that needs to be done to accomplish a "core function of county government."

The problem, as Ron Angle stated when he was on council, is "who the hell wants a new prison?" Especially when the price tag is over \$100 million.

Hayden Phillips said where the new jail goes is an administrative decision, but "this is something that needs to be fixed."

Acting Director of Administration Cathy Allen said the county is very serious about a new site, and will be back to council in 30 to 60 days once funding sources are identified. She hinted, "some of the people we need to be in our corner will be in our corner." Werner added, "There are people we have met with in the past that have changed. Positions have changed."

Ken Kraft wants to break ground now. "We have a 200-year-old prison and we have a morgue in a barn," he said. "That's Northampton County in a nutshell."

CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE

Animals are available for adoption at the Center for Animal Health & Welfare no-kill shelter, 1165 Island Park Road, Easton. The shelter is working to end pet overpopulation by running a clinic so animals can be spayed or neutered before they go home. For more information, call 610-252-7722 or visit www.healthyanimalcenter.org.



Avon has come a long way. She was quite sick when she arrived in the summer of 2013 but now she is happy, healthy and ready for a home.



Fiona is stocky, low to the ground and has a wiggle when she walks. She has nice leash manners, loves to play with toys and is just the little cutie pie.

GRADUATION

Lehigh-Carbon Community College

Lehigh Carbon Community College's August 2016 graduates included eight Bethlehem area residents. They are Andrew Bataalka Sr., Lydia Brown, Brian Fritz (Summa Cum Laude with a grade point average of 3.95 - 4.0), Andrew Kennedy (Cum Laude with a grade point average of 3.5 - 3.75.), Kelly McGuire, Elizabeth Rojas, Lilian Rosario and Logayn Wenner.

Northampton County Community College

Eight Bethlehem area residents have graduated from Northampton Community College and received their licensed practical nursing pins on Sept. 15. The graduates are Siri Amungwa, Cassandra DePietro, Marie Dongmo, Karissa Frankenfield, Melanie Gomez, Tiffany Martinez, Manyina Munsense and Nathan Sarara.

Pratt Institute

Mallory Zondag of Bethlehem earned a fashion degree from New York City's Pratt Institute at its 127th commencement ceremony at Radio City Music Hall.

Tufts University

Sarah Brown of Bethlehem earned a bachelor's degree in child study and human development from Tufts University. She graduated summa cum laude on May 22 during a university-wide commencement ceremony.

Wilkes University

Wilkes University awarded master's degrees in education to eight local students who graduated after the completion of the summer 2016 semester. They are Julie Bechtold, Corinne Brockel, Brandon Garcia, Jordan Hocking, Ronia Jarrah, Dawn Nickischer and Katie Royer, all of Bethlehem; and Amy Solano of Fountain Hill.

VOLUNTEERS

AMERICA ON WHEELS, Allentown, will soon embark on new educational programs and camp programs for ages 6-12. If you have a passion for education and/or enjoy working with children, contact Linda Merkel, 610-432-4200, ext. 11, director@americaonwheels.org.

DAVINCI SCIENCE CENTER, Allentown, needs skilled volunteer assistance from anyone who has average to excellent carpentry skills for construction of "Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular" Halloween set. Contact Joan Amaya, 484-664-1002, joan@davinciscience-center.org.

EPISCOPAL HOUSE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY INC., Allentown, is seeking board of directors members to help create a healthy and safe environment in which low income senior citizens can live independently with dignity. Contact Pat Gorman, 610-821-0311, pgorman@episcopalhouse.com.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, Allentown, is looking for volunteers (18+ years) to distribute meals to homebound individuals as a substitute volunteer. Contact Dawn Stillwagen, 610-398-2563, dstillwagen@mealsonwheelslc.org.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Easton, is looking for a volunteer Library/Archives Coordinator. Contact Ken Wildrick, 610-252-8080, volunteer.nchgs@gmail.com.

PINEBROOK-COMPEER OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY needs volunteers to make friends and change lives. Contact 610-774-1450 or email compeer@pbfalv.org.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK, Nazareth, has volunteer opportunities for people to help their staff when agencies pick up groceries and non-grocery items, shop, and load their vehicles. Contact Maria Arcelay, 484-287-4015, mdarcelay@caclv.org.

TEACH RWANDA, Easton, provides high-quality, culturally relevant children's books to schools in Rwanda where books are rare and precious resources. If you love beautiful children's picture books and chapter books, why not help them find, store and ship books to Rwanda? Contact Elisabeth Kemmerer, 484-635-0453, Elisabeth.s.kemmerer@gmail.com.

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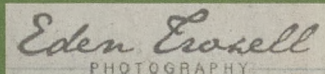
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SOCCER
Becahi boys top Notre Dame in overtime.

A10



SOCCER
Pates and Kids play to 0-0 tie.

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▼ **THEY SAID IT**

"It was huge, the pass play and the momentum going into halftime. I think if it were 10-7 it probably would've been a little different. But you're going up 17-7, having the momentum, seeing their demeanor, knowing we had a whole second half where we were going to keep the foot on the pedal, we felt pretty good about coming out."

Kyle Haas

Becahi head football coach

▼ **BRIEFLY**

CLEATS FOR FEET

Liberty's boys soccer team is collecting used cleats for kids who are in need.

Cleat donations may be made at any Liberty boys soccer game. A large cardboard box will be located near the team bench throughout the soccer season.

Coach Jason Horvath plans to provide the donated cleats to players in the Lehigh Valley.



PRESS PHOTOS BY LINDA ROTHROCK

Randy Terry III scored four touchdowns last week in the Hawks win over Liberty.

BC soars past LHS

Randy Terry III scores 4 TDs

BY TODD KRESS
tkress@tnonline.com

Just before the first half was about to end, Liberty was on the verge of putting together a drive that would tie or give the Hurricanes a lead against rival Bethlehem Catholic. Instead, after first downs on that drive, the 'Canes punted the ball back over to the Golden Hawks.

That turned out to be the game's defining moment.

Bethlehem Catholic orchestrated a nine-play drive, and quarterback Javon Clements hit Karim Powell for a touchdown that put the Golden Hawks up 17-7. Becahi never looked back, as it added three more scores in the second half (all from running back Randy Terry) that propelled the Golden Hawks to a 38-7 route over Liberty at BASD Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

"It was huge, the pass play and the momentum going into halftime," said head coach Kyle Haas. "I think if it were

10-7 it probably would've been a little different. But you're going up 17-7, having the momentum, seeing their demeanor, knowing we had a whole second half where we were going to keep the foot on the pedal, we felt pretty good about coming out."

Clements looked particularly bright on that drive. He connected with a Golden Hawk pass-catcher on a third-and-20 opportunity that kept the drive alive. Then he hit a wide open Powell in the middle of the end zone for the cushion going into the break.

"For his first Liberty-Becahi game, I give him an A," Haas said of Clements. "He made some big throws at crucial times. He ran the ball very well for us. You can't say enough about his progress so far at this point."

Once the second half got underway, Terry took over between the tackles. Already with a touchdown under his belt, he capped the Golden Hawks' victory.

See **HAWKS** on Page 11



Becahi RB Pete Iselo hauls in a pass during Saturday afternoon's victory over Liberty.

Freedom blanked by PHS

BY CHUCK HIXSON
Special to the Press

If at first, you don't succeed, try, try again. That's what the Freedom football team's offense did Friday night against Parkland, but nothing they tried seemed to work as they fell to the Trojans 17-0.

Freedom tried to run the ball, but gained only seven yards on 20 carries for the night. When your quarterback gets sacked five times though, it's going to impact your offense in a big way. Even though he was under constant pressure, Joe Young was able to complete 19 passes on 32 attempts for 169 yards in the game. The effort made him Freedom's all-time leader in completed

passes with 242 and left him just 100 yards shy of the school's record for passing yards.

"I thought that especially considering the pressure that he had on him all night, Joe did a tremendous job for us," said coach Jason Roeder. "We just didn't pick up their blitz, even at times when they brought just a three-man rush, we didn't block well, so you can believe that we'll be working on that."

The Patriots seemed to be mounting an attack in the third quarter when they moved to the Parkland 14 and were in good shape with a second-and-one. Young hit Alec Huertas around the five-yard line, but Huertas

See **PATES** on Page 11



PRESS PHOTO BY ROB MERCHANT

Joe Young and the Pates couldn't get the offense going against Parkland on Friday.

District luncheon discusses playoff changes

BY PETER CAR
pcar@tnonline.com

District 11 held a luncheon Thursday afternoon at the Moravian College-St. Luke's Sports and Rehabilitation Center in Bethlehem to discuss changes coming up this sports calendar year, in regards to post-season playoff berths, with the new PIAA classifications coming into effect this year.

The biggest change in most sports this year is how teams qualify for the postseason where the numbers have changed, as well as the qualification scale, where in year's past, having a .500 overall or league record automatically granted you access to the postseason. Teams that also won their conference championship also gained automatic entry to the postseason.

This year another option has been thrown into the equation due to the new classification structure.

"We've added the factor where there's a minimum number of qualifiers in each sport," said District 11 chairman Bob Hartman. "For example, if there's 13 teams in a specific classification, half of that is 6.5 and then we're rounding that up to the next even number, making it eight minimum qualifiers. If there are teams beyond the minimum that qualify based on their record, they also qualify."

"Any sport that has four teams or less, all of those teams will be in our playoff. Our goal is to have even numbers in many cases, so teams don't get byes into semi-final rounds and even the playing field across all sports."


League champions will still get preferential seeding in District 11 brackets, but sports in classifications that are paired with sub-regional teams, there will be no preferential seeded criteria. Teams will be seeded based on their power rating.

In the fall those sports include boys and girls golf and 4A girls volleyball. In 5A football, since there are only four teams in that classification, there will be a road play-in game with a District 2 opponent in week 12 for entry to the state tournament. In 2017, that play-in game will be in District 11.

As far as other notes to take away from the luncheon, this year's slate for all six District 11 football championships will be held at neutral sites. Those sites will be determined at a later date.

"People have asked if Liberty and Freedom both meet in the 6A title, where will they play?" said Northwestern ath-

See **D-11** on Page 12



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Elizabeth Nemec

Bethlehem Catholic HS

Grade: 12
Family members: Mary (mother), William (father), and Julia (sister)
Favorite subject(s): U.S. Government and Politics because every answer is correct as long as you can weasel a convincing argument
Activities: Literary Magazine, Mock Trial Club, Key Club, History Club, Girl Scouts
Next steps (after high school): College, plus impending debt
Career goals: Find something I love
Heroes: Lady Bird Johnson because she showed cool composure in the face of chaos, and she was a faithful women's rights activist.
Hobbies: Figure skating, photography, cooking and baking
Current job(s): I work at the Frenchtown Café year round and during the summer, my friend and I also run a camp for children.
Volunteer/community work: Girl Scout Ambassador, St. Thomas Church Youth Group member, and volunteer at St.



Luke's Hospital
Likes: Good books, soft blankets, puppies, golden sunsets
Dislikes: Writing about myself
Greatest accomplishment (so far): Learning to tie my shoes!
Advice for peers: If it makes you happy, keep doing it.

Julia Swan coordinates student profiles for the Bethlehem Press. Student profile subjects are selected by faculty and administration at the individual schools.

BETHLEHEM CATHOLIC

By Elizabeth Nemec

Hawks' proud start

The year is off to a smashing start for Bethlehem Catholic as students spread their wings across the city, conquering countless areas such as athletics, academics, and the arts. As the fall sports season gets underway, Becahi is already claiming an impressive collection of victories across all fields.



Nemec

Starting off the season on a high note, the Becahi football team beat Pocono Mountain West 59-15, followed by a 50-0 victory against Northampton, and a 27-7 win over Nazareth. The team has an overall 3-1 standing. The Becahi team is packed with outstanding players this year, including tackle/defensive end Niko Camacho (senior), linebacker/halfback Ralph Lozada (senior), offensive running back/defensive cornerback Randy Terry (senior), and wide receiver/cornerback Daizhun Rhodes (junior).

It is not surprising that Becahi's football team is dominating on the field, considering the superior cheering provided by the Becahi cheer team. Captains Sasha Kish and Amber Firth are confident that the team will go to states and nationals this year.

