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May 25, 2023 | GOD BLESS AMERICA | Vol. 50, No. 44

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Pen Argyl College Commitment Ceremony

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North Warren Art Show Poster

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This Memorial Day we ask you to kindly set aside a moment of silence to remember and acknowledge those who sacrificed their lives, and those who continue to sacrifice, to uphold the freedoms and liberties of this great nation.

We are forever greatful to the service men and women, and their families. Thank you for all you do.

Happy Memorial Day & God Bless America!

Pen Argyl High School Announces 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Alaina Hall
Valedictorian

Elaina Eibeck
Salutatorian

Pen Argyl Area High School is proud to announce this years Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

This year's Valedictorian is Alaina Hall, daughter of Andrew and Penny Hall. Alaina plans to attend Muhlenberg College to major in Neuroscience. Her academic awards/honors received include: AP Literature - AP & WE Service Learning Project (2022-2023); Alumni Award - Top Junior; ASVAB Award - 11; Academic Award in English - 11; Academic Award in Science - 11; Academic Award in Mathematics - 10, 11; First Honor Roll - 9, 10, 11, 12; Top Five in Class Award - 9, 10; Top Ten in Class of 2023 - 11. Organizations/Clubs/Activities: Leo Club 9, 10, 11, 12; Do Something Club 11, 12; Secretary 12; Envirothon 12; Reading Olympics 12. Community Involvement: Leo Club; Do Something Club

VAL/SAL cont'd on pg 3

Bangor Baseball Team Earns No. 1 Seed for 5A District Championship

Congratulations to the bangor baseball team who beat Saucon Valley, 7 to 5 on May 18th for the colonial league championship! They are the no. 1 seed for 5A District Championship! GOOD LUCK BOYS!

Pen Argyl High School Holds College Commitment Ceremony

Pen Argyl held their college commitment ceremon on May 19th, where seven seniors signed their letter of intent to playing a sport in college. These seniors are: Ryan Debellis who will be attending Misericordia University to be a part of the cross country and track and field teams; Gian Greggo will be attending Shippensburg University to be a part of the Track and Field team; Jake Hauff (not in photo) will be attending Life University for swimming; Jace Hershey will be attending East Stroudsburg University for track and field; Katie Kenecht will be attending Goldey-Beacom for softball; TJ Mulroy will be attending the University of Valley Forge for soccer; and Alyssa Williams (not in photo) will be attending Thomas College for field hockey. Congratulations Seniors, and best of luck in all your future endevors. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Givens-Belet American Legion Post 258 Host Memorial Day Celebration and Parade

The Givens-Belet American Legion Post 258 is proud to announce the details for the 2023 Memorial Day Parade which will take place on May 28th, at noon, and will be held at the Memorial Ceremony in Cedar Ridge Cemetery. The parade will then step-off at 1pm from the Tractor Supply lot and concludes at Footbridge Park with refreshments, awards and fellowship. They look forward to seeing all of the veterans groups, community organizations, youth groups, first responders and area residents remembering all of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation! This years parade will be honoring the 20th Anniversary of the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

National Safe Boating Week is May 20-26, 2023

National Safe Boating Week will be held from May 20-26, 2023, reminding all boaters to brush up on boating safety skills and prepare for the boating season. This observance week is the annual kick-off of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

"The best boating experience is safe boating," said Yvonne Pentz, communications director of the National Safe Boating Council, a nonprofit dedicated to helping create a safe boating experience for all boaters and the lead organization of

BOAT cont'd on pg 3

Project Self-Sufficiency Program Supports Trauma Survivors, Promotes Prevention - Virtual Presentations Offered in English and Spanish

Project Self-Sufficiency will continue the workshop and discussion series, "Connections Matter", designed to facilitate the conversation about issues surrounding adverse childhood experiences, with virtual sessions in English, Tuesday, June 6th, 2:00 p.m., and Thursday, June 15th, 5:00 p.m., and in Spanish, Wednesday, June 7th, 2:00 p.m. All workshops will be offered over Zoom. Sessions are free and open to the public; interested participants are invited to call 973-940-3500 for log-in details.

Participants will explore the Connections Matter curriculum, a program funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and led by Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey designed to engage providers, parents, and community members in building caring connections to improve resiliency. Discussion will focus on understanding adverse childhood experiences and demonstrate how caring connections can serve as a primary buffer in the negative effects of trauma. The training is appropriate for parents and providers raising and teaching school aged children.

Speakers will address the impact of adverse childhood experiences on social, emotional, and cognitive development, and offer tips and strategies for building resiliency. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are widely recognized as falling into three distinct categories, abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. Examples of negative behavior said to result from ACEs include smoking, alcoholism, drug use, absenteeism, and lack of physical activity. These behaviors can cause a cascade of physical and mental health problems, from diabetes to cancer to suicidal thoughts. It is estimated that approximately 67% of the population has experienced at least one adverse childhood experience.

Project Self-Sufficiency aims to bring together professionals, providers, and parents who are committed to increasing awareness of the impact of childhood trauma on juvenile development, future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. "Our goal is to help make our community a place in which every child can thrive by providing education and training on adverse childhood experiences and assuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments," explains Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon.

Project Self-Sufficiency has assisted low-income individuals and families in northwestern New Jersey since 1986. Services offered at Project Self-Sufficiency include high school equivalency education, computer courses, employment skills training, job placement services, support groups, parenting classes, childcare and preschool, legal assistance and education, counseling and advocacy, referrals, and help with emergency basic needs, like food and clothing. For more information about the programs and services offered by Project Self-Sufficiency, visit www.projectselfsufficiency.org or call 973-940-3500.

High School Equivalency Training Program for Teens and Young Adults - New Jersey Youth Corps Starts in July

Enrollment for the next session of the New Jersey Youth Corps program at Project Self-Sufficiency is underway. The sixteen-week program launches in July and gives those who have not completed high school the opportunity to boost their literacy skills, prepare for the high school equivalency exam, obtain on-the-job work experience, and transition into a career, college, or the military. Interested participants are invited to attend an Open House hosted by Project Self-Sufficiency to learn more about the New Jersey Youth Corps and to complete an application. Open Houses will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, May 23rd, 30th, and June 6th and at 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays, May 18th, 25th, and June 1st and 8th.

