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Riley Kocher Awarded Scholarship From Exchange Club of Bangor



The Exchange Club of Bangor held our annual Student of the Year dinner on May 13, 2025. This \$1000 scholarship is offered to one of the top five academic standouts from our local High Schools. This year Pen Argyl senior Riley Kocher was honored. Riley is shown receiving her award presented by Maryellen Bisher, chair of the Scholarship Committee. Riley is joined by her parents Bob and Jennifer Kocher. Riley will attend Moravian University in the fall. Courtesy: Andy Bisher, Exchange Club of Bangor, PA

Jillian Bradley Breaks School Record



Jillian Bradley hit 400 career strike outs in the game against Northwestern Lehigh on Monday, April 21st, beating the Pen Argyl High School strike out record. Recently, the Senior, with the help of her teammates, achieved the first perfect game in PAAHS history against Notre Dame Green Pond on Wednesday, April 16th.

Faith Christian School Proudly Announces This Year's Valedictorian And Salutatorian

Faith Christian School is proud to announce this year's Valedictorian, and Salutatorian.

This year's Valedictorian is Joseph Marc Blair. Joseph is the son of Justin and Cristina Blair. Joseph began attending Faith Christian School in fourth grade. Joseph played soccer from fifth grade through junior year and basketball in his sophomore and junior years. He was a member of the National Honor Society from sophomore to senior year and has been on the Student Council since tenth grade. Joseph plans to attend Cairn University next semester.

This year's Salutatorian is Colton Nathaniel Whistler. Colton is the son of Matthew and Mary Whistler. Colton began attending Faith Christian School in the third grade. He played soccer in middle school up until tenth grade. In the eleventh and twelfth grades, Colton was a



Joseph Blair



Colton Whistler

member of the National Honor Society. He plans to attend Northampton Community College next semester as he begins his college education, although he is currently undecided in his major. His favorite verse is Psalm 3:3-5 because it speaks of the LORD's consistent watch and care for us.

Class of 2025 Graduates include: Joseph Marc

Blair, Easton, PA (Valedictorian); Jayden David Goss, Anna Thi-Nguyen Marks, Kean McElroy, Elizabeth Grace Skorochod, Ashlyn Marie Todd, Joseph Maximos Vitti, Colton Nathaniel Whistler, Joeraan Emanuel Williams.

Graduation will be held on Friday, June 6th, at 4:30pm at Slate Belt Church, 1640 Church Road, Pen Argyl, PA.

Diana Dove Named as Washington (NJ) Celebrates America Grand Marshal

Throughout most of her life, Diana Dove has volunteered with various organizations benefiting children, families, education, and the environment. Now it's time for Washington to honor her in a way that makes her truly stand out! Dove will be in the lead car, serving as Grand Marshal, at this year's Washington Celebrates America parade on July 4th.

"We can think of no better way to recognize Diana," said Rich Maguire, the WCA Committee Chairman. "She has given thousands of hours of her time to the community. Not every community has someone like a Diana Dove. We are so lucky to have her in Washington."

Diana and her husband Mike "Bob" Dove, who frequently is side by side with Diana at events, raised their children



Chelsea and Sean in Washington Borough. The family is a mainstay of the community.

The old-fashioned town parade steps off at 3 pm on Belvidere Avenue and includes floats, bands, local organizations, and fire and EMT vehicles. Earlier in the day, the popular Orange Crate Derby takes place on Broad Street. Only missing this year are the fireworks that night due to a
DIANE Cont'd on pg 9

Bill Ensuring Sportsmen’s Rights are Protected Receives Senate Support



Legislation to protect sportsmen’s rights by aligning state law with the federal and state constitution passed the Senate and is headed to the House of Representatives for consideration. The Pennsylvania Game Code contains sections indicating it is unlawful to refuse to answer questions from representatives of the Game Commission. However, that violates the United States and Pennsylvania constitutions, which ensure no person may be “compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself” and “he cannot be compelled to give evidence against himself.” Senate Bill 518 would remove the offending sections, ensuring the protection of sportsmen’s constitutional rights.