Becahi's girls cross country team is also in tip-top shape, currently in the running to go to states. Top contenders are Rowan Pepe (senior), Lauren Bunke (junior), Hope Brown (junior), and Solei Rodriguez (sophomore). The boys cross country team looks hopeful to make states as well, with seniors Jacob Maruscak, Ivan Korpics, and Austin Tucker and sophomore Aaron Smith being key contributors to the team.

The girls tennis team is sitting in a good spot right now, currently tied for first place in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference with a 14-0 season so far. Doubles pair Maureen Mazza and Gabriella Duffy (seniors) are undefeated and Maureen Mazza is hoping to break Becahi history this season for most doubles wins.

The girls volleyball team has lived up to expectations, leading a 7-1 season and looking stronger than ever. The girls plan to execute a successful season, led by team players such as outside hitter Rachel Tanczos (senior) and outside Megan Friend (senior).

The boys soccer team is currently 3-6, with victories over Dieruff, Freedom and Pocono Mountain West. The girls soccer team is 3-5, displaying wins against William Allen, Dieruff, and East Stroudsburg South.

Becahi's entire student body is eagerly awaiting the homecoming dance, which will take place Oct. 8. Students will be dressing in their best and letting loose on the dance floor, hopefully in celebration of a homecoming game victory for football.

The theater program has begun rehearsals for its fall production of "The Odd Couple." The show is expected to be a delightful and comedic piece that will entertain all. The show will be performed in January; exact dates are to be announced. The theater department has also officially announced that the spring musical is to be "Oklahoma!" Students are already stirring with enthusiasm for this timeless musical, a fantastic opportunity to showcase Becahi's talented dancers, actors, and singers.

The Becahi Mini-THON team is already hard at work preparing for their annual 12-hour dance marathon which takes place in February. This student run event raises money for the Four Diamonds Fund, a foundation dedicated to supporting children who are facing pediatric cancer. Keep an eye out for all the exciting Mini-THON events that will take place soon, and don't miss any of the great opportunities to have fun and support a great cause.

SCHOOL NEWS

FHS: Hockey club car wash Oct. 1

Freedom's Ice Hockey Club is holding a car wash Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Heights Market on Freemansburg Avenue. Advance tickets are available from any Freedom ice hockey player or by contacting Amy Musella at fihcpres@gmail.com.

Gov. Wolf ES: Fall family festival Oct. 1

Governor Wolf ES will hold a fall family festival Oct. 1 (rain date Oct. 2) from noon to 4 p.m. at the school, located at 1920 Butztown Road. There will be a face painter, pumpkin painting, photo booth, games and prizes, food tent, bake sale, vendors and a tricky tray. The fundraiser benefits the fifth grade classes. Contact Donna Frantz, PTA president, at dfrantz@rcn.com.

BASD: Back to School Breakfast Oct. 5

BASD retirees are invited to join the tradition of keeping touch with other BASD retirees and the school district Oct. 5 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Those who attend will find a complimentary breakfast buffet; learn more about The Foundation for the Bethlehem Area School District and their mission to support BASD; and have plenty of time to share memories and news with friends. Guest speaker will be Superintendent Dr. Joseph J. Roy. The event will take place at Traditions of Hanover, 5300 Northgate Drive, Bethlehem. Seating is limited. Please RSVP by Sept. 23 by calling 610-

See **SCHOOL** on Page A16



PRESS PHOTOS BY TIM GILMAN

The High & Mighty Brass Band presents a mini-performance at Broughal prior to its SteelStacks appearance.

High & Mighty Brass Band guests

The Broughal MS band summer camp, led by director Adam Stoltz, had a noteworthy program Aug. 18 with a special performance by the High & Mighty Brass Band. The eight-piece party sound band from Brooklyn intermingled with the young musicians and their parents after their mini-concert in the South Bethlehem school auditorium. The brass band was in Bethlehem for a show that night at SteelStacks as part of the Levitt Pavilion's summer concerts.



Broughal musicians and members of the High & Mighty Brass Band gather on stage for a group picture at the end of the special program.



Amanda Delgado gets an autograph from tuba player Harry Phillips after the performance at Broughal.

Band trumpeter Rafael Vasques watches the High & Mighty Brass Band on his tablet as he records their show in the school's auditorium.



Trombonist Jeremiah Rosado gets a mini-lesson from Kevin Moehringer, a trombone player with the High & Mighty Brass Band.

LVHM
'Presidency' exhibit to open Oct. 1

The exhibit, "The American Presidency,"

opens 1 p.m. Oct. 1, Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum, 432 W. Walnut St., Allentown. Featured are Presidential portraits, campaign buttons, commemorative

pieces and items related to presidents Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

On opening day, there's a program and one-day display of two authentic documents written in George Washington's hand on loan from the National Park Service.

Information: lehigh-valleyheritagemuseum.org, 610-435-1074

'BILLBOARD'

Continued from page 1

accidentally calls Robinson by his character's name. "That's how committed they are to this work. I can see his character so clearly that I just started calling him Casey."

"Billboard" is inspired by a real-life billboard-sitting contest sponsored by a radio station and held in 1982-'83 along Route 22 in Whitehall Township.

The plot of "Billboard" is portrayed through what is dubbed "transmedia," whereby a story is told across

multiple media platforms. In addition to the feature film, there has been a stage production, a web series and a social media presence.

Zelker's team even created a radio station website, wtyt960.com, to promote audience interaction. Bands from all over the world submitted music, some of which will heard in the web series and movie.

Zelker and his team also created a mobile app whereby the audience can interact with the characters via social media.

Zelker, a Forks Township resident and Emmaus High School gradu-

ate, is one of the pioneers of this form of storytelling, having produced the transmedia project, "Pandemic," which was shown at Sundance Film Festival.

The aim is to turn passive amusement into engaging entertainment. Creating a space for the audience to get involved is paramount to the story of "Billboard." Community involvement is one of the mainstays of local radio stations. Zelker has chosen to focus "Billboard" on that unique quality. "I still believe in radio and I still believe in the power of community," says Zelker.

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Allaik matters at Civic 514

BY NELSON QUIÑONES
Special to The Press

Walk into Civic Theater Gallery 514 and what stands out is artist Khalil Allaik's impressively large canvas (18 ft. x 48 in.) without a wooden stretcher suspended from the ceiling by a wiring system. "Sedona Vortex" transcends the canvas. Allaik shaped the canvas to give it the illusion of three dimensions.

The exhibition, "The Artwork of Khalil Al-

laik," continues through Sept. 30. The gallery is open 30 minutes before film screenings in Civic Theatre514.

The color palette of brown earth tones gives way, if you take several steps back, to metallic hues of blues and greens radiating from canvas crevices. "Sedona Vortex" represents Cathedral Rock, Sedona, Ariz.

"The Sacred Gate" (78 in. x 78 in.) is a square mixed media work. Gaps

GALLERY VIEW

and spaces resemble amoebas. Circles and waves within the piece give the appearance of movement.

States Allaik in his artist's statement: "My work is the dialogue between these two limitless universes, one within and one beyond. It is the dialogue between Matter and the Void."

The dialogue between

void and matter in Allaik's art pieces continues with 10 drypoint etchings in black and gray on paper. The etchings serve as models for the sculpture.

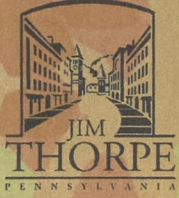
Allaik comes full circle with the steel sculptures representative of his theme of matter and void with shapes and open spaces in the sculpture. Some of the sculpture show grooves from grinder blades, reminiscent of 19th century artists who showed paint strokes on the canvas.

Civic Theater 514 Gallery information: civictheatre.com, 610-432-8943



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Khalil Allaik, "The Sacred Gate" mixed media work



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DeLucas-Wellington
Couple plans nuptials

Marc and Patti DeLucas of North Catasauqua have announced the engagement of their daughter, Tanya, to Mark Wellington.

He is the son of Mark and Annette Wellington of Queensbury, N.Y.



Mark Wellington and Tanya DeLucas

Mauer-Bailey
Couple plans 2017 wedding

Chris and Steph Maurer, of Emmaus, announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin, to Mike Bailey, son of Tom and Wendy Bailey, of Macungie.

The couple are 2011 graduates of Emmaus High School.

Erin is a 2015 honors graduate of the University of Vermont with a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise and movement science. She is an exercise specialist at St. Luke's Sports and Rehabilitation, Jim Thorpe.

Mike is a 2015 graduate of the Smeal College of Business at Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in risk management. He is in the sales and



Mike Bailey and Steph Maurer

marketing department at USLI, Wayne, Mont-gomery County. The couple will wed Oct. 7, 2017.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners will hold a first reading/public hearing on October 10, 2016, and will hold a second reading/public hearing and will consider for adoption on October 24, 2016, the following proposed amendment to the Whitehall Township Zoning Ordinance. Both hearings will be held at 7:00 pm in the public meeting room of the Whitehall Township Municipal Building, 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA 18502.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BILL NO. 17-2016

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 27, ZONING, BY AMENDING THE GENERAL REGULATIONS TO PERMIT 'ADAPTIVE RE-USE' FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING AS A PERMITTED USE IN ALL RESIDENTIAL (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-3A, R-4, R-5, R-5A, AND R-6) ZONING DISTRICTS. (Legal & Legislative)

WHEREAS, Whitehall Township has enacted an official Zoning Ordinance and corresponding Zoning Map to regulate the type, size and location of structures and uses, and

WHEREAS, the Township now wishes to amend this Ordinance with respect to existing structures in all residential zoning districts, to add regulations allowing 'adaptive re-use' of these structures in specific situations; and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes the need to provide for all types of housing and especially for affordable housing within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to provide for adaptive re-use for affordable housing and multi-family housing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED that the Whitehall Township Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27 of the Whitehall Township Codified Ordinances shall be amended to include the following subsections:

1. §27-199.1 Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.

A. Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing shall be permitted by right in all residential zoning districts. Adaptive re-use is the process of reusing an old site or building for a purpose other than which it was built or designed for. It is the conversion of a principal building that was originally constructed and used for principal commercial, institutional, or industrial uses which may or may not be considered or designated as blighted pursuant to the Whitehall Township blight certification provisions, into dwelling units. Adaptive re-use is NOT the razing and redeveloping of an entire structure; however, it may include selective demolition of up to 50% of the existing structure and reconstruction of these demolished areas and minor additions, said additions keeping in nature and character with original structure. Adaptive re-use shall be limited to a principal building over 5,000 square feet in size - the original structure having existed for a period of fifty years prior to the adoption of this Ordinance, or predating the enactment of the original Whitehall Township Zoning Ordinance and Map; and has been vacant, partially vacant or underutilized, in that at least 50% of the structure has remained vacant for a minimum period of three consecutive years.

B. Affordable Housing shall be defined as housing that is targeted to households earning at or below 60% Area Median Income (AMI) for Lehigh County, and with rent and income limits established through a regulatory agreement with a duration of at least 15 years, which is recorded in the Lehigh County Recorder of Deed's office. Rent and income restrictions for households at 60% AMI shall be defined according to the guidelines of the Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, as may be amended. A copy of the Regulatory Agreement containing such restrictions shall be submitted to the Township at the time of application. In the event that the Regulatory Agreement is not recorded until construction is complete, a copy of the recorded document shall be submitted to the Township within 90 days of issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.

C. Multi-Family Housing shall be defined as a group of dwelling units in one (1) or more buildings that are located on one (1) lot containing separate living quarters that is designed for occupancy by more than one (1) family living independently of each other, and containing two (2) or more dwelling units, with or without independent outside access. Multi-Family Housing includes, but is not limited to, townhouses, condominiums and apartments.

D. Exterior changes to the building shall be compatible with the current design of the building and neighborhood. Applicant shall be required to present artist and/or architectural renderings of the proposed exterior changes to the structure for review by the Township.

E. The maximum density shall be limited by the existing square footage of the structures and any allowable additional square footage proposed and permitted under 27-199.1, provided that all units meet the following minimum square footages:

Table with 3 columns: Unit Type, Single Level units, Multi-level Units

Table with 3 columns: Bedroom count, 550, 650, 700, 850, 950, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400

And provided that all applicable building codes and standards are met with respect to occupancy and sleeping areas.

F. Residential parking. The following parking is permitted in an Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing:

- 1. Parking stall width may be reduced to 9'x18' in size for on-site parking.
2. Parking area setbacks from on-site buildings and from surrounding streets may be reduced, and screening requirements may be reduced if providing screening is impracticable due to site configuration and existing non-conformities
3. Parking requirements shall be 1.2 parking spaces per unit for Affordable Housing and 2.0 parking spaces per unit for Multi-Family Housing and each unit shall be assigned a designated parking space.
4. The Property Owner shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to remove snow from on-site parking spaces within 48 hours of a snow storm.