Project Self-Sufficiency is offering a $100 gift card to those who refer a young adult, ages 16 – 25, to the New Jersey Youth Corps training and education program. To receive the gift card, referred individuals must enroll in the program, complete the two-week orientation, and be inducted into the program.

Participants in the New Jersey Youth Corps must be Sussex or Warren County residents, aged 16 – 25, who have not completed high school. The program includes assessments, testing, employability skills training, life skills workshops, academic instruction, community service projects, field trips, and counseling services. Program participants will prepare for the high school equivalency examination and have the opportunity to receive a weekly stipend based on attendance for the full week. Free transportation is provided.

High school dropouts can get a high school diploma, weekly stipend, job skills training, and other services through the New Jersey Youth Corps at Project Self-Sufficiency.

The New Jersey Youth Corps, which is funded by the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development, is also in operation at sites around the state, including Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, New Brunswick, Newark, Paterson, Phillipsburg, Pleasantville, Trenton, and Vineland. Those who are interested in learning more about the New Jersey Youth Corps at Project Self-Sufficiency are encouraged to enroll online or by calling 973-940-3500.

Project Self-Sufficiency has assisted low-income individuals and families in northwestern New Jersey since 1986. Services offered at Project Self-Sufficiency include high school equivalency education, computer courses, employment skills training, job placement services, support groups, parenting classes, childcare and preschool, legal assistance and education, counseling and advocacy, referrals, and help with emergency basic needs, like food and clothing. For more information about the programs and services offered by Project Self-Sufficiency, visit www.projectselfsufficiency.org or call 973-940-3500.

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From Wind Gap: 3rd St., make left onto Delabole Rd., Right onto Merwarth Rd., Left onto Gum Rd.

BOAT

Continued from page 1

the Safe Boating Campaign. "Have fun on the water, make memories with your family and friends – all while boating responsibly."

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in four out of every five recreational boating fatalities in 2021, and that 83 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

There are many options for boaters when it comes to choosing a life jacket. When selecting a life jacket, a boater should check that it is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for the water activity, and fits properly.

"Remember, the best life jacket is the one you will wear," said Pentz. "Whether you're going fishing or just enjoying a ride on the boat, boat like a pro and make sure you're prepared for the adventure."

The National Safe Boating Council recommends these tips for boaters:

-Take a boating safety course. Gain valuable knowledge and on-water experience in a boating safety course with many options for novice to experienced boaters.

-Check equipment. Schedule a free vessel safety check with local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons to make sure all essential equipment is present, working and in good condition.

-Make a float plan. Always let someone on shore know the trip itinerary, including operator and passenger information, boat type and registration, and communication equipment on board.

-Wear a life jacket. Make sure everyone wears a life jacket – every time. A stowed life jacket is no use in an emergency.

-Use an engine cut-off device – it's the law. An engine cut-off device, or engine cut-off switch, is a proven safety device to stop the boat's engine should the operator unexpectedly fall overboard.

-Watch the weather. Always check the forecast before departing on the water and frequently during the excursion.

-Know what's going on around you at all times. Nearly a quarter of all reported boating accidents in 2021 were caused by operator inattention or improper lookout.

-Know where you're going and travel at safe speeds. Be familiar with the area, local boating speed zones and always travel at a safe speed.

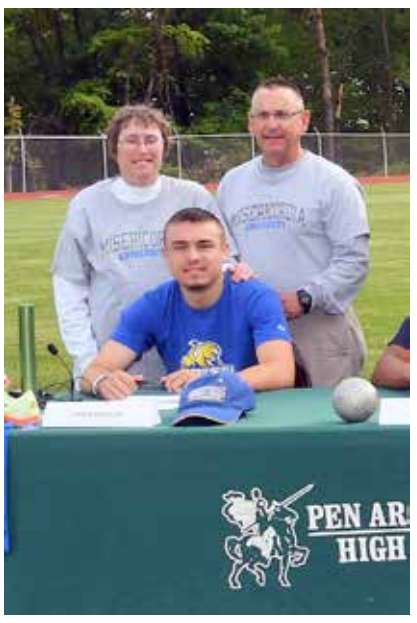
-Never boat under the influence. A BUI is involved in one-third of all recreational boating fatalities. Always designate a sober skipper.

-Keep in touch.Have more than one communication device that works when wet. VHF radios, emergency locator beacons, satellite phones, and cell phones can all be important devices in an emergency.

-The Safe Boating Campaign is produced under a grant from the Sports Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign offers a variety of free and paid resources to support local boating safety education efforts. Learn more at www.safeboatingcampaign.com.

Established in 1958, the National Safe Boating Council is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education, outreach, and training. For more information about NSBC programs and professional development opportunities, visit www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

Pen Argyl High School College Commitment Ceremony



Photos by Dale Young/ The Free Weekly Press

VAL/SAL

Continued from pg 1

This year's Salutatorian is, Elaina Eibeck, daughter of Jennifer and Peter Eibeck. Eliana plans to attend Messiah University to double major in International Relations and Chinese Studies. Her academic awards/honors received include: First Honor Roll 9, 10, 11, 12; National Honor Society 11, 12, President 11, 12; Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference 10; Academic Award in English 9, 10; Academic Award in Mathematics 9; Academic Award in Science 9; Academic Award in Social Studies 9, 10; Top Five in Class Award 9, 10; Top Ten in Class of 2023 11; George Eastman Young Leaders Award 11; Rensselaer Medal 11. Organizations/Clubs/Activities: AP Literature - AP & WE Service Learning Project (2022-2023); Concert Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Mini-Thon Leadership - 11, 12; Fundraising Head 12; Character Education, Secretary; National Honor Society, President; Mock Trial, Co-Captain; TV Studio, 9, 10, 11, 12; Yearbook 12; Assistant Managing Editor and Copy Editor 12; Aevidum 9; District-wide Advisory Council Board 9, 10, 11; District-wide Technology Assistant 11, 12; Mock Trial (Lawyer) 9, 10, 11, 12; Captain 12; District Playoffs 9, 10, 11, 12; Knights Order (Character Education) 9, 10, 11, 12; Secretary 11, 12; Class President 9, 10. Athletics: Girl's Volleyball; Varsity Girls' Soccer, 9. Community Involvement: Easton Public Library Volunteer; Bridge Beyond Addiction Volunteer; Co-Ed Soccer Coach Volunteer; Chandler Nursing Home Volunteer.