New in the Bangor Public Library:

Adult Fiction: My name is Emilia del Valle: a novel by Isabel Allende; My friends: a novel by Fredrik Backman 1981; Bat eater and other names for Cora Zeng: a novel by Kylie Lee Baker; Slaying the vampire conqueror by Carissa Broadbent; The death of us: a novel by Abigail Dean; Parents weekend: a novel by Alex Finlay; The missing half: a novel by Ashley Flowers; Silver elite by Dani Francis; Good omens: the nice and accurate prophecies of Agnes Nutter, witch by Neil Gaiman; Where the rivers merge: a novel by Mary Alice Monroe; The throne of broken gods by Amber Nicole; The dawn of the cursed queen by Amber Nicole

LP Adult Fiction: The tenant by Freida McFadden

Adult Non Fiction:The Next Day: transitions, change, and moving forward by Melinda Gates 1964; Public Enemies: America’s greatest crime wave and birth of the FBI, 1933-34 by Bryan Burrough 1961; Every purchase matters: how fair trade farmers, companies, and consumers are changing the world by Paul Rice (Founder of Fair Trade USA); Along came a cowgirl: daring and ironic women of the rodeo & wild west shows by Chris Enss 1961; The book of alchemy: a creative practice for an inspired life by Suleika Jaouad; At the Blue Hills above the Forks: Pennsylvania Dutch culture in Northampton County’s Slate Belt by Melissa E. Hough; Medicine River: a story of survival and the legacy of Indian boarding schools by Mary Annette Pember; Notes to John by Joan Didion; My next breath: a memoir by Jeremy Renner; Mark Twain by Ron Chernow

Easy Fiction: Good Luck, ice cream truck! By Sorche Fairbank; Goodbye spring, hello summer by Kenard Pak; Graduation day in Adventure Bay by Matt Huntley; Diggers love the mommies! By Brianna Caplan Sayres; Chameleon’s colors by Chisato Tashiro; You’re on your way! By Melanie Watt; Wednesday: I am thing; Bear feels sad by Karma Wilson

Easy NonFiction: Muhammad Ali by Ma Isabel Sánchez Vegara; Volcanoes! By Anne Schreiber; Rocks & minerals by Melvin Berger; Snakes! By Melissa Stewart

Junior Fiction: Cat on the run in Hidden layers! By Aaron Blabey; Cat on the run in cucumber madness! By Aaron Blabey; The last comics on Earth: a song of swords and stuffies by Max Brallier; The age of enchantment by Anna James; Stuck by Kayla Miller; Junie B Jones and the stupid smelly bus: the graphic novel by Colleen A. F. Venable; Curse of the mystery mutt by James Patterson 1947; Big top bonanza by James Patterson 1947; The last Olympian: the graphic novel by Rick Riordan

Junior NonFiction: Backyard bird watching book for kids; Travel adventures: Carlsbad Caverns: identifying arithmetic patterns by Dona Rice

YA Fiction: His face is the sun by Michelle Jabès Corpora; Lore Olympus. Volume 8 by Rachel Smythe

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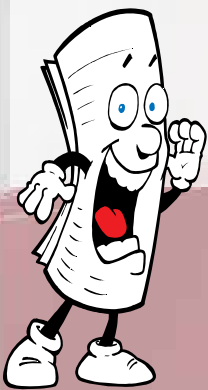
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SCAN ME

Free Office Skills Training Program for Women Starts in July



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 8th – August 28th. 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 Mondays at 10:00 a.m., June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m., June 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th. 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.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Returns to Northampton County

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program is returning to Northampton County, offering \$25 in Produce Coupons Available for Eligible Seniors. Northampton County seniors will once again benefit from the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, thanks to continued support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Administered locally by the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the program provides \$25 in free coupons to eligible residents aged 60 and over to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from approved farmers markets. Eligibility Criteria is as follows:

- To qualify for the program in 2025, participants must:
- Be age 60 or older
- Be a Northampton County resident
- Meet income guidelines:

Single: Annual income of \$28,953 or less
Couple: Annual combined income of \$39,128 or less

Both spouses may receive coupons if eligible.