G. An increase in lot coverage and impervious surfaces may be permitted of up to 10% of what is existing at time of application on site - up to a maximum total of 80% impervious surface. Existing uses exceeding this amount will be permitted to remain but shall not increase beyond what is existing

H. The application for Adaptive Re-use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing shall include a site plan prepared by a registered design professional indicating the lot area, parking proposed, the division of the structure, if proposed, and surrounding uses; and an elevation drawing.

I. The adaptive re-use of the building must comply with current building codes and must be reviewed by the Fire Code Official and Township Engineer for compliance and compatibility.

J. Structure setbacks will be permitted as they currently exist. Any rebuilt areas shall be rebuilt in same location or in keeping with existing setbacks of existing structure, or in a manner that reduces existing non-conformities.

K. Building and/or structure height and other existing non-conformities will be permitted as they currently exist. Any proposed additions shall not exceed the maximum height of existing remaining buildings.

L. The Property Owner shall ensure that the leases contain a provision prohibiting an impact based home occupation.

2. The Ordinance shall be further amended as follows:

- A. §27-70 - A shall be amended to add the following subsection: (13) Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.
B. §27-71 - A shall be amended to add the following subsection: (13) Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.
C. §27-72 - A shall be amended to add the following subsection: (13) Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.
D. §27-73 - A shall be amended to add the following subsection: (13) Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.
E. §27-74 - A shall be amended to add the following subsection: (13) Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.
F. §27-75 - A shall be amended to add the following subsection: (16) Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.
G. §27-76 - A shall be amended to add the following subsection: (16) Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.
H. §27-77 - A shall be amended to add the following subsection: (16) Adaptive Re-Use for Affordable Housing and Multi-Family Housing.

All other provisions of the hereinabove noted sections shall remain unchanged.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this ___ day of _____, 2016, at a regular public meeting and shall become effective in two (2) days.

ATTEST:

Thomas Slonaker, Secretary

AND NOW, TO WIT, this ___ day of _____, 2016, the above is approved.

Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Mayor

The proposed Ordinance amendment has been revised since the June 13, 2016, public hearing before the Commissioners to add Multi-Family Housing as a permitted use for adaptive re-use of existing structures and to change the parking requirements to 1.2 parking spaces per unit for Affordable Housing and 2.0 parking spaces per unit for Multi-Family Housing.

Copies of the complete text of the proposed Ordinance may also be viewed at the Municipal Building during normal business hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Special accommodations may be made if necessary by first calling in advance 610-437-5524.

Prepared by Charles Fonzone, Esq., solicitor for Whitehall Township, Sept. 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners will hold a regular Public Meeting on Monday, October 10th, at 7:00 p.m., in the Public Meeting Room of the Whitehall Township Municipal Building, 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA, to discuss and take action on the following legislation:

BILL NO. 17-2016 (First Reading)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 27, ZONING, BY AMENDING THE GENERAL REGULATIONS TO PERMIT ADAPTIVE RE-USE FOR AFFORDABLE AND MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING AS A PERMITTED USE IN ALL RESIDENTIAL (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-3A, R-4, R-5, R-5A, AND R-6) ZONING DISTRICT - Charles J. Fonzone, Solicitor

BILL NO. 22-2016

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG THE MACARTHUR ROAD FRONTAGE OF 2845 MACARTHUR ROAD, AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 407 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP - Charles J. Fonzone, Solicitor

BILL NO. 23-2016

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF IN CAR CAMERA SYSTEM FOR FIFTEEN (15) POLICE VEHICLES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE - Charles J. Fonzone, Solicitor

BILL NO. 24-2016

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE, FOR THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE - Charles J. Fonzone, Solicitor

Copies of the full text of the proposed legislative items may be examined by any citizen in the Administration office of the Township of Whitehall, PA, on any business day between 8:00 am and 4:00 p.m. The Whitehall Township Municipal Building is accessible to the physically handicapped. Assistance for the visually and/or hearing impaired is available upon request at least five (5) working days prior to this meeting.

/s/Thomas Slonaker FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL

Sept. 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE OF ELAINE L. NIEDERMAYER,

Decedent, late of South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Letters Testamentary have been granted to the undersigned, who requests that all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the Decedent make known the same, and all persons indebted to said Decedent are requested to make payment in full, without delay, to:

Executrix: Lisa A. Sturgis c/o Jon A. Swartz, Esquire 7736 Main Street, Fogelsville, PA 18051

Attorney: Jon A. Swartz, Esquire 7736 Main Street, Fogelsville, PA 18051 Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of EDGAR W. KERN, late of Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Letters Testamentary have been granted to the person(s) named below, who request(s) all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the Decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the Decedent to make payments without delay to:

Executrix: PATRICE KERN-GROSS also known as PATRICE SUSAN KERN-GROSS c/o James R. Wischuk, JD 2310 Walbert Avenue, Suite 103 Allentown, PA 18104-1360

or to her Attorney: James R. Wischuk, JD 2310 Walbert Ave., Suite 103 Allentown, PA 18104-1360

Sept. 14, 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of MARY JANE NADIG, late of Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Letters Testamentary have been granted to the person(s) named below, who request(s) all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the Decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the Decedent to make payments without delay to:

Executrix: CRAIG T. NADIG also known as CRAIG NADIG c/o James R. Wischuk, JD 2310 Walbert Avenue, Suite 103 Allentown, PA 18104-1360

or to her Attorney: James R. Wischuk, JD 2310 Walbert Ave., Suite 103 Allentown, PA 18104-1360

Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5

PUBLIC NOTICE

COND 2016-17A

The Board of Supervisors of East Allen Township will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at 7:30 PM at the Township Building, 5344 Nor-Bath Blvd., Northampton, PA 18067 to consider the following application.

The appellants, Vertek Construction Management, requests a conditional use approval to allow for warehousing to be constructed on the subject property.

The property is located at 7378 Airport Rd. in East Allen Township, Bath, PA 18014, Tax Parcel # LS-7-2, located in the Planned Commercial (PC-1) Zoning District.

Any interested party is welcome to attend and will have an opportunity to be heard.

Shawn Leidy East Allen Township Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

Sept. 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of Doris E. Scheurle, Deceased. Late of Salisbury Twp., Lehigh County, PA. Letters Testamentary on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Robert E. Scheurle, Executor, c/o Amy H. Besser, Esq., 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl., Phila., PA 9103. Or to his Atty.: Amy H. Besser, Klenk Law, 1701 Walnut St., 6th Fl., Phila., PA 19103. Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12

Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE OF WALTER A. ERNEY, late of the City of Bethlehem, County of Northampton and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters Testamentary on the above named estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to:

STEVEN KRESGE, Executor c/o WILLIAM P. LEESON, ESQUIRE 70 East Broad Street P.O. Box 1426 Bethlehem, PA 18016-1426 Sept. 14, 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of RONALD F. SICHER, late of Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Letters Testamentary have been granted to the person(s) named below, who request(s) all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the Decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the Decedent to make payments without delay to:

Executrix: JEFFREY SICHER also known as JEFFREY LEE SICHER also known as JEFFREY L. SICHER c/o James R. Wischuk, JD 2310 Walbert Avenue, Suite 103 Allentown, PA 18104-1360

or to his Attorney: James R. Wischuk, JD 2310 Walbert Ave., Suite 103 Allentown, PA 18104-1360

Sept. 14, 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Heidelberg Township Zoning Hearing Board will conduct a Public Hearing at the Heidelberg Township Municipal Building, 6272 Route 309, New Tripoli, on October 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal(s):

APPEAL #256, CASE #16-3

The appeal of Northwestern Lehigh School District, Dr. Mary Anne Wright, Superintendent, of the Heidelberg Township Zoning Ordinance to allow a variance under Section 27-504 of the 10% maximum lot coverage which may be increased to 20% if a groundwater recharge system is used to mitigate the impervious coverage over 10% and any other relief deemed necessary. The current impervious coverage which was granted by a previous variance is 34.84%. The requested lot coverage is 35.09%. The property location is 6493 Route 309, New Tripoli, PA 18066, and it is in the Agricultural Preservation District.

Zoning Officer Noll Zoning Officer Sept. 28, Oct. 5

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOWHILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WILL BE HOLDING A BUDGET WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 6, 2016 AT 5:30 PM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 7000 HERBER ROAD, NEW TRIPOLI, PA 18066.

Jill Seymour, Municipal Secretary Sept. 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE OF JOEL T. KATZMAN, deceased, late of South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Letters Testamentary have been granted to the undersigned, who requests all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the Decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the Decedent to make payments without delay to Seth S. Katzman, Executor, c/o: Law Offices of Alan Penn, P.O. Box 121, Orefield, PA 18069

Sept. 14, 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE OF EVA W. SHEESLEY, deceased, late of Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Letters Testamentary have been granted to the undersigned, who requests all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the Decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the Decedent to make payments without delay to:

Margaret A. Powell and Robert A. Sheesley, Jr., Executors c/o Wiener and Wiener LLP Suite 400 512 Hamilton Street Allentown, PA 18101 OR to their attorney Wiener and Wiener LLP Suite 400 512 Hamilton Street Allentown, PA 18101

Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HANOVER TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. PREVAILING TIME AT THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 3630 JACKSONVILLE ROAD, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, 18017, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING THE APPEAL, ARUN BHALLA AND SUMAN BAHALLA WHO IS SEEKING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO SECTION 185-22.1 (3)(b) THE APPELLANT IS SEEKING RELIEF TO INSTALL ROOF TOP SOLAR PANELS ON THE PREMISES FACING A ROAD WHICH IS PERMITTED AS A CONDITIONAL USE WITH APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND REGULATIONS SPECIFIC TO ALL ZONING DISTRICT. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 2086 QUAIL CREEK RD, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, 18017 AND CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY .4419 ACRES OR APPROXIMATELY 19,249 SQUARE FEET.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY ATTEND THE HEARING AND THEY SHALL BE HEARD. MS. YVONNE D. KUTZ ZONING ADMINISTRATOR HANOVER TOWNSHIP NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

Sept. 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HANOVER TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH, 2016 AT 11:00AM - to satisfy the landlord's lien, the contents of the following units:

Table with 2 columns: Unit #, Name. Lists units 11 through 550 and their respective owners.

Sept. 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE OF MARVIN T. HECKMAN, deceased, late of Moore Township, Northampton County, PA. Letters Testamentary have been granted to the undersigned, who requests all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payments without delay to:

THOMAS C. HECKMAN 208 SHADYNOOK HILL ROAD HARLEYSVILLE, PA 19438

or to their attorney, Steckel and Stopp, By: Charles W. Stopp, at 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080. Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE OF PATRICIA MAE VENNINGER a/k/a PATRICIA M. VENNINGER, late of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters Testamentary on the above named estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to:

SHARON LOUFIK, Executrix c/o GAIL WEINER SHEARER, ESQUIRE or to: GAIL WEINER SHEARER, ESQUIRE 70 E. Broad Street PO Box 1426 Bethlehem, PA 18016-1426

Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Bethlehem Township Self Storage located at 2736 Santee Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18020 will sell by Public Auction on Saturday - October 29th, 2016 at 11:00AM - to satisfy the landlord's lien, the contents of the following units:

Table with 2 columns: Unit #, Name. Lists units 11 through 550 and their respective owners.

Sept. 21, 28

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting will be held by the Zoning Hearing Board of Salisbury Township, Lehigh County PA on Tuesday October 4th, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Township Municipal Building located at 2900 South Pike Ave., Allentown PA 18103.

Please note this project was continued from the September 6, 2016 Zoning Hearing Board.
2775 HONEYSUCKLE ROAD, BETHLEHEM PA 18015 - APPEAL NO. A-16-9977

Hear the Appeal of Mr. Bruce D. Shoemaker and Karen A. Shoemaker for favorable consideration associated with 2775 Honeysuckle Road located in the Conservation-Residential (CR) Zoning District. The property is considered non-conforming to the current Zoning Ordinance since the parcel is approximately 27,300 SF and the Ordinance requires a minimum of 2 acres. The Applicants are requesting a favorable consideration for a Variance from Section 307.2.A regarding the Table of Requirements of maximum building coverage of 10% when the Applicant proposes 16%. The Applicant requests consideration for a Variance under §307.2.A. that requires a maximum impervious coverage of 15% and the Applicant proposes 25%.