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The SBCC Scholarship Committee Chair Dianne Newman presented the 2023 scholarship recipients with their awards following a dinner on Thursday evening at Tuscarora Inn. The SBCC Scholarship winners are Abigail Frey-CIT, Abigail Duyssen-Bangor, Ryan DeBellis-Pen Argyl, and winner of the Frederick R. Curcio Jr. Award is Ryan DeVito. State Representative Ann Flood presented the students with a House of Representatives Certificate of Achievement and Congresswoman Susan Wild's office supplied the winners with a Congressional Certificate of Achievement. This year the guest speaker was Bangor High School Principal Andrew Krohn, who imparted the students with some meaningful advice. Congratulations to these hardworking and well accomplished students! Pictured Front/Seated: Abigail Frey, Abigail Duyssen, Ryan DeVito (absent-Ryan DeBellis); Middle: SBCC Board-Fred Curcio, Adrienne Fors, Rosemary Albert, Nadine Folk, Debbie Pettinari, Nancy Kessler; Back: Scholarship Chair Dianne Newman, and SBCC Director, Beth Duyssen

Oroho & Testa Slam NYC Congestion Pricing as "Tax Hike on New Jerseyans"

Senators Steven Oroho and Michael Testa criticized New York Governor Kathy Hochul and the Transportation Department's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for moving forward with Manhattan's congestion pricing plan.

"Manhattan's new congestion pricing plan is yet another example of New York levying an unjust tax on New Jersey commuters," said Oroho (R-24). "New York is trying to extract as much money as possible from New Jerseyans. First, it unfairly taxes former New Jersey commuters working from home since the pandemic. Now, it's charging them a fee for traveling across the state border. This is just another scheme for New York to keep padding its budget at the expense of New Jersey."

The Biden administration's FHWA approved a plan earlier this month to charge commuters an increased fee to enter Manhattan in a supposed effort to reduce congestion and improve the city's air quality.

The congestion pricing plan has received support from New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Eric Adams, but it has faced opposition from a wide coalition of bipartisan federal and state lawmakers.

"This so-called congestion pricing plan is something that could have only been conceived by rich, out of touch, limousine liberals," added Testa (R-1). "In addition to the significant impact this will have on New Jersey taxpayers, what about the other four New York boroughs? Did Democrats not think about the number of trucks that will need to be rerouted around Manhattan? In fact, researchers have consistently shown that this ill-conceived plan will actually increase traffic and pollution in the Bronx."

Under the plan, which New York is planning to begin implementing in just a few months, commuters entering midtown or downtown Manhattan could be hit with a fee of up to $23 during peak hours and up to $12 during nighttime hours. The program is projected to boost state revenue by about $1 billion.

"In the end, we know this plan has very little to do with the environment and everything to do with boosting state revenue for New York. New Jerseyans, and New Yorkers, deserve better," the Senators added.

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Steinhardt Announces $2.6 Million in Transportation Grants for Warren County, NJ

Senator Doug Steinhardt announced today that $2.6 million will be allocated toward building the Phillipsburg Riverfront Heritage Trail and improving access to public roads throughout Warren County.

"These grants will help fund the construction of a riverfront trail system that will provide unique heritage and recreation tourism opportunities and act as a springboard for Phillipsburg's downtown revitalization efforts," said Steinhardt (R-23). "For this remarkable project, I would like to thank Phillipsburg Councilman Randy Piazza who's push for recreational rail to trail systems is a major reason for this project even getting off the ground. Without his consistent support, and that of his father, this project may have never become a reality."

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) recently announced that Phillipsburg has been selected to receive $1.36 million in Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) program funding for the Riverfront Heritage Trail.

The TA Set-Aside program provides federal funds for community based "non-traditional" surface transportation projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation's intermodal system.

The NJDOT also announced that Lopatcong Township will receive $1.3 million to explore an Industrial Connector Road from Route U.S. 22 to Strykers Road to relieve congestion and improve safety and traffic circulation. The funds are provided through the Local Transportation Projects Fund program.

A Memorial Day service will be held on Monday, May 29th, at 1:00 p.m. at the East Bangor Cemetery, Park Rd., East Bangor, PA. The speaker will be Anthony Manganiello, a West Point graduate and Airborne Ranger, Lt. Col. Retired. Jacob Weaver will recite the "Gettysburg Address". Kilee Goss will recite "In Flanders Fields". A gun salute will be fired by the Martocci-Capobianco Post 750 American Legion, Roseto. Taps will be played by Hannah Confalone, who will also sing the National Anthem. Dustin Flyte will offer a musical selection. The East Bangor Fire Co. will be in attendance, as well as Boy Scout Troop 41. In case of rain, the service will be held at the East Bangor United Methodist Community Church, 136 W. Central Ave. (Rt. 512), East Bangor, PA. The church is sponsoring the service. For more info., call 610-588-4453 or visit www.ebumc.org.

Senate Clears Oroho Bill Bolstering Protections of our Financial System

The New Jersey Senate passed legislation sponsored by Senator Steven Oroho that would increase financial safeguards for state domiciled insurance companies.

"At a time when banks and insurance companies are facing steep economic challenges, we must find ways to maintain economic resiliency," said Oroho (R-24). "By closely aligning state laws with federal regulations we can foster greater financial stability and safeguard the integrity of security agreements made between federal home loan banks and their member insurance companies. This legislation would not only benefit policyholders, but it would also ensure greater protection of our financial system."

Under current state law, a delinquent insurance company that is a member of a federal home loan bank can have their transfers of money and property canceled or invalidated when the company enters receivership.

Senator Oroho's bill, S-2947, substituted by A-1746, aligns New Jersey State law more closely with federal regulations by restricting the ability of a receiver from voiding or suspending transactions arising from a federal home loan bank security agreement. The bill clarifies that a receiver would have the ability to void transfers of money or property in cases where the transactions were fraudulent or made with the intention of harming or defrauding the federal home loan bank.

Under the bill, federal home loan banks would be required to work with appointed receivers to establish a plan to help stabilize the delinquent insurance company.

Additionally, the changes proposed in this bill would only impact insurance companies that are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York.

"Aligning state laws with federal regulations will also allow insurer-members of federal home loan banks to borrow money on more favorable terms," Oroho added. "This bill will improve the stabilization of troubled insurance companies and promote greater opportunities for insurer-members to thrive."