Requirements & Proxy Rules:

- Participants must present proof of age and residency.
- Individuals unable to attend in person may have someone pick up their coupons using a signed proxy form. One person may serve as proxy for up to four participants. The proxy must provide identification that shows the date of birth and address of the eligible senior.

Proxy forms are available at:

The AAA Office: 2801 Emrick Boulevard, Bethlehem

All senior centers

Online at <https://www.norcopa.gov/area-agency-on-aging>

Note: Coupons can be obtained only once per season and are available from June 2 to September 10, 2025. Redemption period: Coupons may be used through November 30, 2025.

Coupon Distribution Locations – Summer 2025:

Park Plaza Senior Community Center, 1800 Sullivan Trail, Easton - June 3, 10AM - 12PM

Northampton Senior Community Center, 902 Lincoln Ave, Northampton - June 5, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Old York Road Senior Community Center, 720 Old York Rd, Bethlehem - June 6, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Nazareth Senior Community Center, 15 S. Wood St, Nazareth - June 11, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Lower Nazareth Senior Community Center, 306 Butztown Rd, Bethlehem - June 11, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Slate Belt Senior Community Center, 707 American Bangor Rd, Bangor - June 12, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley, 520 E. 4th St, Bethlehem - June 18, 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Cherryville Senior Community Center, 4131 Lehigh Dr., Cherryville - June 18, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Easton Area Community Center, 901 Washington St, Easton - June 26, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Saucon Valley Senior Community Center, 323 Northampton St., Hellertown - June 26, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Rooney Senior Community Center, 4 E. Fourth St, Bethlehem - June 27, 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Cherryville Senior Community Center, 4131 Lehigh Dr, Cherryville - July 2, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Slate Belt Senior Community Center, 707 American Bangor Rd, Bangor, July 7 - 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Park Plaza Senior Community Center, 1800 Sullivan Trail, Easton - July 8, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Ongoing Distribution Site:

Northampton County Department of Human Services Building, 2801 Emrick Boulevard, Bethlehem, PA - June 3 – September 9, 2025 (or until supply is exhausted)

- Tuesdays: 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- Thursdays: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Closed on County Holidays

For more information, contact the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging at (610) 829-4540.

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Jillian Bradley- Lebanon Valley, Softball



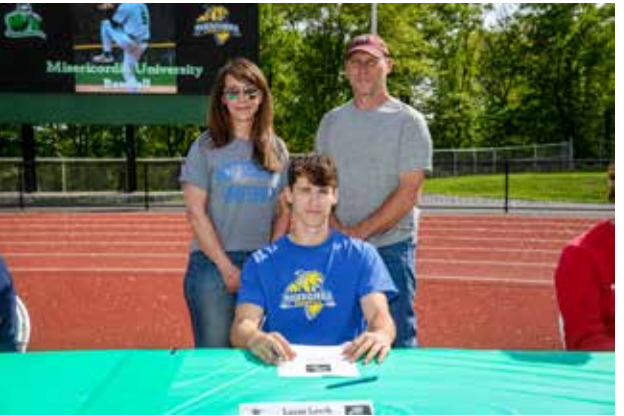
Gavin Casey - Moravian, Track & Field



Nuallan King - Utica, Wrestling & Football



Brayden Krasnopera - Juniata, Football



Lucas Lerch - Misericordia Baseball



Colin McMahon- King's, Baseball



Shane Moser- Northampton CC, Wrestling



Gabriella Moyer- Muhlenberg, Cheering



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Rylee Wentz- Northampton CC, Softball



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Assembly GOP Energy Task Force Launch Energy Cost Survey

As energy bills continue to climb across New Jersey, the Assembly Republican Energy Affordability Task Force is launching a public questionnaire to hear directly from residents about the impact of rising utility costs and what solutions they support.

“Families are getting crushed by energy bills, and they deserve a say in how we fix it,” said Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia, a member of the task force. “This survey will help us build a plan that puts ratepayers first, not Trenton’s political agenda.”