Applicant seeks Special Exception pursuant to §806.3.B for a reduction of the side yard where 25 feet is required or a Variance from §307.2.A of the Zoning Ordinance to reduce the side yard setback.
Sept. 21, 28

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that the Fountain Hill Borough Council will hold a second reading/public hearing on October 3, 2016 and will consider for adoption the following Ordinances;

Ordinance 827
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, CHAPTER 15, PART 3, PROHIBITING PARKING AT VARIOUS TIMES, AMENDING SECTION 302 (c) (3), BY APPROVING THE DELETION OF THE FOLLOWING HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES

DELETE:

STREET	SIDE	LOCATION
Russell Avenue	Front	#1229
Russell Avenue	Front	#1120
Seneca Street	Front	#748

Ordinance 829
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL BY AMENDING CHAPTER 10 TO ADD A NEW PART 5 RESTRICTED VEGETATION, PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CULTIVATION OF RUNNING BAMBOO AND OTHER ENUMERATED NOXIOUS PLANTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ORDINANCE BY THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, ABATEMENT OF THE RESTRICTED VEGETATION AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

Full copies are available for inspection at the Borough Office located at 941 Long Street, Fountain Hill, PA 18015.
Sept. 28

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HANOVER TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 11, 2016, AT 7:30 P.M. PREVAILING TIME AT THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 3630 JACKSONVILLE ROAD, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, 18017, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING THE APPEAL, 3355 HIGH POINT LLC, 559 MAIN STREET, 3RD FLOOR, BETHLEHEM, PA 18018, WHO IS SEEKING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO SECTION 185-54. THE APPELLANT IS SEEKING RELIEF TO ALLOW A DAYCARE TO BE LOCATED IN THE IN THE P.O.R.R. (PLANNED OFFICE RESEARCH AND RESIDENTIAL) ZONING DISTRICT WHICH IS PERMITTED AS A CONDITIONAL USE WITH APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. THE PROPERTY WHICH APPELLENT IS SEEKING TO DEVELOP IS LOCATED AT 3355 HIGH POINT BOULEVARD, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, 18017 AND CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY 2.01 ACRES OR APPROXIMATELY 85,565 SQUARE FEET.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY ATTEND THE HEARING AND THEY SHALL BE HEARD.

MS. YVONNE D. KUTZ, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
HANOVER TOWNSHIP
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
Sept. 21, 28

**PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ANNUAL AUDIT AND FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 2015**

FUND EQUITY, JANUARY 1, 2015	\$ 13,664,313
REVENUES	
General Fund	2,853,527
Special Revenue Fund	343,580
Debt Service Fund	120,172
Enterprise Funds	1,755,759
Fiduciary Funds	435,290
TOTAL REVENUES	5,508,328
EXPENDITURES	
General Fund	2,388,922
Special Revenue Fund	123,665
Debt Service Fund	120,172
Enterprise Funds	1,700,413
Fiduciary Funds	841,865
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,175,037
FUND EQUITY, DECEMBER 31, 2015	\$ 13,997,604

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY
DECEMBER 31, 2015**

ASSETS	
Cash and Investments	\$ 4,403,655
Due from Other Funds	3,625
Sewer System, Net	3,509,638
General Fixed Assets	6,112,872
Other Assets	7,341
Amount to be Provided for Retirement of General Long-Term Debt	893,012
	\$ 14,930,143
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	
Other Payroll Withholdings	\$ 2,806
Due to Other Funds	3,625
General Obligation Notes	821,667
Capital Lease Obligations	99,606
Escrow Liabilities	4,835
Fund Equity	13,997,604
	\$ 14,930,143

ASSESSED VALUATION OF THE BOROUGH

Taxable	\$ 236,334,600
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The above statements have been compiled from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report for 2015. Copies of the complete audit report will be available for examination at the Borough's offices upon completion of the audit.
Sept. 28

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL
ZONING HEARING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING**

The regular monthly meeting of the Whitehall Township Zoning Hearing Board will be held on October 18, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., in the Public Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, at 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA 18052, to hear the following appeals:

DOCKET # 1856 - Jay Trabulsi - 1305 Marathon Drive, Whitehall, PA 18052. Location: 1305 Marathon Drive, Whitehall, PA 18052. PIN 549756930956. The subject property is located in a R4 Medium Density Residential Zoning District. Applicant is requesting a variance to Sec. 27-74 E (5) and Sec. 27-18 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding work without a permit and maximum impervious coverage or covering entire rear yard with concrete without first securing the necessary and required approvals. Continued to this meeting at the request of the Applicant.

DOCKET # 1858 - DTC MacArthur Road, LP - 1665 Valley Center Parkway, Suite 110, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Location: 2998 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA 18052, PIN 549827483978, 549827383253, the subject property is located in a C1 Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District. Applicant is requesting a variance to Section 27-155 A (1), Sec. 27-155 A (3), Sec. 27-161 A (1), Sec. 27-165 B, Sec. 27-165 C, Sec. 27-165 D and Sec. 27-165 E of the Zoning Ordinance regarding permitting a freestanding sign of 93.88 SF in lieu of the 75 SF maximum allowable; permitting a freestanding sign to be located 10.0 FT from a Right-of-Way line in lieu of the 25 FT setback required; permitting six (6) wall signs in lieu of the one (1) permitted per business establishment; permitting an electronic display sign within the C1 District; permitting an electronic display sign to be located 10.0 FT from a street, highway, or other public right-of-way in lieu of the 50.0 FT requirement; permitting an electronic display sign to be located 200.2 FT from a residence or residential zoning district in lieu of the 1,000.0 FT requirement; and permitting an electronic display sign to change its display once per minute in lieu of the maximum frequency of no more than four (4) times per hour or once every 15 minutes. Continued to this meeting at the request of the Applicant.

DOCKET # 1859 - Chad Erie - 739 Morris Road, East Greenville, PA 18041. Location: 3404 N. Ruch Street, Whitehall, PA 18052, PIN 549905810582, the subject property is located in a R5A High Density Residential without Apartments Zoning District. Applicant is requesting a variance/interpretation to Sec. 27-76 A, Sec. 27-76 E and Sec. 27-121 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding use permitted in the R5A High Density Residential Zoning District, Applicant proposing a dwelling consisting of not more than 2 dwelling units which was previously permitted when the use was established; recognition of any dimensional nonconformities as it pertains to setbacks; any dimensional variances necessary from 27-121 pertaining to the establishment of apartments associated with the pre-existing dimensional nonconformities.

Copies of plans, applications and supporting documents are available for public inspection at the Township Municipal Building.

The decisions of the Township of Whitehall Zoning Hearing Board are made without regard to race, color, national origin, familial status and disability status of the Applicant.

The Whitehall Township Municipal Building is accessible to the physically handicapped. Any person that requires special assistance to understand the nature of the business conducted at the above meeting because of visual, hearing or other impairment, is requested to contact Melissa A. Wehr, Zoning Officer, at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled meeting to arrange for the necessary assistance.

Applicants, and all interested parties MUST appear at this hearing to be considered.

Sept. 28, Oct. 5

MELISSA A. WEHR, Zoning Officer

JASON ASUSUAL ADE CBS
OCEAN MELINDA DAY ALT
SHAKESPEARE INLOVE PEA
HER NET ODE ISHTAR
CHILDHOODSWEETHEART
ASHEN ECRU AKA ARI
SHIRKED ABNER RODENTS
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Closing the pool for another season

Closing a pool at the end of the swimming season can be bitter-sweet. Homeowners may be sad to bid adieu to the lazy days of splashing and swimming, but ready to embrace the cooler weather and the beauty of autumn. Before the leaves begin to fall from the trees, pool owners must prepare to close, or winterize, their pools.

Gather your supplies

Make a list of the supplies you need to close the pool. Having everything on hand will make the process far more efficient than trying to wing it. Closing a pool can be a large job, so it pays to have some extra hands available. Enlist some helpers who will be available to hand you materials or to assist with placing the cover on the pool, which can be challenging to do on your own.

Don't wait until last minute

The chemicals used throughout the season will also be needed in the winterization process. Therefore, be sure you have enough before pool supplies become difficult to find in area stores. These include sanitizer, algaecide and pH-balancing chemicals.

Clean the entire pool area

Ensuring the pool water and the surface of the pool is clean can make reopening the pool easy. Vacuum the pool thoroughly, re-

moving any debris and organic matter that can contribute to algae growth. Don't forget to brush down the walls of the pool and clean the jets and area where the filter skimmer meets the pool. Pool walls have plenty of crevices where algae can hide and multiply.

Test the water

Leading pool products manufacturer Hayward recommends adjusting the pH to between 7.2 and 7.8 to prevent stains, scaling and algae growth. Alkalinity should be 80 to 125 ppm for plaster/gunite pools and 125 to 150 ppm for other pool types. Test the level of available chlorine, and super-chlorinate the pool to maintain a sanitation level of at least 4 ppm. Once the pool cover is on, the amount of chlorine that escapes due to sunlight and evaporation will decrease. An algaecide may be used, if desired, as well. In very cold climates, a pool-water antifreeze may be necessary. Check with your pool supply retailer for more information.

Run the filter

Run the filter at least 24 hours before disassembling the filter for the season. This will help circulate any chemicals added through the water.

Drain the pool's water

Water should fall just below the skimmer opening. Many pools do not need to be completely drained for the winter.

Shut off equipment

Turn off the filter pump, heater, and any other equipment. Let all water drain out and allow all to dry before storing them away. Follow the manufacturer's directions for lubrication and covering. Install freeze plugs if you choose to use them.

Adjust electricity settings

Turn off the circuit to outdoor outlets that feed the pool equipment, testing to make sure the power is off.

Put accessories away

Remove any ladders, diving boards, slides, external drain lines, and other recreational materials from the pool, storing them in a garage or shed so they are not subjected to potentially harsh winter weather.

Apply your pool cover

Inflate air pillows to roughly 80 percent full if you will be using them. Gather your helpers to attach the pool cover or leaf catcher net. Secure it thoroughly with anchors, water bags, wire fasteners, or whatever method is applicable for the cover and pool type. Remember, a quality pool cover will last for several years and keep leaves, dust and other unwanted items out of the water.

Come early autumn, homeowners can begin closing their pools to keep them secure and clean until the next swimming season begins.



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Reap garden rewards even in fall

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that can help people relax and produce an enviable landscape. Many gardeners even find their meals are more fresh and flavorful when using items they grew themselves.

While many gardeners do the bulk of their gardening in the spring and summer, certain plants thrive in cooler temperatures. That group includes autumn vegetables that are ripe for the picking when leaves begin falling.

Fall gardens provide a reason to enjoy the oft-enjoyable autumn air. So many different vegetables come to life

in the autumn, and they can make wonderful additions to the dinner table. Broccoli, kale, collards, spinach, squashes, artichokes, and beets are just some of the many autumn planting options you can try.

Celery also is best in the fall, and its harvest continues through winter in temperate climates. By replacing crops that have been harvested through the spring and summer with fall-friendly alternatives, you can keep your garden productive for most of the year.

Begin the process by counting back 12 to 14 weeks from the expected first frost date for where

you live. Begin seeds for your autumn plantings indoors, because summer heat and dryness are not the best conditions to nurture young seedlings.

Enrich the soil with compost so that you can replenish the nutrients lost from the last crop harvested.

Each region is different, so learn about when to put plants in the ground for your region. Many plants still need the sun and warmth of late summer to thrive and produce well into the fall. If you are unsure, consult with a local garden center, where you can learn about various aspects of autumn

gardening. Onions, shallots and garlic are best planted mid-fall after the soil has cooled.

Gradually introduce seedlings to more sunlight and outdoor temperatures before they go in the ground, as they need time to adjust to the unfiltered sun.

Be sure to thoroughly water the garden. Newly planted beds should be kept moist to germi-

nate and so established plants can take root. In addition, consider a shade covering so that the soil doesn't dry out or get baked in the sun. Mulch also can help retain moisture and keep the conditions ideal for your autumn vegetables to grow.

Remember that moisture and cooler temperatures can attract garden pests, so you may need

to employ some strategies to keep them under control. For example, insect barriers and all-natural baited traps can keep slugs and snails from munching on your autumn plants.

Fall vegetable gardens can be worthy endeavors, yielding plenty of crops and providing the fun and fulfillment of gardening into the fall.