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Project Self-Sufficiency will offer a free, 8-week training program for women, including lessons in computer skills, job search methods, and interview techniques, along with on-the-job training at community work sites on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., from July 11th – August 31st. All classes will take place at the agency's campus which is located at 127 Mill Street in Newton. Worksites will be located throughout the county and hours will be dependent upon the employer's needs. Interested participants are encouraged to attend an Open House to learn more about the program and complete an application. Open Houses will be held at Project Self-Sufficiency at 10:00 a.m., June 2nd, 12th, and 19th; at 1:00 p.m. on June 6th; at 2:00 p.m. on June 15th; and at 5:00 p.m. on June 7th and 28th. The comprehensive Summer Office Skills program prepares participants to seek entry-level office administrative positions. In addition to computer skills training, participants will receive classroom instruction and obtain work experience at a community employment site, which will further prepare participants for success in the job market. The time in the classroom is devoted to career instruction, life skills training, and interviewing strategies. Over the years, Project Self Sufficiency has partnered with a variety of local businesses, non-profit organizations, and government entities to provide participants with externship opportunities. Participants gain real-life work experience while honing the computer skills they have received as part of the agency's training programs. The Summer Office Skills program is free and open to Project Self-Sufficiency participants. Interested women must apply and be accepted into the program. To become a participant, or to apply for the free Summer Office Skills program, visit www.projectselfsufficiency.org or call Project Self-Sufficiency at 973-940-3500.

2023-24 Migratory Game Bird Seasons Set For Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's 2023-24 migratory game bird seasons have been set.

Annual migratory game bird seasons are selected by states from frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Pennsylvania Game Commission's selections were made after reviewing last year's hunter harvests, population survey data and public input.

There are two significant changes to Pennsylvania waterfowl seasons this year, said Wildlife Operations Division Chief Ian Gregg for the Game Commission. The first change increases the season length for Canada geese in the Atlantic Population Zone from 30 to 45 days and increases the bag limit from one to three per day. "The Atlantic Population of Canada geese had experienced declines as a result of a decade of below-average reproduction including a nearly complete failure in 2018," said Gregg. "However, gosling production more recently has been relatively good, and the population has increased accordingly."

The other significant change increases the mallard bag limit from two, to include no more than one hen, to four, which can include no more than two hens. After a few years of the reduced bag limits, the mallard population increased slightly and a new population model was implemented.

"This population model helps us to better understand what is driving the mallard population," said Nate Huck, Waterfowl Program Specialist for the Game Commission. "We now understand that while the population has declined, those declines were not driven by harvest." This change will allow additional opportunity to harvest mallards without negatively impacting the population.

In addition to these changes, calendar shifts resulted in small changes to the Resident Population Canada goose seasons and to the Lake Erie Duck Zone season. The Resident Population Canada Goose season saw a week shift from October into January. In the Lake Erie Duck Zone, the season will start roughly one week later than last year and run a week longer into January.

The last change was to Atlantic Brant seasons, which saw a reduction in bag limit from two to one, and a reduction in season length to 30 days because of population declines. However, few brant are harvested in Pennsylvania, most of them on Lake Erie.

Other migratory game bird seasons are similar to last year's seasons.

Once the seasons begin, migratory game bird hunters are encouraged to report banded ducks, geese, doves, and woodcock they harvest online at www.reportband.gov. Hunters will be requested to provide information on where, when and what species of migratory birds were taken, in addition to the band number. This information is crucial to the successful management of migratory birds.

Huck also stressed that reporting leg bands helps the Game Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service learn more about migratory bird movements, survival, and harvest rates, which are critical to population management and setting of hunting regulations. Last year, more than 6,000 migratory game birds, including more than 5,000 waterfowl, were banded in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania continues to monitor migratory game bird populations in cooperation with other wildlife management agencies across North America, Huck explained. "Information provided by hunters is essential to manage migratory game bird populations and support sustainable hunting opportunities through time," Huck said. "By reporting the recovery of a leg band, hunters not only assist in managing the resource, but also have an opportunity to learn interesting facts about the bird they harvested," he added.

For the full article visit: www.media.pa.gov/Pages/game-commission-details.aspx?newsid=596

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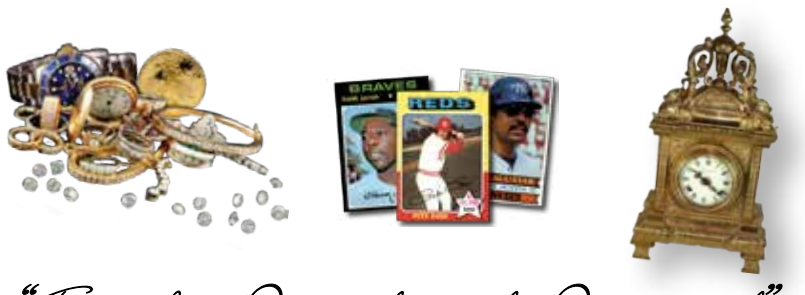