The questionnaire asks residents whether their bills have increased, what solutions they believe would help most, and which energy sources they support if it meant lower costs. Options include tax relief, ending state-imposed surcharges, and expanding in-state energy supply with nuclear and clean natural gas.

“This is about giving people a voice,” said Assemblyman Michael Torrisi. “Trenton has spent years pushing

mandates and subsidies that made things worse. We’re listening to the people who actually pay the bills.”

The survey is part of the GOP Task Force’s broader push for affordability, transparency, and a reliable energy future. Assembly Republicans have introduced legislation to eliminate sales tax on energy bills, stop surcharges for “lost revenue,” and expand power generation within the state.

Residents can fill out the questionnaire online or by contacting their local Assembly Republican office.

The Assembly Republican Energy Affordability Task Force was formed last week by Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio. In addition to Fantasia and Torrisi, the task force includes Assemblymen Alex Sauickie, Paul Kanitra and Christian Barranco. The group met Monday to begin outlining policy priorities and plans to meet with energy stakeholders early next week.

DEP Accepting Nominations Through July 25 For Annual Awards Recognizing New Jersey’s Recycling And Sustainability Leaders

People and organizations that go above and beyond to advance recycling and sustainability are eligible to be nominated for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s annual recycling awards program, Commissioner of Environmental Protection Shawn M. LaTourette announced recently.

The DEP, in partnership with the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR), is accepting nominations for awards in 11 categories. Those interested in submitting a nomination may view the 2025 Nomination Packet for more information about the awards program, which includes nomination applications. Nomination forms may be emailed to njrecycles@dep.nj.gov through Friday, July 25.

“New Jersey’s longstanding recycling success is due to the hard work of many volunteers, students, stakeholders, businesses and government agencies, who work hard to make our state more

sustainable,” Commissioner LaTourette said. “The DEP encourages the public to nominate those whose recycling endeavors not only keep our environment clean, but enhance public health, benefit our economy and create a better New Jersey for all.”

How to Nominate Recycling Leaders:

Nominations will be accepted in categories including Institution, Business, Retail Merchant, Government, Leadership, Rising Star, Recycling Industry, Outstanding Educator/Educational Program, Volunteer Citizen, Waste Reduction/Resource Management/Sustainability, and Recycled Products Procurement Star.

A panel of judges from DEP’s Air, Energy & Materials Sustainability Program and the Association of New Jersey Recyclers will review nominations based upon criteria including the nominee’s ability to demonstrate measurable outcomes, commitment to education and outreach, re-

plicability of their efforts, innovation, and going above and beyond compliance requirements. Those chosen for an award will be notified in September and honored at a recognition ceremony this fall.

“We encourage people and organizations throughout New Jersey to nominate those in their communities who make recycling a priority, have helped educate residents and businesses on the importance of reducing waste and keeping our recycling stream free of unacceptable items and are committed to keeping our environment clean and healthy,” said Paul Baldauf, Assistant Commissioner for Air, Energy & Materials Sustainability. “The results of their efforts should be highlighted to demonstrate to others how they are making a difference across the state.”

A History of Recycling Success:

The 2024 award winners included a business that recycles or reuses 96% of the waste it generates; a non-profit organization that fights food insecurity and the environmental impacts of food waste by recovering and delivering

healthy meals in local communities; a middle school that implemented a highly successful recycling collection program for plastic bags, plastic case and product overwrap and plastic pallet wrap; and a textile recycling and reuse business that has kept millions of pounds of old clothing out of landfills.

New Jersey has long been a national leader in recycling, becoming the first state in 1987 to pass legislation requiring recycling. Since then, recycling has become routine for residents, businesses, and institutions, and has proven over the years to be an environmental and economic success story.

The Association of New Jersey Recyclers is a non-profit, non-partisan network representing the public and private sectors that works to promote recycling, waste reduction and sustainability by encouraging sound resource management and recycling strategies through education, advocacy and enhancing professional standards.