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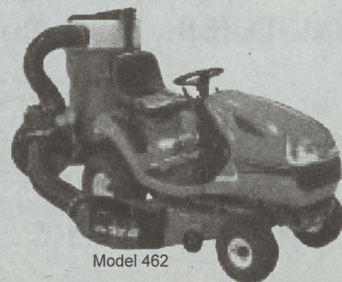
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Preparing your fireplace or stove for the season

Fireplaces and wood-burning stoves not only can be beautiful focal points within a home, but they also provide an additional source of heat and can be used to keep rooms or entire homes comfortable without the need for additional and potentially costly heating sources.

Just like more modern home heating systems, stoves and fireplaces need to be maintained, and that maintenance includes readying them before winter when they are used more heavily. Ensuring a fireplace or stove is in good working order helps to guarantee efficiency of use and safety during the winter months.

Open-flame heating sources carry with them certain risks. The National Fire Protection Association states that, between 2009-2013, American fire departments responded to 56,000 home structure fires that involved heating equipment.

The NFPA notes that the leading factor contributing to home-heating fires is a failure to keep things clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment. The following are a handful of ways to stay safe as you get ready for another cozy season around the fire.

Start with the chimney

Begin by having your chim-

ney thoroughly cleaned and inspected. Creosote can build up inside of the chimney. Creosote is highly flammable and becomes more difficult and expensive to clean the longer it builds up inside your flue lining. In addition, animals may have created nest inside of the chimney since the last time the fireplace was used. A professional chimney sweep should be hired in this situation. He or she will be able to effectively clean the chimney in a manner that is the least messy and disruptive to residents.

Install or check detectors

Operational alarms are essential to preventing injury or death resulting from smoke or carbon monoxide inhalation. Such detectors are inexpensive safeguards that should be installed on every floor of the house. Batteries should be replaced every six months, and the alarms themselves should be changed every five to 10 years.

Inspect the chimney from outdoors as well

Inspect the mortar around any bricks in the chimney and surrounding areas for cracks. If left unaddressed, these can cause dangerous fires. If there are serious cracks, a professional may need to make repairs or the chimney may need to be replaced. You also can have the chimney capped



Prepare fireplaces, chimneys and heating stoves for another season of regular use.

with a screen to keep animals and debris from entering.

Inspect the damper

A damper is a valve or plate that stops or regulates the flow of air inside a chimney. It should be checked prior to the first use of a stove or fireplace so homeowners can be certain it opens and closes smoothly.

Clear out flammable items

Move flammable items away from the front of a fireplace or stove. Be sure curtains or other home furnishings are far enough away that they will not catch fire from any errant sparks or flames.

Order wood now

Be sure there is plenty of

wood for the season. Ask a wood supplier to estimate just how much will be needed, and double-check that the wood will arrive in time for the start of the season.

By preparing for fireplace and wood stove use now, homeowners can ensure their winters are comfortable and safe.

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Protect pipes from freezing this winter

Freezing pipes are a concern for homeowners who live in cold climates. When temperatures dip below freezing, the risk that pipes will freeze rises. Should a pipe burst, the damage that results can be extensive and costly.

Any pipe can freeze, but those that are directly exposed to the cold are the most vulnerable. These include pipes that feed outdoor hoses, swimming pool supply lines, pipes in unheated indoor rooms (i.e., basements or garages), and any pipes that run close to the outdoors through uninsulated walls. Water expands as it freezes, and that expansion can place pressure on whatever is trying to contain it, including pipes.

To avoid serious damage, homeowners need to prepare for the arrival of colder weather and be smart about how they protect pipes.



- Drain water from swimming pools and water sprinkler supply lines prior to the onset of cold weather. Drain water before freezing temperatures arrive, and don't forget to drain outdoor garden hoses and store them inside after watering season has come and gone.
- Close indoor water valves that feed outdoor spigots/bibs. Open the spigot outside to allow water to drain out.

Keep the outside valve open so that any water that has accumulated will continue to drain and expand outward without damaging the pipe. An insulated bib dome also can help prevent frozen pipes.

- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach pipes inside of cabinets. Keep the doors open to spaces that may not be heated or insulated as well as other areas of the home so that heat can find its way inside. Consider wrapping these pipes with an insulating material as well, such as heat tape or pipe sleeves.

- Maintain a consistent thermostat temperature. Ensure the temperature inside your home does not drop below 55 F; otherwise, problems can arise. Use a programmable thermostat to keep the house comfortable even when you are not home. Individuals who are traveling should set

the thermostat so that it will keep the home at the recommended temperature to avoid frozen pipes.

- Open one faucet. When it is very cold outside, particularly at night, let water slowly drip from one faucet to prevent freezing. Choose the sink that is furthest from where water enters the house so water is flowing through all of the pipes to reach that faucet.

- Increase insulation around where pipes enter the house. Use insulating foam to seal any drafts where pipes enter the house from the outdoors.

Frozen pipes cannot always be avoided. Therefore, it is important that everyone in the household knows how to shut off the main water valve in the event a pipe bursts. This can prevent expensive damage to a home.

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- 1. Heating & Ventilation** - Examine your fireplace and chimney system to ensure that no soot or creosote has collected. Any cracks or voids could potentially cause a fire. Before you turn the furnace or boiler on, replace the air filter and hire a professional to inspect the unit more thoroughly. These steps will improve the efficiency and life of your furnace and will ensure stable indoor air quality.
- 2. Seal Windows and Doors** - If not properly sealed, windows and doors can be a major culprit for heat loss. To keep the warm air inside, inspect the weather-stripping around your home's windows and doors for leaks, rot or decay. Repair or replace structural framing, and caulk inside and out, if necessary.
- 3. Insulate well** - One of the easiest and most effective defenses against heat loss is proper insulation. Prevent cold drafts from entering and the loss of heated air through basement headers, which, when left exposed, can make your furnace work harder.
- 4. Backyard Care** - Save your property from potential damage by trimming overgrown trees and shrubs to prevent ice-laden branches from thrashing against electrical wires and your home's exterior. Drain/shut off any exterior faucets and sprinkler systems to prevent freezing. Ensure rain or snow drains away from the house to avoid foundation problems.
- 5. Roof and Gutters** - Inspect your roof for shingles that are warped, damaged or even missing to prevent a future leak. Use roofing cement and a caulking gun to seal joints where water could penetrate, such as around the chimney, skylights or vent pipes. Make sure that your gutters and downspouts are securely fastened. Downspouts should extend at least five feet away from the home to prevent flooding. When it comes to preventative maintenance, a little time and effort can save thousands in energy costs and repair bills over the lifetime of your home.

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How to prevent mold growth in your home

Mold plays an important role in nature. Mold breaks down dead organic matter, including fallen leaves, and speeds up the decomposition process so nutrients can return to the soil as quickly as possible.

But mold inside a home can be a formidable foe, triggering allergic reactions and increasing a person's risk of developing respiratory problems. Mold can even cause damage to a home by attaching itself to wood and breaking down that wood.

Because the consequences of mold growth inside a home can be so dire, it's important that men and women take steps to prevent mold growth in their homes and apartments.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes that controlling moisture levels in a home or apartment is the key to controlling mold as well.

- Address spills quickly and properly. Many instances of mold infestations can be traced to leaks or spills that were not quickly or properly addressed.

The EPA advises that wet or damp materials or areas should be dried within 24 to 48 hours to prevent the growth of mold. Make sure spills are thoroughly cleaned as opposed to a cursory cleanup of only the areas visible to the naked eye.

Inspect nearby crevices when spills occur to ensure the area where the spill happened and all surrounding areas vulnerable to mold growth are dry. In addition, fix leaky plumbing fixtures immediately, hiring a professional if necessary.

- Inspect the ground surrounding your home. Factors outside a home can sometimes contribute to mold growth within a home. Make sure the ground outside your home slopes away from the foundation.

If the ground slopes toward your home, rainwater or runoff from sprinkler systems may direct water into your home, creating conditions favorable to mold growth inside.

Gutters and downspouts also should be inspected to ensure they are working optimally. If not, they can contribute to water damage on the roof that can ultimately lead to mold growth.



Bathrooms are vulnerable to mold growth.

- Monitor indoor humidity. The EPA advises that homeowners keep indoor humidity below 60 percent relative humidity, which can be measured with humidity meters available at many hardware stores.

Homeowners who can keep indoor humidity at levels 30 to 50 percent below relative humidity might be even more successful at keeping indoor mold growth at bay.

- Dry wet surfaces immediately. Surfaces can become wet even if a home has no leaky fixtures and no spills have occurred. For example, the surfaces of bathroom walls, ceilings and floors get wet when a home's inhabitants take hot baths or showers.

That condensation is natural, but such surfaces are also susceptible to mold growth. Make sure to dry wet surfaces immediately, and keep exhaust fans on or windows open when bathing to decrease the likelihood of mold growth.

Mold growth can be detrimental to human beings and their homes. But many mold infestations are easily prevented.

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There will be several seminars scheduled so please plan early to attend. There are many things during the fall to keep you busy in your lawn & gardens that having the right knowledge will help you in so many ways. Come with questions and we'll provide the answers!

Also, we will have many new pond supplies for those of you that plan on cleaning and winterizing your water features. Make sure to check the store for these items.

Herbein's Lawn Center: Remember that now is the time to get your lawns into shape. Dan, Herbein's Lawn Care Expert, will be holding a fall lawn seminar this weekend and he is full of top-notch knowledge to help homeowners grow the pristine lawn they desire. Get your thinking caps on! He has the lawn center full of fall products that you might need for clean-up, seeding and fertilizing. Stop by and see him today.

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Simplify fall leaf cleanup

Apple pie, pumpkins and blooming chrysanthemums are symbols of autumn. But nothing signals the arrival of fall more than the millions of leaves that begin to cascade from the trees as the temperatures dip.

Many people feel nothing is more beautiful than the yellow, red, purple, and orange leaves that coat neighborhoods and countryside each fall. But in spite of their beauty, leaves might be a nuisance to homeowners tasked with removing the growing piles of them from their lawns. Those with large oak and maple trees in front of their homes understand the seemingly endless work of leaf removal.

As the days begin to grow shorter and colder, these changes trigger a hormone release in trees, prompting them to drop their leaves. This chemical message causes the formation of abscission cells where the leaf stem meets the branch, say botanists at

the Missouri Botanical Garden. So rather than merely dropping off of trees when the wind blows, the leaves actually fall off deliberately.

Left untouched, fallen leaves can contribute to lawn problems such as poor aeration, mold growth and moisture issues. Leaves also can cause staining on driveways and walkways. Prompt removal can help prevent any problems. To make faster and easier work of leaf removal, keep these tips in mind.

Mow over thin leaf coverage

If only a few leaves have fallen, use a mulching mower to shred the leaves until they are small enough that they won't suffocate the lawn. The small pieces will decompose in the lawn, reintroducing nutrients as a result.

Use an ergonomic leaf rake

Ergonomic rakes can prevent back and arm



pain, much in the way that ergonomic shovels do when shoveling snow.

Invest in a quality leaf blower

Using a rake is good exercise, but homeowners with large properties

might want to use a leaf blower. These machines can dislodge leaves from bushes and hard-to-reach crevices, and they work faster than rakes.

Use a tarp

Rake or blow leaves onto a tarp and then drag the tarp to the curbside or to the back of a truck for proper disposal. Special leaf scoopers enable you to grab more leaves if they need to be picked up and transported. Oth-

erwise, you can use the covers from two garbage pails to achieve a similar effect.

Work with the wind

Rake in the direction the wind is blowing and downhill if your property slopes. This way it will be easier on you, and you won't be working against Mother Nature.

Spread out the job

Do not attempt to remove all fallen leaves in

a single day. Schedule a few cleaning days during the season to make lighter work of the job than if you tried to do it all at once. Keep in mind that leaves will continue to fall throughout the season and you may need to spend a few days removing leaves from your yard.

Removing leaves is a large part of fall home maintenance. Employ these tips to make this task less strenuous.

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Home improvement projects for your fall to-do list

Homeowners know that maintaining a home can be a year-round job. No home is immune to wear and tear, and homeowners who want to protect their real estate investments should try to stay two steps ahead to ensure their homes do not succumb to the elements or become outdated and unappealing to prospective

buyers. Fall has become a season that's synonymous with home improvement, but homeowners need not wait until the leaves begin changing colors to start planning their next projects. The following are a few items homeowners can add to their fall home improvement to-do lists.