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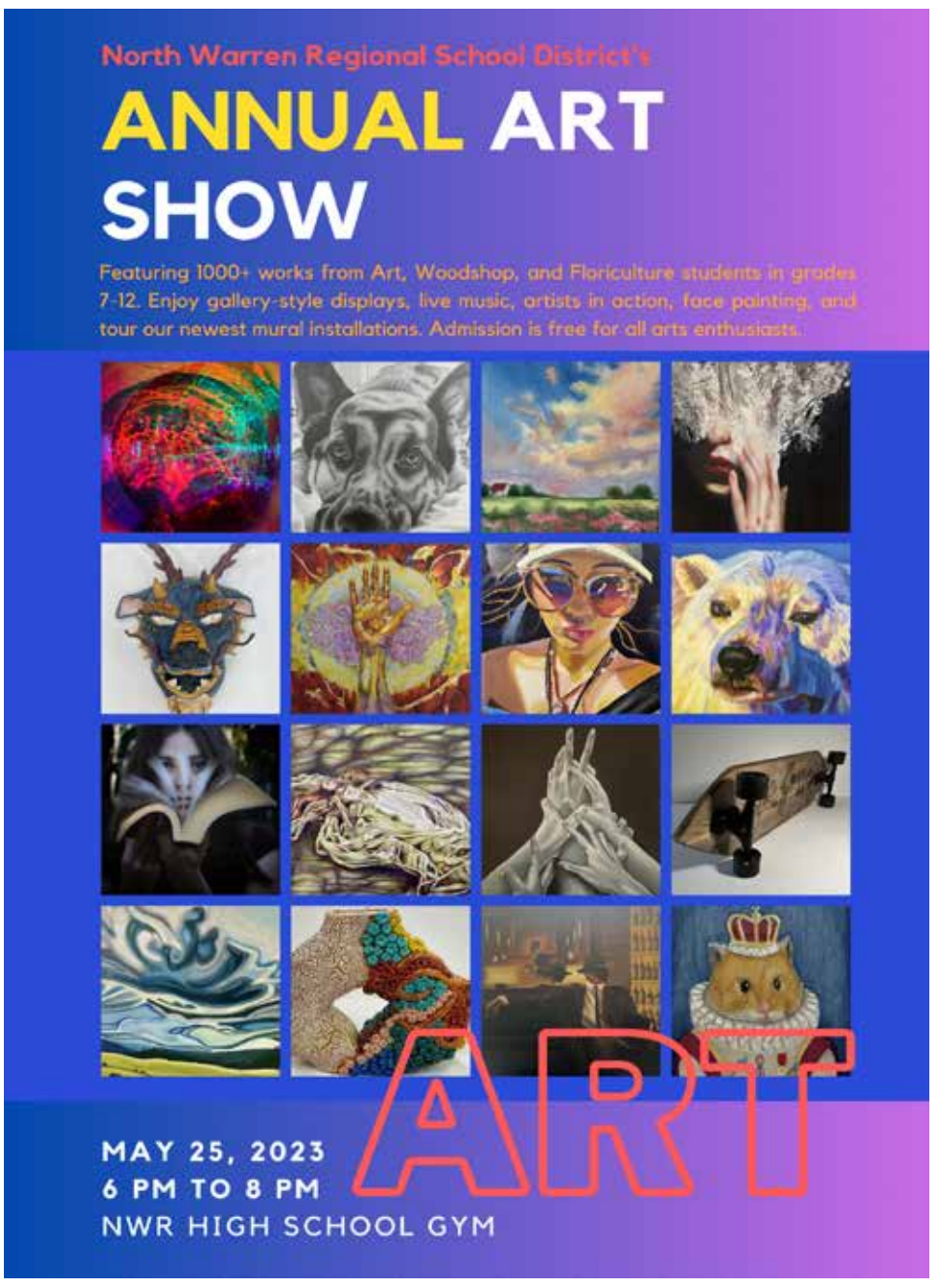

Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!

Mary E. Stone
Stone Associates Landscape Design & Consulting, Blairstown

Hello fellow readers, As I write, I'm delighted to report a robin's nest underway outside my kitchen window. I look forward to sharing an analogy about one of their instincts to protect their nest. A little teaser here- It involves their reflection in the windows. But first, more about Wisteria, which we mentioned last week, and how to choose a non-invasive species.

Whenever we walk the roads, Jolee abruptly stops and sits in front of Susan and Don's house to see if they're working in the garden. She adores them, and so do I. Susan was tackling an invasion of Wisteria left behind by Don's sister, who once lived on the property where they built their new home. (I introduced you to Don and Susan in Mending Fences with Forsythia, available on AskMaryStone.com.)

Susan showed me the thick Wisteria roots trailing the surface. I had never considered it spreads underground so aggressively though I know Wisteria is invasive, other than the native variety.

Wisteria is a genus of about ten species. Eight are Asian, including Japanese Wisteria (Wisteria floribunda) and Chinese Wisteria (W. senensis). The barely fragrant American Wisteria and Kentucky Wisteria are non-invasive alternatives to the Asian species on the USDA list of invasive plants. I've seen the strength of their wrist-thick wisteria vines, devastating decks, and other wooden structures. And how they escape and strangle even mature trees. It can be devastating.

The Asian species bloom before the leaves emerge, while the American Wisteria (W. frutescens, Zones 5–9) bloom at the same time they leaf out but are otherwise similar. The flower trusses are not as long and are less aggressive and easier to prune to manage their size. 'Amethyst Falls' is a favored native cultivar

for smaller spaces, quickly growing to 8 to 10 feet though it can reach 30 feet over time if unpruned. Then there's 'Clara Mack,' a white flowering cousin you'll adore.

Back to the robin family, I adore their coming each year to nest in the viburnum beyond the kitchen. This year though, the male robin keeps flying into the windows. They say that most robins that repeatedly crash into windows are territorial males.

Usually, when one robin intrudes on another's territory, it flies away when the resident robin approaches, but not so with a reflection because as the bird comes to the window, it appears larger. And so there's an aggressive attack with the window repeatedly. It's a worry because they can accidentally injure or kill themselves in the fight. It's bizarre but understandable because they're protecting their family and caring for their young, something we all wish to do.

You can help by taping paper or cardboard to the outside of the window to eliminate the reflection. Hopefully, once the babies hatch, he'll be too busy tending to feed his young to worry about his phantom image.

There's a sequel to Mending Fences with Forsythia I'd like to share. The neighbor was furious when Don kindly mowed in front of his fence while mowing the lawn. Now Don and Susan look at unsightly no-trespassing signs along with the chain link fence. It seems odd that the neighbor is so angry, making me reflect that, like invasive plants, anger can be invasive too. Perhaps the neighbor is also fighting his reflection, like the robin. Maybe wounds from the past have manifested somehow, triggering anger. It's hard not to respond angrily back. Rather than that, be neighborly and show kindness to your neighbors as Susan and Don try to do. Treat our neighbors as though they're family because we're all one in this world.

Hopefully, they will work it out. By approaching it with love, perhaps the neighbor's point of view and invasive anger will shift. And they can become great neighbors, far better than anger or fences. Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com and your favorite Podcast App.

Win $5,290 to Celebrate 529 Day

May 29 is 529 Day, and the Pennsylvania Treasury Department is celebrating with the opportunity to win financial awards for new PA 529 College and Career Savings Program Guaranteed Savings Plan (GSP) account owners.

The PA 529 GSP allows you to save at today's tuition rates to meet tomorrow's tuition costs. PA 529 plans have state and federal tax advantages and can be used for a wide variety of qualifying technical, collegiate and apprenticeship educational expenses.

One new PA 529 GSP account owner will be awarded a $5,290 GSP contribution – enough to cover a year of tuition at a Pennsylvania Community College. There will also be 10 additional regional winners across the state who will each receive a GSP contribution of $2,529.