Follow DEP’s Air, Energy & Materials Sustainability program on Facebook @NJDE-PAEMS

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Springtime Alert: Leave Young Wildlife Alone



Whether in their backyards or high on a mountain, it's almost certain Pennsylvanians will encounter young wildlife this time of year. While some young animals might appear to be abandoned, usually they are not. It's likely their mothers are watching over them from somewhere nearby. So when encountering young wild animals, whether deer, birds, raccoons or something else, the best thing you can do is leave them alone. "During this time of year, it's common for people to see young



wildlife and mistakenly assume that they are abandoned or in need of help," said Matthew Schnupp, the Game Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Management Director. "As well-intentioned as they are in trying to help these animals, the reality is that the mother is probably nearby and waiting for you to leave so she can return. The best approach when encountering any wildlife is to simply let them be." Adult animals often leave their young while they forage for food, but they don't go far and they do return. Wildlife also often relies on a natural defensive tactic called the "hider strategy," where young animals will remain motionless and "hide" in surrounding cover while adults draw the attention of potential predators or other intruders away from their young. Deer employ this strategy, and deer fawns sometimes are assumed to be abandoned when, in fact, their mothers are nearby.

The Game Commission urges Pennsylvanians to resist the urge to interfere with young wildlife or remove any wild animal from its natural setting. Such contact can be harmful to both people and wildlife. Wild animals can lose their natural fear of humans, making it difficult, even impossible, for them to ever again live normally in the wild. And anytime wildlife is handled, there's always a risk people could contract diseases or parasites such as fleas, ticks and lice. Wildlife that becomes habituated to humans also can pose a public-safety risk. Some years ago, a yearling, six-point buck attacked and severely injured two people. The investigation into the incident revealed that a neighboring family had illegally taken the deer into their home and fed it as a fawn, and they continued to feed the deer right up until the time of the attack. It is illegal to take or possess wildlife from the wild. Under state law, the penalty for such a vi-

olation is a fine of up to \$1,500 per animal. Under no circumstances will anyone who illegally takes wildlife into captivity be allowed to keep that animal, and under a working agreement with state health officials, any "high risk" rabies vector species confiscated after human contact must be euthanized and tested; none can be returned to the wild because the risk of spreading disease is too high. Animals infected with rabies might not show obvious symptoms, but still might be able to transmit the disease. Though any mammal might carry rabies, the rabies vector species identified in the agreement are: skunks, raccoons, foxes, bats, coyotes and groundhogs. People can get rabies from the saliva of a rabid animal if they are bitten or scratched, or if the saliva gets into the person's eyes, mouth or a fresh wound. Only wildlife rehabilitators, who are licensed by the Game Commission, are permitted to care for injured or orphaned wildlife for the purposes of eventual release back into the wild. For those who find wildlife that truly is in need of assistance, a listing of licensed wildlife rehabilitators can be found on the Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators website, www.pawr.com. If you are unable to identify a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact the Game Commission by phone at 1-833-PGC-WILD or 1-833-PGC-HUNT.



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Senator Doug Steinhardt Responds To Alarming Discovery Of Chinese Communist Party Spy Tech In Solar Infrastructure

In response to shocking revelations that unauthorized communication devices—potentially linked to foreign adversaries—have been found embedded in Chinese-manufactured solar power inverters, Senator Doug Steinhardt (R-23) issued the following statement:

“The recent discovery of rogue communication devices underscores a chilling reality: our critical infrastructure is vulnerable, and New Jersey’s leadership is asleep at the wheel. Allowing hostile foreign governments like China to potentially penetrate our technology and

energy networks is not just an economic issue—it’s a serious and growing national security threat.”

“This is no longer a hypothetical danger. We are now seeing tangible evidence that surveillance tools from adversarial nations are operating undetected in systems that power our homes and communities and in this instance, CCP spy tech is hiding in plain sight.”

“I’ve been sounding the alarm on this for years and Governor Murphy and Trenton Democrats must stop dragging their feet. I am calling on them, again, to im-

mediately pass my legislation to ban foreign adversaries from any access to New Jersey’s infrastructure and technology.”

Senator Steinhardt is the sponsor of several key bills aimed at defending New Jersey from foreign adversaries and protecting the State’s strategic resources:

S-728: Prohibits government entities from procuring and using technology products and services from companies owned by, controlled by, or domiciled in certain foreign countries.