Roof inspection

Less precipitation tends to fall during the warmer months than during the late fall and winter. As a result, homeowners may not be aware of leaky roofs until autumn has come and gone. But waiting until winter to inspect the roof can prove disastrous, as weather conditions will not be condu-

cive to inspection and increased precipitation may result in potentially costly damage.

Leaky roofs can be easily identified by looking for water stains on interior ceilings. Once you see a stain, you can climb onto the roof to identify the location of the leak and fix it before winter rains and snowfall turn the problem

into something much larger. Inspect your ceilings for signs of leaking after a strong rainfall, and then address any leaks immediately.

Gutter cleaning

While some homeowners prefer to delay their gutter cleaning projects until late fall, those whose homes are surrounded by trees

may need to schedule two such projects. Gutters clogged with leaves and other debris can cause serious roof damage, and that damage can extend all the way inside a home.

In addition, clogged gutters make great nesting areas for insects or critters. Always stand on a ladder when clean-

See **HOME** on Page 10



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HOME

Continued from page 9

ing gutters, wearing gloves to remove items by hand and dropping leaves and debris into a trash can below. Standing on the roof and leaning over gutters greatly increases your risk of injury.

If the gutters are clear when you first examine them in early fall, you can wait until later in the season to give them a complete and thorough cleaning. Once you have finished clearing the gutters, you can use a hose to run water through them and the downspouts to confirm everything is function-

ing properly.

Window and doorway inspection

Before temperatures start dropping once again, homeowners will want to inspect their windows and doorways for leaks. Over time, cracks can develop around windows and doorways, and while such cracks are rarely noticeable when the weather outside is warm, they can be quite obvious and very costly if they remain unsealed come the start of winter.

Cold air can enter a home through cracks around windows and doorways, and many homeowners who don't

suspect leaks may respond by turning up the thermostats in their homes. That can prove quite expensive over a full winter. Choose a windy autumn day to place a hand by windows and external doorways in your home to see if you can feel drafts.

If you can, seal these cracks as soon as possible.

Patio cleanup

Patios are popular hangouts during spring and summer, and that can result in a lot of wear and tear. Once you store patio furniture for the

winter, inspect your entire patio to determine if it needs any refurbishing. While certain patio projects may be best left for spring, you can still clean any stained areas around the grill and look for cracks in the sidewalk that need to be addressed.

Preparing for fall home improvement projects ahead of time can help homeowners complete projects in a timely manner and ensures they won't be forced to brave the winter elements when refurbishing their homes.



Autumn is a great time to inspect patios that might have endured some wear and tear during the heavy usage seasons of spring and summer.

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Exposure to lead dust or fumes may cause brain damage or other

adverse health effects, especially in children or pregnant women. It is essential that homeowners control their exposure to lead or other hazardous substances through the use of protective equipment, such as a properly fitted respirator.

If lead is discovered, it may require professional containment and cleanup.

Contact your local health authority if you discover or suspect you have discovered lead paint or other hazardous materials in your home.

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Potential trouble signs for driveways

Though they are often easy to overlook, driveways are durable parts of a home that can greatly impact a home's curb appeal. Driveways endure quite a bit of wear and tear over their lifespans, and homeowners who have not given their driveways much thought may want to start looking for potential trouble signs that indicate a need for some driveway maintenance.

According to the online home improvement resource HomeAdvisor.com, the average cost of a driveway installation in 2015 was just under \$3,700. Those costs are influenced by a host of factors, including the size of the driveway and the material it's made of.

Damaged driveways do not necessarily need to be replaced, as some may just need minor repairs. But homeowners who see any of the following trouble signs in their driveways may want to consult a professional contractor to determine what their next steps should be.

Potholes

Potholes might be most often associated with heavily trafficked roadways, but even driveways are susceptible to potholes. As the ground beneath the driveway expands and contracts, the pavement above that ground weakens and becomes more susceptible to damage.

That damage may ultimately lead to large chunks of the driveway breaking down, creating holes as a result.



Surface cracks in a driveway may indicate a problem that requires immediate attention.

Homeowners who live in areas that experience heavy snowfall may see their driveways develop potholes after they are shoveled or plowed.

Potholes that are not fixed may damage vehicles that drive on the pavement, and potholes may even expand over time.

Accumulation of water

Puddles that form during a rainstorm may not be indicative of anything other than a rainy day. But water that pools or runs down the middle of the driveway may indicate drainage problems. Such problems may be the result of structural problems with the slope

of the driveway, which can cause bigger issues down the road.

When water is not absorbed into the ground or directed away from your home, it can then flow into the house, potentially making your garage or home susceptible to water damage.

Cracks

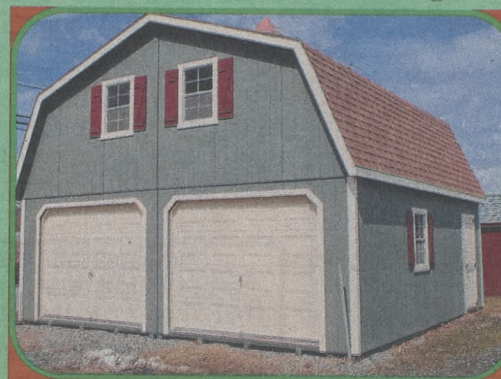
Cracking is one of the more noticeable issues that can plague driveways. Many driveways experience cracking as materials inevitably succumb to the elements. Driveway cracks may develop for various reasons, including poor initial installation.

Tree roots that grow beneath the driveway

See **SIGN** on Page 12

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What to look for during roof inspections

Cold weather can be tough on a home, and perhaps no part of a home is more vulnerable to harsh winter weather than its roof.

Fallen snow can equate to several pounds of pressure placed on a residential roof. Roofs do not often collapse under heavy snowfall. But adverse winter weather conditions can compromise roofs in other ways.

Water leakage and damage to the roof's interior are just two of the potentially problematic issues that can arise

when roofs are battered by cold, blustery weather. That's why many home improvement specialists advise homeowners to conduct roof inspections prior to the start of winter.

Many homeowners can conduct their own cursory roof inspections, but they may not know exactly what to look for. The National Roofing Contractors Association says that there are certain key areas to inspect that may reveal some telltale signs of roof damage.

• Curled, cracked or

missing shingles may prove troublesome. Inclement weather can test the strength of even the most durable roofs. Even though many roofs are designed to last up to 30 years, some may need to be replaced early, particularly when they have been exposed to harsh weather over a period of years. Individual shingles can be replaced as spot treatments, but if the damage is widespread, a new roof may be necessary.

• Attic leaks or water elsewhere might signal issues with the roof. Figure out if water inside the home is coming from the roof. Water stains do not always indicate problems with the roofing, but it's better to be safe than sorry.

• Look for protective granules wearing off. If gutters are filled with the sandy granular material that coats roofing shingles, that may be a sign of an aging or damaged roof.

• Inspect flashing. Professional roofers can recognize properly installed flashing, the material that connects the roof to other parts of the house



Inspect a roof each fall to get an idea of the potential damage and any necessary repairs that may be needed before nasty weather sets in.

that adjoin the roof, like skylights or a chimneys. Poorly installed flashing can cause leaks. Stains that appear below chimneys or near attic windows may indicate new flashing, and not new shingles, is needed.

• Gutters and downspouts should be in good condition. A roof is the sum of its parts, and that includes downspouts and gutters. If the gutters are clogged or damaged, they

cannot direct water away from the house properly. Snow, leaves and other debris needs to be cleared from gutters to help them function at optimal capacity.

• Animals and insects can cause damage, too. It's not just poor weather that homeowners need to consider with regard to roof damage. Boring insects and animals may cause problems with roofs as well.

A roof inspection may shed light on potential pest problems. Holes or nesting materials may indicate that an animal or animals are using the attic as a shelter from the elements.

Get to the root of issues with your home's roof before they become bigger problems once winter arrives. A thorough inspection can reveal problems that may prove costly if ignored.

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Continued from page 11

surface may also contribute to cracking as the driveways ultimately succumb to the pressure created by the growing roots. Some cracks may prove less problematic than others, but homeowners

should still speak with a contractor if they notice their driveway is starting to succumb to cracks.

Driveways may not draw the attention of homeowners too often, but damaged driveways that go ignored may ultimately lead to very costly problems.

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Your guide to proper tree pruning

Trees may require pruning for a variety of reasons. Storms may have damaged branches, necessitating a pruning. In other instances, trees may have outgrown their yards, overpowering the landscape.

Autumn and winter, when trees largely go dormant and fallen leaves make it easier to see the branches beneath, may be prime times to prune. Pruning during the dormant period also minimizes sap loss and stress to the tree, and can help cut down on the growth of fungi. In addition, insects are less likely to be problematic during the colder months of the year.

Trimming and pruning can be handled by do-it-yourselfers if the branches are smaller and more manageable. Practice on thinner branches before moving on to thicker ones,

which may require extra help. Branches may be heavy, and it takes a guided hand to ensure the branches fall in a safe manner so they do not cause damage or injury.

Branches also need to be trimmed properly to facilitate good healing. Trees will form a callus bark covering over cuts to keep out disease and decay, much as a scab forms over a person's wound. Damaging the bark on a tree while pruning may interfere with that process, so do-it-yourselfers need to take the time to prune correctly.

According to Danny Lipford, home improvement expert and host of the radio program "Today's Homeowner," larger limbs may require three cuts instead of one. The first cut is a small notch in the bottom of the limb, around two to three feet from

the trunk and about one-quarter of the way through. This helps prevent the bark from splitting.

A relief cut is then made a few inches away from the notch cut, and goes all the way through. This removes the weight of the branch so that the final cut can be made without the branch splitting and falling.

The final cut is made right where the limb extrudes from the branch collar, or the swollen bump that then forms into the tree limb. Follow the slant of the branch collar when making the cut. Smaller or thinner branches may not require the same three steps, but every effort should be made to reduce injury to the tree.

When deciding how much to prune, less is usually more. All pruning can put some level

See **GUIDE** on Page 14



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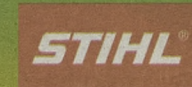
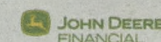
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How to spot an unhealthy tree

Perhaps because they can live for so many years, trees have a way of falling down homeowners' landscaping priority lists. Trees also tend to be big and strong, so it's no surprise that they often are overlooked in favor of other areas of a lawn and garden that don't seem so strong in the face of Mother Nature.

But trees are susceptible to damage and disease, and homeowners who learn to recognize symptoms of such problems can prevent them from escalating and reduce the risk that the trees will cause damage to their properties.

The following are just some of the ways homeowners can determine if their trees are

unhealthy. Homeowners who suspect they have a tree that poses a safety risk should contact a professional tree service for an immediate inspection and steer clear of the tree until an inspection has been performed.

Check around the base of the tree

The base of a tree may offer some telltale signs that the tree is unhealthy. Soil that is cracked or raised at the base of the tree may be indicative of a tree that has started to uproot. If you recognize any cracking or if the soil is raised, look at the tree to see if it is leaning. If the soil is cracked or raised because it is uprooting, then the tree might have

already started to lean in the opposite direction of the cracking or raised soil.

Examine for fungus

The growth of fungus on the tree trunk or close to it may be a sign that the tree is rotting or decaying. Fungal growth, such as a sudden population of mushrooms, around the base of the tree is another sign of decay. If the wood behind fungal growth crumbles easily, then homeowners should call a professional tree service, as the fungal problem on the tree has likely already been festering for quite some time.

Look for cavities on the trunk

Cracks and cavities on a tree may not be an emergency, but especially deep cracks and cavities may be indicative of a structural problem. Multiple cracks and cavities also serve as red flags.

Look for dead wood

It may sound simple, but dead wood poses a threat to the tree and anyone who happens to spend time in its vicinity.



Unhealthy trees may need to be removed from a property before they cause significant damage.

Dead wood snaps easily, and falling dead wood can harm anyone unlucky enough to be beneath the tree when the dead wood snaps. Dead wood branches won't bend in the wind, and such branches frequently fall off of trees when strong gusts of wind come along. Dead branches either won't have leaves or the leaves will be brown (dead

pine branches will have brown needles).

Weak connections

Unhealthy trees often have weak connections between their branches and their trunks. If branches don't appear to be strongly connected to the tree bark, call a tree service to determine a solution. The tree might not be on its way out, but

you may have to take steps to strengthen the connections so branches are not at risk of falling.