To be eligible for awards, open a new PA 529 GSP account with at least $10 before May 31. Beneficiaries must be Pennsylvania residents and may not already be the beneficiary of an active PA 529 GSP or PA 529 Investment Plan account. Additional conditions apply; read the official rules at: https://pa529.com/pdf/529-Day-2023.pdf

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Slate Belt Heritage Center Announces 2023 Annual Preservation Award Winners

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Hope Horn with her spinning wheel.

The Slate Belt Heritage Center proudly announces the winners for this year's 2023 Annual Preservation Awards.

The Special Focus Award goes to an individual who has shown exemplary actions in saving or conserving traditions or a body of knowledge and contributes to educational information. This award is to acknowledge individuals who have performed acts that promote and preserve the culture and heritage of the Slate Belt. This year's winner is Ms. Hope Horn.

Ms. Horn was nominated back in February 2020 due to her continuous teachings of the 'Wool School' out of the former Oughoughton one-room schoolhouse in Richmond, PA. Ms. Horn has spent countless hours in her school teaching classes on dying, spinning and weaving products from wool, while using her own sheep and goats, and doing all the sheering herself along with dying the wool with natural produces like goldenrod. She also sells products at the adjacent restored general store located next to the school. Ms. Horn has a passion for passing on educational information and conserving a traditional body of knowledge. For this, she has been nominated for the Special Focus Award for 2023. The Architectural Award goes to an individual who has shown an exemplary act in saving or conserving a historic building, place or artifact where restoration is authentic to preservation. The award is to acknowledge individuals who have performed acts that promote and preserve the culture and heritage of the Slate Belt. This year's winner is Mr. Raymond DiFebo. Mr. DiFebo was also nominated back in February 2020 for his work taking the former pre-1900s Fosbinder Butcher Shop located in Martin's Creek and restoring it as a place of residence. The original store counter now rests in the kitchen.Additionally, the original posts and beams, block and tackle for moving carcasses, meat hooks, wainscoting and tin ceiling have also been retained, along with the storeroom for animal hides and the concrete smokehouse. Mr. DiFebo has preserved a historic building, as well as authentic and original artifacts. For this he has been nominated for the Architectural Award for 2023.

Additionally within the Architectural Award, SBHC also recognizes businesses who have shown an exemplary act in saving or conserving a historic building, place or artifact where restoration is authentic to preservation. The award is to acknowledge businesses who have performed acts that promote and preserve the culture and heritage of the Slate Belt. This year's winner is Johnsonville Farm & Garden. Owners, Aline Haddad and Jesse Poliskiewicz operate a community-based general store stocked with agricultural necessities and local products. In general, Ms. Haddad came up with the concept of restoring and reopening the former store when she returned home from college in 2012 after acquiring knowledge in agriculture, animal husbandry and organic farming. Overall, she believed that Upper Mount Bethel, the Bangor Area, and the Slate Belt needed such a vital resource to nurture and compliment the rural nature of the surrounding region by fostering farm and garden practices and supplying the basic resources needed to promote such a lifestyle in the community. For this, her business has been nominated for the Architectural Award/ Business Category for 2023.

The Initiative Award goes to an individual who has shown exemplary actions in promoting and preserving the heritage of the Slate Belt through In-Kind Actions. The award is to acknowledge individuals who have performed acts that promote and preserve the culture and heritage of the Slate Belt. This year's winner is Mr. David Raker. Mr. Raker visited the Heritage Center back in 2022 and was impressed that the organization had all their monthly presentations on DVDs. Without any prompting from SBHC staff, he then decided to digitize all the Center's presentations. After checking with the board's approval, permission was granted, and he spent his own time conducting the digitization at no charge. What he accomplished here is something others can use as an example for documenting history in the Slate Belt. For this act, Mr. Raker has been nominated for the Initiative or In-Kind Preservation Award for 2023. A public ceremony, for these awards, will be held on Thursday, June 15th, at 7:00 PM at the Heritage Center. The Center is located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA.

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Free Scoliosis Screenings Available in Bethlehem

Two physical therapists with advanced training in the treatment of scoliosis will offer free screenings for children and adults affected by the medical condition that causes the spine to curve sideways. Scoliosis can cause pain and limit movement, making daily activities difficult. While there is no cure, treatment can help alleviate symptoms and improve mobility.

Screenings will be conducted at The Restoration Space, a holistic health and wellness center in Bethlehem. The Center recently launched a Scoliosis and Complex Spine Program that combines specific scoliosis exercises, stretching, and manual therapy to help people with scoliosis strengthen their muscles, improve posture and increase mobility. Treatment is customized to each client's unique condition, taking into account their age, severity of the curve, overall health, and personal goals.

Screenings will be conducted by Dr. Megan Griech and Wendy Norelli. Both physical therapists are certified in the Schroth Method, a non-surgical option for scoliosis treatment utilized at major medical centers including Johns Hopkins.

To schedule an appointment for a free screening or to learn more about the Scoliosis and Complex Spine Program, call The Restoration Space at 484-421-4220 or visit www.therestorationspace.com/.

Boscola Announces $190,188 in Grant Funding for Northampton County, PA, Senior Centers

State Senator Lisa M. Boscola announced today that two Northampton County Senior Centers, the Nazareth Senior Center and the Silver Connection at Easton Area Community Center, were awarded a total of $190,188 in grant funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Aging's 2022-23 Senior Community Center grant program.

"Senior centers in Northampton County provide a place for seniors to come together to engage in social activities and to get a nutritious meal," Senator Boscola stated. "The Nazareth Senior Center and the Silver Connection at Easton Area Community Center operate terrific centers that have a positive impact on seniors in both communities and these state dollars will allow them to make important capital renovations to improve their programs."

The Nazareth Senior Center was awarded a $119,250 grant that will allow the Center to make renovations to its kitchen area and the Easton Area Community Center was awarded a $70,938 grant to allow it to expand programming for its Silver Connection program and renovate its facilities.

"Northampton County Senior Centers are a tremendous asset to our communities and the fact that two centers received grant funding in this incredibly competitive grant process is proof of the great work being done by Northampton County's Area Agency on Aging," Boscola added.

Statewide only 48 centers were approved for the $2 million in grant funding that was available. The total grant requests statewide was over $7 million for the $2 million available.