S-731: Prohibits foreign companies cre-

ated under the laws of foreign adversaries from participating in critical infrastructure.

S-723: Restricts all ownership of agricultural land in the State by foreign governments and foreign persons.

S-3591: Prohibits ownership of certain protected land adjacent to military facilities in the State by certain foreign governments and persons.

“We cannot afford to let our energy systems, our food supply, or any strategic assets fall into the hands of those who wish us harm,” Steinhardt concluded. “The time to act is now.”



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DIANE

Continued from page 1

conflict with the fire-works company.

Diana's volunteer work that has positively impacted the most people combines her love of wildlife and teaching children about the environment. For 28 years, she has organized garden volunteers of all ages to plan and care for the quarter-acre Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly Garden located at Memorial School in Washington Borough. In October 1996, she founded a school garden committee through the school district's PTO. They planned, fundraised, and developed a school garden engaging youth every step of the way.

"One of the most memorable fundraisers was organizing a sold-out Wizards Basketball Game with our teachers and the Washington Redskins," said Diana.

Through Diana's volunteer grant writing and award nomination efforts, the Butterfly Garden has received local, state, and national recognition from sources including: the National Garden Club, Inc, the National Gardening Association, Gardening Know How, and the National Wildlife Federation.

In June 1997, Diana became the founding Youth Program Chair for the School's Garden Club. Later the Youth Club would win State and National Youth awards ranking first through National Garden Club, Inc. The adult garden volunteers formed a local Garden Club chapter. They won the 2024 Garden Club of NJ President's Award for creating a garden project that improves mental health by encouraging families to garden together and spend more time outdoors.

In recent years, Diana volunteered as the GCNJ State Youth Chair advising 16 Youth Garden Clubs. During the pandemic, she volunteered to write about gardening with children in a column called, "Growing Gardeners" in the Gardener News. The column was published in over 23 monthly issues available online.

In the fall, 2002, Diana planned a One Year Anniversary Event at the KNMBG Butterfly Garden to Honor Heroes of the September 11th event. 750 people attended. Over 30 emergency response and health & safety organizations participated. A parade of children holding international flags was followed by a parade of veterans. There were speeches from various organizations and Mayor Mark Bond... assuring children and families that there were organizations in the area to keep people safe. At sunset there was a candlelight ceremony.

Engraved bricks in the Butterfly Garden were dedicated and seven newly planted trees in the Butterfly Garden were dedicated as "Freedom Trees, " part of a National Registry in memory of Heroes of September 11th.

Community Outreach and pollinator garden education is a focus of Diana's volunteer work. She has volunteered to work with school classes, teachers, and groups in the Butterfly Garden, including Norwescap HeadStart Preschool classes, Area Youth Garden Clubs, Boy Scout and Girl Scouts, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the school's Aftercare Program, and she has led seasonal gardening sessions with the Phillipsburg Youth Corp. As a Youth Chair she engages teens in the garden from WHRHS Key Club, the Earth Rights Club, NHS, FFA, and the former SAVE Club. Diana coordinates youth volunteers with educational exhibits at the Washington Green Fest, the Warren County Hospice Butterfly Release, Washington BID/ Green Team Farmer's Markets, the NABA Butterfly Count, and National Night Out events. Don't miss the fun at the June 14, 2025 Green Fest as Diana organizes the first ever Bunny Treasure Hunt on the Kids' grassy Courtyard by Gaias Gifts.

She began volunteering 36 years ago in the Borough, as a young mom who joined the Washington Community Playcenter to share hours of childcare. Diana arranged for the pre-school children to play soccer while at the Playcenter in the Soccer Squirts Program. For older siblings, Diana arranged a Basic Aid Training (BAT) Kids' first aid program taught by the rescue squad. She coordinated fundraisers at the Centenary University Child-care Center and was one of the "class moms" who provided kids crafts, refreshments, and activities at Taylor Street and Memorial School holiday parties and PTO events.