Unhealthy trees can pose a significant safety hazard on a property. Homeowners who learn to recognize the signs of unhealthy trees can do something to prevent dying trees from damaging their homes.

GUIDE

Continued from page 13

of stress on the tree and increase its vulnerability to disease and insect infestation. A good rule of thumb is to never prune more than 25 percent of the crown.

According to experts at TreeHelp.com, living branches should comprise at least two-thirds the height of the tree.

In some instances, the rules may need to be bent if trees are interfering with utility lines or to meet community laws.

However, always prune minimally to avoid damaging the tree.

The right tools also make the job safer and easier. Use a pole pruner and lopper, rope saws, folding pruner, and a bucksaw. A

chainsaw can be used in some instances, especially when pruning larger limbs.

Always disinfect pruning tools after you're done to prevent the spread of disease to other trees.

Consider hiring a professional tree service if pruning proves beyond your capabilities. Doing so is safe and often well worth the investment.

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How to repot a plant

Gardening time is here, with people enjoying plants both inside and outside of their homes. Container gardening, which is a planting method in which flowers and other plants are grown in pots and other containers, is quite popular because of design versatility.

Containers can be moved from location to location if plants are not thriving in a particular spot. They also make gardening possible when there isn't any available land space, which might be the case for apartment-dwellers.

Flower pots enable plant enthusiasts to enjoy foliage inside of the home as well. Houseplants can add beauty to interior spaces and help filter indoor air.

In the late 1980s, NASA and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America actually studied houseplants as a way to purify the air in space facilities. They found several plants are particularly good at filtering out common volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Having plants around can create inviting spaces and improve healthy conditions inside and out.

Part of caring for plants in containers involves knowing when a potted plant might need a little tender loving care. As plants grow larger, they may outgrow their containers and require more roomy quarters.

Without ample space, plants may not be able to adequately draw up water and nutrients to support top growth. Repotting may seem like it is easy, but it actually takes a little finesse so not to damage the plants.

Gardening experts like those from Fine Gardening, HGTV and Today's Homeowner suggest these repotting tips.

- Be sure the plant is well watered for a few days prior to the repotting process. Watering also will help loosen the root ball from inside of the smaller pot.

- A plant ready for repotting should slide out with most of the soil in one piece. If the soil is free-falling, it may not need to be repotted at this point because there's still room for the roots to expand. Other signs that plants may need repotting include roots poking out of the soil or plants that are straggly and pale.

- Consider repotting outside because the process can be messy. Have all of your materials, which in-



clude a trowel, gloves, scissors, and potting soil, handy so that you can tackle the process smoothly.

- Remove your plant from the pot carefully. Place the plant on its side, then support the main stem in one hand and use the other hand to gently pull the pot away. Be careful not to pull on the main stem or break the stem. Tread gently.

- Cut away any rotten or dead roots, and trim really long ends. Make three or four vertical cuts about a third of the way up the remaining root ball. This also will help with water and nutrient absorption once the plant is in its new pot.

- Gently untangle any remaining roots and prepare to place the plant in a new pot.

- Choose a new pot that is slightly larger than the root ball. Fill the pot with soil so that the root ball sits about an inch below the rim of the pot. Add more soil around the roots to fill the pot. Be sure to leave enough room so that with each watering the pot can hold water.

- Thoroughly water the plant after repotting to moisten the soil.

Watch your plant afterwards to be sure that it's taking to its new potted home. It can take around three to four weeks for the plant to recover from repotting. Water regularly, avoid fertilizing and keep the plant out of direct sunlight.

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How to tend to an indoor herb garden

Fresh herbs and recently picked ingredients can add flavor to any meal. A home chef can even improve the flavor of store-bought or prepared foods with an herb garnish that can transform otherwise bland dishes into something you'll want to eat again and again.

Harvesting fresh herbs is easy for homeowners who have gardens right in their backyards. However, everyone does not have a backyard, and even those that do might find their gardens threatened by changing seasons or unwanted critters. When gardens are moved indoors, the bounty of fresh ingredients continues no matter the date on the calendar.

Herb gardens are perhaps some of the easiest gardens to cultivate indoors because they don't require large pots or much space. The plants themselves are relatively compact, and it only takes a pinch of herbs to give a meal some extra flavor.

When growing herbs in-

doors, your indoor growing area must have adequate light to simulate the longer days of summer; otherwise, the plants may go dormant.

It's ideal to have a southern exposure on the herbs, with at least eight hours of sunlight per day. If you do not live in a particularly sunny locale, consider supplementing the plants with grow lights, which will provide the full spectrum of light the plants need to thrive.

Indoor air can become too dry for herbs, so you will need to compensate by providing humidity. While there may be added humidity in a kitchen greenhouse window, it still may not be enough to keep the plants healthy.

Think about misting the plants daily to create some extra humidity, or place herb pots on top of a water-filled tray with pebbles so the evaporating water will add moisture without making the roots soggy.

Insects are another threat to indoor gardens because

there is no cold weather to inhibit the hatching of insect eggs. Soil from outdoors may be more susceptible to insects that are already living in the dirt.

Instead of soil from outside, use packaged soil or a nonsoil alternative that will hold moisture without the added risk of bugs. If small insects appear, use a mist of soapy water to kill the bugs without harming the plants or making the herbs unfit for eating.

Group herbs together according to their watering needs to make maintenance that much easier. New sprouts generally need more water than established plants.

Prune the herbs as needed for recipes. If the herbs experience a growth spurt, trim some of the plants and freeze the herbs for later use.

Many indoor herb gardeners begin by growing parsley, chives, oregano, and basil, but you can experiment with just about any herb.



A sunny location is necessary when cultivating an indoor herbs garden.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Transplant shock occurs when plants adversely respond to being moved from one place to another. Plants may need to be moved for a variety of reasons, but homeowners should be especially careful when moving plants

around their properties.

When moving a plant, do your best to avoid disturbing the root, even resisting the urge to shake dirt off the roots.

Keep the rootball wet throughout transplanting, too, as roots that dry out

are more susceptible to damage than those that remain moist.

Transplant shock is less likely to occur if most of the roots are moved along with the plant, so try to dig up as many of the roots as possible before picking up

the plant and moving it.

Water also can help prevent transplant shock by helping the plant acclimate to its new location, so remember to water the plant after it has been moved.

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Paint your home's exterior like a pro

Painting is an inexpensive way to transform just about any space. Many people paint the interiors of their homes, but home exteriors also can undergo dramatic makeovers with fresh coats of paint.

Timing the job right and heeding some tips from professionals and do-it-yourselfers who have tread the painting path before you can make the job go smoothly.

Consider the time of year

Consider local weather patterns and forecasts when planning an exterior painting project. Choose a time of year when there is little rain and low humidity, such as autumn. Keep in mind that the paint will require a couple of days to dry completely and cure, and that can be dif-

ficult in damp weather. Don't hamper the final outcome with poor timing.

Prepare the painting surfaces

Resist the temptation to start painting straight away. Paint may not adhere to unprepared surfaces, and dirt and other debris may show through and mar the finished product. Repainting a home's exterior will likely involve removing peeling or chipping paint prior to making your first strokes.

Wear protective gear when scraping, sanding or brushing old paint, as such tasks can generate dust that can be dangerous to inhale, particularly if the old paint contains lead.

Employ a chlorine bleach solution to kill any mildew and to scrub any dirt from the house. In addition, repair any

cracks or imperfections. For example, if you're painting stucco, you may have to fill in any pitting or holes.

Use this opportunity to inspect caulking around windows and doors. Re-caulk as needed to seal up drafty areas or those that may cause water infiltration prior to painting.

Prime and cover stains

It may be a little extra work, but apply a quality primer as the first coat to hide any imperfections, such as wood knots or discoloration from weathering. Primer provides a smooth, even surface upon which to put your paint color.

Once you have applied the primer, test your paint color in a small, inconspicuous spot to see how the col-

See **PAINT** on Page 18

How to choose a kitchen/bath designer/remodeler

Remodeling a kitchen or bathroom can be overwhelming for any homeowner. For all but the most experienced carpenters, this is not a do-it-yourself project. Remodeling these rooms is very different from a bedroom, dining room or family room. A specialized professional should be brought in to insure success of the project.

Some criteria for finding an appropriate professional:

1. Choose a kitchen/bath dealer. They are specialists who can take care of your remodel from concept to completion. Do this the same way you would seek out a specialist in any field.
2. The kitchen/bath dealer you choose should have a permanent, well kept showroom and not just be working out of a truck or even his home. How long the dealer has been a member of the same community is also important.
3. Make sure the dealer belongs to local and national trade organizations like NKBA, BKBG and the local Chamber of Commerce among others.
4. Check that the dealer has a Home Improvement Contractor number and is lead safe certified.
5. Look for staff to have credentials such as AKBD for example (Associate Kitchen & Bath Designer) from the National Kitchen and Bath Association.
6. Ask for satisfied customer references. (Information needed for you to contact their past customers and ask them about their experience, should be made available to you.)
7. Talk to a prospective kitchen/bath dealer about your remodel and decide if he or she is friendly, knowledgeable and someone you could work with easily. This is the most important consideration as you will partner with them closely to insure the success of your project.

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PAINT

Continued from page 17

or looks in the daylight. You do not want to paint the entire home only to find out you dislike the color.

Try these painting techniques

Rent a paint sprayer for large surface areas. The sprayer will produce a more uniform application and is less time-consuming than painting everything with a brush or roller. Make sure you've chosen a high-quality paint, as the added expense is worth it if the paint lasts longer and coats more evenly.

Also, if you have purchased multiple cans of paint, mix them all in one large bucket to ensure the same color; otherwise, the colors may not match perfectly.

The experts at HGTV recommend working your way from top to bottom in a smooth, controlled manner, overlapping each stroke by eight inches. Trim and hard-to-reach areas should be left for brush work so you can maintain control over your tools.

If you are painting areas like steps or staircases, consider adding a little fine-grain sand to the paint to improve traction, as paint can be slippery when wet.

If painting your home's exterior is beyond your capabilities, hire a professional. He or she will get the work done in a timely manner, and you can rest assured that the job will be done correctly.

Finding the right fencing fit

Homeowners choose to erect fences on their properties for various reasons. Parents may find fences provide peace of mind during those times when their youngsters are playing in the yard, while other homeowners prefer fences for the privacy they can provide.

Whatever compels homeowners to consider fencing for their properties, those that have decided to install fencing will soon realize they have numerous options. Finding the right fencing material for your property requires considering a host of factors, including budget and personal style.

Aluminum

Aluminum fencing is ideal for those looking for something that's both ornamental and functional. Aluminum fencing may not appeal to those homeowners whose biggest priority is privacy, as aluminum fences are not solid walls.

But aluminum fences are typically low maintenance, and they can be effective at keeping both kids and pets in the yard. Aluminum fences painted with a rust-inhibiting primer may require even less maintenance than

aluminum fences painted without primer.

Bamboo

Bamboo is a less traditional fencing option that may appeal to homeowners who want to do something that's both different and eco-friendly. Bamboo grows naturally, which should appeal to homeowners who want their homes to have as little negative impact on the environment as possible.

Bamboo provides ample privacy and comes in various styles. Homeowners should consult with a fencing specialist before choosing a style so they can be certain they choose the most climate-appropriate option.

Chain-link

Chain-link fences may not add the aesthetic appeal homeowners are looking for, but they are relatively inexpensive, durable and functional. Chain-link fences are low maintenance, though homeowners looking for fences to provide some privacy may need to get creative if they install chain-link fencing.

Planting flowers, shrubbery or trees near chain-link fences can add some

aesthetic appeal and a little privacy.

Vinyl

Among the more expensive fencing options, vinyl can make up for that initial sticker shock thanks to its durability. In addition, vinyl fences require little maintenance, saving homeowners the expense of paying for upkeep such as repainting. Vinyl fencing comes in various styles, and homeowners can choose the style that best suits their priorities with regard to aesthetic appeal and privacy.

Wood

Of course, no discussion of fencing would be complete without mentioning wood fencing. Many homeowners love wood fencing because of its versatility with regard to design and color.

The options are endless when it comes to crafting wood fencing, which also can be stained in any color homeowners prefer. Wood fencing can be designed not only for homeowners who prioritize privacy, but it also can be crafted for homeowners for whom privacy is not a significant



concern. Wood is a relatively inexpensive fencing material, but the maintenance required to keep wood fencing looking great can sometimes be costly and time-consuming.