Blair Academy Holds Senior Speech Contest

The Class of 2023 put on an amazing Senior Speech Contest last week and the judges awarded first, second and third to Tobenna E., Michael B. and Ava S., respectively. Congratulations to everyone that took the stage for a wonderful performance! (Courtesy Blair Academy)

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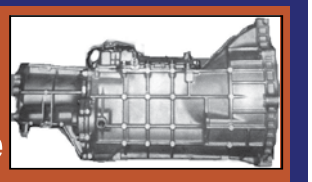
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Blairstown Twp., NJ
$400,000

Beautiful private country setting, while being minutes to town. Relax on the front porch while enjoying the peaceful views of a distance mountain ridge, seasonal fall foliage views are breathtaking! Kitchen with dining area offers a large walk in pantry and double doors leading out to the back deck. Master suite with large walk in closet & master bath, 2nd floor laundry room, 2 additional bedrooms & guest bath rounds out the second floor. Wrap around porch leads to a tiered deck leading down to an above ground pool, this screams summertime fun!! Walk out basement with high ceilings, and slider to backyard offer potential for additional living space, bring your ideas. Small shed & larger shed with garage door give extra storage space. Whole house Generac generator gives peace of mind during storms. For those that love the outdoors, you will find hiking the Appalachian Trails, exploring the Delaware Water Gap Recreational Area, kayaking at Blue Mountain Lake, biking trails, and much more close by.

MLS# 3843213
Call Amylinn Nemeth for Details at 908-763-3031
Realtor/Sales Associate

Blairstown Twp., NJ
$419,000

Enjoy low taxes and the convenience of living close to shops, schools, doctors, dentists and places of worship whilst enjoying views of farmland and the Paulinskill River. Also in great proximity to The Delaware Water Gap, Appalachian Trail, Pocono mountains, Blair Academy Golf and Brook Hollow Winery. The front of the property is lined with newly planted, fast-growing Leyland Cyprus trees. A paver walkway leads to a patio area and steps to the main entrance. The interior has a renovated kitchen with a butcher block island, tiled floor, granite counters and newer stove. The huge family room/great room features a floor to ceiling brick fireplace and gorgeous hardwood flooring. An elegant formal dining room, formal living room (currently used as an office) and renovated powder room round out the first floor rooms. Upstairs are 3 bedrooms, a partially remodeled hall bathroom and master bath with a large jetted tub, elegant tile work and a separate stall shower. The most recent updates include a new septic system (2022), new roof (2020), well holding tank, above ground oil tank and UV water filtration system. The rear of the home is surrounded by mature trees and features a large deck perfect for entertaining with steps down to a private hot tub. The oversized 2 car garage leads into the basement with lots of storage space and a laundry area. As an added bonus, the property has approved signage for a professional home office. Home has vent work and ducts for central AC.

MLS# 3840145
Call Nicola Cumiskey for Details at 201-317-4252
Broker/Sales Associate

Clinton Twp., NJ
$475,000

This charming 3 bed, 2 bath ranch is the epitome of cozy living. With its warm and inviting exterior, this home welcomes you with open arms. As you step inside, you'll immediately feel at home in the spacious and comfortable living room, complete with plenty of natural light. The kitchen has ample counter space, modern appliances, and plenty of cabinet storage for all of your culinary needs. Enjoy meals in the adjacent dining area, perfect for intimate dinners or casual gatherings. The primary bedroom boasts a generous amount of space, complete with a large closet and an en-suite bathroom for added privacy. The other two bedrooms are equally cozy and comfortable, with plenty of closet space and easy access to the second full bath. Step outside onto the expansive deck, where you can relax and soak in the peaceful surroundings of your backyard oasis. The backyard is perfect for entertaining friends and fam, with plenty of space for outdoor activities and gatherings. With its charming curb appeal and welcoming interior, it's a true gem that won't last for long.

MLS# 3841215
Call Lauren Dent for Details at 201- 841-9354
Realtor/Sales Associate

Frelinghuysen Twp., NJ
$349,900

Looking for a quiet place in the country where you enjoy the serenity around you and listen to the birds? Well you've found it. Welcome to 152 State Park Road. Upstairs is a huge living room which has a bow window that fills the room with sunlight. The kitchen has a large breakfast bar and is open to the dining room which has sliders that lead to the second story deck. On this level are three bedrooms and two full baths. The master bedroom has it's own bath with a stall shower. The lower level has a family room and laundry room. On the lower level is also a area that can finished for more living space. The front has a fenced in area that the current owners use for their dogs. This area could continue to be used for dogs or would be a nice play area as well. The second story deck overlooks the private backyard. There is also a storage shed that is only one year old. You won't want to miss the opportunity to view this home! LOW TAXES!!

MLS# 3841614
Call Linda Simpson for Details at 973-903-4861
Realtor/Sales Associate

Hackettstown Town, NJ
$539,000

Welcome to this spacious and beautifully designed home that features not one, but two master suites. This is a rare find that makes this home perfect for multi-generations or those who desire additional privacy. The 1st master bedroom is a true retreat, featuring a gorgeous en-suite that is designed with relaxation in mind. The en-suite Boasts a spa-like atmosphere, complete with soaking tub, separate over-sized shower, and double sinks. It's the perfect place to unwind after a busy day.The kitchen is a chefs dream with modern appliances, beautiful cabinetry, and a large peninsula lathered in a gorgeous granite. The living room flows seamlessly into the dining room, which has plenty of space for hosting dinner parties or large gatherings. The dining room features access to the deck, providing a perfect transition between indoor and outdoor living. The second master and additional 3 bedrooms complete this level. The lower level of the home is equally impressive, with a large family room with handsome stone fireplace. This level also features additional finished rooms providing extra space to suit current or future needs. The backyard of the home is perfect backdrop for outdoor gatherings or perhaps the future home of a new pool! Fully fenced-in backyard provides a private and secure space for you and your loved ones. Don't miss the opportunity to make it yours!