Options abound for homeowners looking to add fencing to their properties. Homeowners hesitant to choose a material and/or install their own fencing can consult local professionals to find the best fencing fit for their properties.

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Houseplants can clean indoor air

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that can pay a host of dividends, both for the planet and the people doing the gardening. Healthy plant life can help clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and various air pollutants, while the act of gardening can help gardeners combat stress.

Published in 2011 in the Journal of Health Psychology, a study from researchers in the Netherlands found that gardening promotes relief from acute stress. In the study, two groups of participants were asked to complete a stressful task and then instructed to either read indoors or garden outdoors for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, the latter group had lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol and even reported being in a better mood than the group instructed to read indoors.

But gardening does more than just provide gardeners with a reason to spend some time relaxing outdoors in an effort to relieve stress. Gardeners who raise certain plants may be able to bring those benefits with them when going inside as well. According to an article published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives in October 2011, houseplants can work wonders when it comes to improving overall health, removing toxins from air, soil and water by metabolizing some toxic chemicals and releasing harmless byproducts while sequestering such toxins by incorporating them into plant tissues.

Clean indoor air is important for everyone, but especially so for those people who suffer from respiratory ailments like asthma. In fact, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology considers indoor air filtration an essential part of any strategy to improve respiratory

health. But filtration systems and air purifiers are often not enough, and those who want the air in their homes to be as clean as possible may benefit from introducing certain houseplants into their homes. The following are a handful of plants that can help to improve indoor air quality.

- **Aloe vera:** Aloe vera might be most often associated with hand creams and hand soaps, but the aloe vera plant, a succulent that even novice gardeners should have no problem growing, can clear indoor air of formaldehyde and benzene, two common byproducts of chemical-based cleaners many people use in their homes.

- **Spider plant:** Spider plants are resilient, and that makes them great houseplants for busy men and women who tend to be forgetful when caring for their plants. In addition, spider plants are pet-friendly and can be used to combat benzene, carbon dioxide, formaldehyde and xylene.

- **English ivy:** NASA researchers exploring the possibilities of long-term space habitation found that certain houseplants were more effective at cleaning air inside energy-efficient, nonventilated buildings than others. One such plant was English ivy, which can effectively combat the formaldehyde found in certain household cleaning products.

- **Bamboo palm:** Bamboo palms also found their way onto NASA's list. Bamboo palm plants thrive indoors, where they are especially effective at filtering out the chemicals benzene and trichloroethylene.

Gardening has been proven to be a soothing hobby that can help gardeners reduce stress. But the health benefits of gardening can extend indoors as well.

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Whether you're a homeowner needing service for your garage door opener, or a builder looking to contract with a reliable company for garage doors, Overhead Door Company is ready to serve you. For more than 50 years, the Potocnie family has been serving both residential and commercial customers in the Lehigh Valley, the Poconos and Bucks County with garage doors and garage door openers, and a third generation of the family is now part of the business. The late James J. Potocnie established Overhead Door Company in 1962, working long hours to build up the business with the help of his wife, Rosie.

His son, James M. Potocnie, worked with his father for years and eventually became sole proprietor. The third generation, Michael and his younger brother Andrew, are now a part of the company,

working in sales for 10 and 8 years, respectively.

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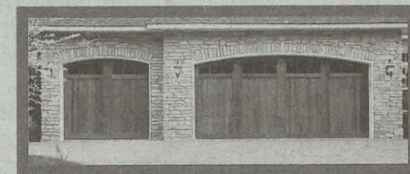
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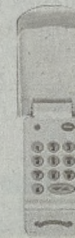
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Stop weeds before they take over

Few things can be as troublesome to gardeners and landscapers as weeds. Weeds seemingly spring up overnight and quickly can overrun lawns and/or garden beds. Landscaping enthusiasts may spend countless hours and weekends coping with weeds without truly getting to the root of the problem. However, preventing weed growth need not be so difficult.

According to the experts at "This Old House" and The Family Handyman, the secret to preventing weeds is to maintain a thick, healthy lawn. A vigorously growing lawn will crowd out weeds and block the sun weed seeds need to germinate and thrive. As a result, fewer herbicides may be needed and homeowners can spend less time on their hands and knees pulling out weeds.

Mow at the right height

Crabgrass is a notoriously virulent weed that can quickly snuff out blades of grass. Crabgrass likes hot, dry conditions, and it only takes one plant to spread the seeds that can overtake the lawn. Preventing these conditions can stop crabgrass from flourishing. Mowing at higher heights and leaving grass blades taller can shade the soil, helping to prevent the germination of crabgrass. Shady conditions also will help the soil retain moisture and prevent



Weeds, such as dandelions, can quickly take over lawns and gardens.

the arid conditions crabgrass likes so much.

Water deeply

Weeds are accustomed to growing in adverse conditions, including especially hot temperatures. When such conditions arise, weeds establish deep roots while the roots of the grass can easily die off. Instead, when watering, wet the soil to a depth of four to six inches. This helps grass to establish strong root systems that will help lawns overpower pesky weeds.

Time weed killers

Whether you manually remove weeds or apply weed killers, timing is key. Combat weeds in the early spring before they have a time to fully form and start proliferating through seed dispersal. Once seeds spread, their growth is

difficult to control. Recognize that no single herbicide or weeding tactic will work for every type of weed. Broad-leaf weeds, like dandelions, unwanted grasses, and sedges are the three most common types of weeds. Homeowners will have to adapt based on the type of weed that is most prevalent in their lawns.

Watch fertilizer amounts

Strike a balance with fertilizer, finding the right amount to deliver continuous nutrition to the lawn, but not overfeed it so that weeds can thrive. Many lawns only require fertilizer once or twice annually, in the autumn and spring.

By following these guidelines, lawn and garden enthusiasts can prevent the proliferation of unsightly and potentially harmful weeds.

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Easy Ways to Weatherize Your Home

(StatePoint) Extreme temperatures -- hot or cold -- can send your energy bills through the roof while also creating an uncomfortable living space for your family.

Almost two-thirds of American adults live in a home that needs weatherization, according to a recent online survey, commissioned by Duck brand, conducted by Harris Poll. To bring down energy costs and make the temperature in your home more comfortable, consider defending your home with helpful tools like Roll-On Window Kits, Double Draft Seals, Socket Sealers and Attic Stairway Covers. You can also adjust ceiling fans, install a programmable thermostat and open or close curtains to leverage sunlight and shade.

To learn more about weatherization products and ways you can make your home more comfortable and efficient, visit duckbrand.com/weatherization.

Don't resign yourself to high energy bills and an uncomfortable living space. Weatherizing is simple, affordable and effective.

Guide to replacing home siding

Few home improvements can transform a home more than the installation of new siding. Replacing siding can be a costly venture, but the right siding will maintain its appeal for years to come.

Updated siding can improve home's energy value by enabling owners to save on heating and cooling costs. A new design and color also can improve a home's property value and set it apart from neighboring properties. According to the Professional Builder's Home Exteriors Survey, exterior design and materials used are a top priority for new home buyers.

Project costs depend on the size of the home as well as which siding material homeowners choose. Considering new siding is a major renovation, it pays to get the job done right.

Choose a qualified contractor

It is important for consumers to do their research when it comes to siding materials and contractors. A contractor who takes shortcuts or improperly installs the siding may void a manufacturer's warranty. Always ask fami-

ly members and friends for recommendations before choosing a contractor, and check out each prospective contractor's work for yourself. Interview more than one contractor and compare both their costs and what they offer. Ask plenty of questions of the contractors, and avoid those who try hard-sell methods. Questionable contractors may try strategies like a promise of a considerable discount if you "act now" or scare tactics that your home is unsafe in its present condition.

Be sure the contractor carries general liability insurance as well as workers' compensation insurance for their subcontractors. Ask for a license number as well and verify its accuracy.

Select a durable material

Siding comes in all types of materials, from wood to plastic to fiber cement, but vinyl is among the most popular due to cost and availability. Research how well particular brands of siding stand up to conditions and which are the least likely to crack, warp or discolor. Find this in-



Finding a qualified contractor is an important component to any siding project.

formation from online reviews or through consumer advocacy groups. Also remember, vinyl and other synthetic materials have improved and can now mimic the look of many other materials for a fraction of the cost.

Calculate how much you need

Before you price out siding with contractors, estimate how much you will need for your house. Consumer

Reports suggests multiplying the height times the width of each rectangular section of your house in feet, going by what you can measure from the ground, to determine their areas. Multiply the approximate height and width of gables and other triangular surfaces and divide each total by two. Then add all the totals. To allow for waste, don't subtract for doors, windows or other areas that won't be covered. Fi-

nally, divide the total square footage by 100 to estimate how many squares of siding you will need. A square represents 100 square feet. Knowing how much you need can save you money.

Vinyl siding can completely transform the look of a home and make it more energy efficient. Consumers who do their homework will get the best value for their investments.

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The importance of clean gutters

Every autumn, trees and shrubs take on their brilliant display of reds, oranges, purples, and yellows that mark the end of the growing season. Fall foliage may make for ideal photo backdrops and scenic days in the countryside, but closer to home leaves may be more of a hindrance than an aesthetic pleasure.

The hundreds of leaves that adorn the maples, oaks and other trees near homes will eventually fall as autumn turns into winter. Some will float down to lawns, while others will get lodged in gutters and downspouts, posing problems that can cause substantial and potentially costly problems for homeowners.

Homeowners know that gutter cleaning is an important part of fall home maintenance, but they may not completely understand why. Gutter cleaning can be a messy and time-consuming project, making

it a project many homeowners are apt to put off. Waiting to clean gutters can lead to considerable problems, so it's best to tackle the job well in advance of the winter.

Gutters guide rainwater and runoff from the roof so it drains properly away from homes. When gutters are clogged with leaves, a number of problems can occur.

Leaks

Water will take the path of least resistance. When clogged gutters do not allow the water to drain away properly, water will find other ways to the ground. It may work itself right into the walls and ceilings of the home. In addition to damaging walls and ceilings, moisture inside the home can promote mold growth. It also makes interior spaces more appealing to pests.

Excess weight

Gutters are meant to

hold the weight of traveling water and not much more. Gutters filled with leaves and other debris can quickly become heavy. This stresses the entire gutter system and can cause the gutters to fall off of the home entirely.

Nesting areas

Clogged gutters can serve as nesting areas for insects and birds. Mosquitoes and other insects lay eggs in pooling water. Gutters can quickly become breeding spots for harmful pests.

Furthermore, birds may nest in gutters, creating unsightly messes and more damage. Seeds that sprout in clogged gutters can grow unchecked.

Ice-damming

Left untreated, pooled water and leaves in gutters can freeze over. Blocked water can back up and push against the roof, lifting shingles and

destroying the roof in the process.

Foundation trouble

Clogged gutters also may contribute to flooded basements and cracked foundations. Leaking water will pool around the foundation, expanding when frozen and causing cracks in basement and crawl-space walls. It also can cause driveways and other cement areas around the home to sag and crack.

Gutter cleaning should be scheduled in the spring and fall of each year. Homeowners can hire gutter-cleaning services to handle the job or do the job themselves.

Rinse the gutters with water from the hose afterward to ensure good run-off. Take the time to seal any leaks as well. This routine maintenance can save homeowners many headaches and prevent some very expensive repairs.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Raking leaves may be an autumnal traditional for many homeowners, but those who want a less strenuous way to prevent their lawns from being suffocated by fallen leaves may want to consider mulching them.

Fallen leaves should never be left to linger on a yard for very long, and some homeowners may be surprised to learn that waiting to rake until all of the trees on a property have shed their leaves can be detrimental to the lawn.

That's because fallen leaves trap moisture and prevent sunlight and air from reaching the grass, making lawns more vulnerable to disease. Fallen

leaves also can harbor insects, again putting lawns at risk of disease.

Mulching may be the best option for homeowners who prefer to avoid spending several weekend afternoons each fall raking leaves. Many lawnmowers are now

equipped with mulching capabilities, which can remove the need to rake.

When leaves are mulched, they are minced into tiny pieces that are left behind on the lawn. Such pieces are so small that they won't block air or light from

reaching the grass, nor are they likely to harbor insects.

But as these tiny pieces of leaves decompose, they enrich the soil with nutrients, so much so that some lawns may not even need to be fertilized in the fall.

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