MLS# 3842080
Call Danielle Ferrara for Details at 973-945-8964
Realtor/Sales Associate

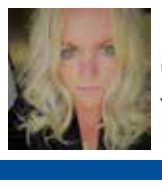
Hackettstown Town, NJ
$564,900

As you enter the home, you will immediately notice the pride of ownership.... This home has been meticulously maintained and cared for over the years. The upper level of the home offers an open floor plan that seamlessly connects the kitchen, living room and adjacent dining room creating a spacious and inviting atmosphere for entertaining and relaxation. The living room features a large picture window that offers plenty of natural light. The formal dining room has an exquisite tray ceiling and French doors that lead to a private deck. The kitchen, the heart of the home, features modern appliances, ample cabinets and plenty counter space. Generously sized primary bedroom with En-suite bathroom completes the upper level. The lower level offers a generous sized family room and office which can be used for multiple purposes. A highlight of the home is the leisure room that has double glass sliders that connects to the outside patio. Step outside to the backyard and you will find a stunning in-ground pool and outdoor entertaining area perfect for hosting summer barbecues and gatherings. The fully fenced-in backyard provides privacy and security. Overall, this home provides a great balance of formal and casual living spaces making it the perfect choice. Located in Countryside Estates, one of Hackettstown most desirable neighborhoods.

MLS# 3841876
Call Danielle Ferrara for Details at 973-945-8964
Realtor/Sales Associate

Hardwick Twp., NJ
$450,000

If you've been dreaming of becoming a farmer, this small 6-plus acre farm-assessed property is just what you've been looking for! Located in a peaceful and rural area, this property offers a unique opportunity to own your own farm and enjoy a simpler, more sustainable way of life.The property is equipped with all the essentials for farming, including a large barn, fencing, and open fields perfect for planting crops, raising livestock, or STARTING a homestead. The barn can be used for storing equipment and supplies, as well as housing animals.In addition to the farming opportunities, this property also BOAsts a charming farmhouse with a rustic feel. The house features ample living space, including a cozy living room, a spacious kitchen, and comfortable bedrooms. Relax on the front porch and enjoy the picturesque views of the surrounding countryside. Don't miss your chance to own this incredible property and start your own farming adventure today!This fantastic property also includes a second home, perfect for accommodating guests. The second home provides a great opportunity to offer your guests their own space, while still being close by to the main house.



MLS# 3842627
Call Maureen Donohue Conway for Details at 908-283-3073
Broker/Sales Associate

IndependenceTwp., NJ
$529,000

Welcome Home! Envision yourself enjoying an evening on the wrap-around covered front porch enjoying the privacy and beauty of living on a cul-de-sac in the country. Step inside this bright and beautiful colonial with a beautiful two story foyer. This home is ideal for entertaining with the large open kitchen that joins the family room. A private den enables you to work from home with privacy. A large formal living room flows into the dining room, with access to the wrap around porch. The large kitchen features an oversized pantry, a large center island/breakfast bar and a separate dining area with bump out windows that make you feel like you are dining in the beautiful & private back yard. The large family room w/cathedral ceiling features a floor to ceiling stone faced wood burning fireplace. There are hardwood floors throughout the first floor. The gorgeous primary suite features a cathedral ceiling, walk-in closet, a double 2nd closet & a large master bath with jetted tub, stall shower & dbl sinks. 3 more BRs finish off the 2nd floor w/a full bath. The finished BSMT is ideal for watching a movie & entertaining. A back wall of windows makes the Bsmt feel bright & open. The backyard is private w/wood fence & tree lined, a paver stone patio, in-ground pool & underground sprinklers. Other features include a tankless water heater, generator hook-up, forced hot air/central air fueled by propane. Home is the 2nd to last home on cul-de-sac.

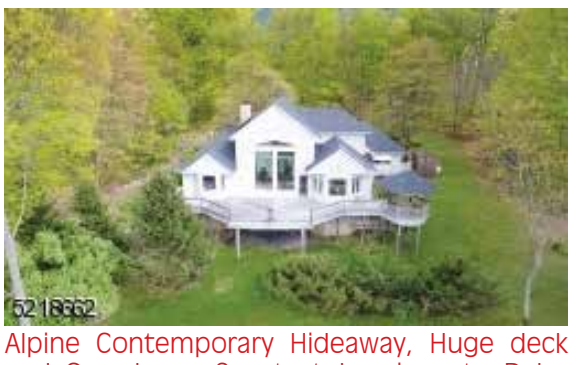
MLS# 3841477
Call Christy Doyle for Details at 973-270-8030
Realtor/Sales Associate

Liberty Twp., NJ
$379,900

Private Charming two-bedroom ranch-style home is the perfect oasis for anyone looking for a peaceful retreat. Located on a sprawling 1+ acre lot, this home boasts plenty of space to relax and unwind. Home offers a whole-house generator, providing peace of mind during any weather event. Living room offers fireplace w/wood burning insert and blower. Updated kitchen with open concept into dining area. The newer septic system ensures that you won't have to worry about any maintenance issues. New state of the art boiler along with hot water heater. With this private setting and fenced-in Inground pool, you'll enjoy the luxury of a resort-style atmosphere right in your own backyard. With a detached garage provides ample storage for all your outdoor equipment and toys. With this charming interior and plenty of natural light, this home is the perfect place to make it your own. More pictures to come....

MLS# 3841090
Call Stephanie Rucereto for Details at 908-310-3064
Realtor/Sales Associate

Liberty Twp., NJ
$750,000



Alpine Contemporary Hideaway, Huge deck and Gazzebo w Spectactular views to Deleware Water Gap, Private 23 acres, Bordered by protected State lands. Woodland tax assessment ,Floor to Cathedrael ceiling stone FirePlace, Central Air, 3 Car Garage, generator, Complete privacy.

MLS# 3841669
Call Alan Hubbard for Details at 973-479-9645
Broker/Sales Associate

Phillipsburg Town, NJ
$230,000

With being recently renovated in 2020, there is nothing to do but move in! Updates throughout, finished 3rd floor offers bonus living space. Covered front porch to relax on during the warm months. Partially fenced backyard, offstreet parking behind home with paved driveway on side. Walking distance to Pburg Elementary, Early Childhood Learning Center & Primary School.

MLS# 3843223
Call Amylinn Nemeth for Details at 908-763-3031
Realtor/Sales Associate

Scooters at Millers

96 Mt. Bethel Hwy - Rt. 512, Bangor, PA 18013

610-419-4584

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SUMMER HOURS: MON-FRI 8-6; SAT 9-4; SUN 9-3

To The Service Men & Women, who lost their lives, and to those who are still fighting for our Nation, We Thank You & Honor You. Happy Memorial Day!

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