Truly an inspiration, since 2001 Diana has lived with MS. Through the years, she participated in several MS fundraiser walks. She served on the SWIM Inc Board; an organization that arranged for YMCA's to provide swimming time for people with muscular disabilities. Diana rides horses weekly in a Therapeutic Riding program through Centenary University 's TRAC program and won two first place ribbons in dressage.

With work experience as an environmental educator and former Senior Naturalist for Somerset County Parks, she had connections to volunteer years ago, as a PTO Co-Chair who planned a me-

morable Earth Week Festival at Memorial School, for the Washington Borough School District. Over 975 participants with K to 6th grade families filled nearly every room throughout Memorial School to capacity with programs such as a visit with a live penguin, a giant cage with a live wolf, Smokey Bear demonstrating setting up an emergency fire shelter, recycled crafts, sun catcher crafts, environmental musicians, and ending with the Thunderbird American Dancers. Free tree seedlings were given away which would be around 30 years old now.

"Who has one of those trees in their yard," wondered Diana. The Washington Borough School Board recognized Diana (and Helen Hollenbeck) with an engraved appreciation plaque.

With a love for singing, Diana joined the Warren County Community Singers (WCCS) in January, 1994. She served on the WCCS Board initiating some fundraisers that have continued through today including selling Madelina's Cheesecakes and setting up the Annual WCCS Clothing Drive. In past years, Diana sang "Leader of the Band," in the Warren County Farmers' Fair's Talent Show self-accompanied on guitar. The judges selected Diana as the Grand Champion Talent Award Winner. Since then, Diana has volunteered to sing a prelude of songs with her guitar at some of the WCCS concerts. Nursing home residents enjoy Diana's performances too. She is part of "The Northern Wind" trio who won the Adult Division of the Warren County Fair Talent Show in 2024 and previously donated time with a holiday performance at the Lopatcong Nursing Home.

You might hear Diana perform a few songs, "singing for a cause" if you attend the Habitat for Humanity Open Mic, held at the HFH Community Center, in Washington, hosted by Kevin McCann. Donations are being collected now for a new sound board for the HFH Open Mic Nights. Diana has sung to benefit the Butterfly Garden, and the North Plainfield High School McKenna Scholarship Fund. Note: At the 2025 Festival in the Borough, on September 20th, 2025, Diana is contracted to sing for the sixth year, on the Broad Street Acoustic Stage by Gaias Gifts, at 2pm. There will be music on three stages 10 am to 10pm.

For several years, Diana served as the recording secretary for the Warren County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, based in Washington.

Diana was a "soccer mom" initiating fundraising efforts, when her son played with Warren Uni-

ted. She volunteered at the WHRHS with Project Graduation and was a parent chaperone for her daughter's choral trips including a weekend trip to Boston. She volunteered at WHRHS Athletic events to earn points towards our son's Varsity Jacket.

As the wife of a Fire-fighter of Washington 83 Fire Dept., Diana joined the Ladies Auxiliary who fundraised for equipment and fed firefighters. Diana recalls two dramatic fires where she took food directly to the firefighters: One was at the St. Cloud Hotel, and the other was the Washington Hardware Store. Years ago, as Halloween approached, Diana prepared flyers for the Fireman's Halloween Parade and distributed them to the schools and nursery schools.

Going back as early as high school, Diana was selected as the HS speaker at graduation to talk about the value of Community Service. In her HS Ecology Club who organized monthly river clean ups and was responsible for initiating the town's first recycling program in No. Plainfield, (in the early 70's.) Diana became the youngest member of the North Plainfield Environmental Commission to share ideas on the recycling program and to provide feedback from a

youth's perspective.

With her love for the environment, she earned a BS degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management, with a concentration in Biology, plus a BA degree in Communications from VA Tech. Diana put herself through college working three jobs while a full-time student.

Diana teaches environmental science, has led Whale Watch Trips, and has past work experience as the Senior Naturalist for Somerset County Parks, also serving as the Liaison for the Montessori Nursery School in Lord Stirling Park, Basking Ridge. She is the recipient of the Environmental Educator of the Year Award and the Patricia F. Kane Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alliance for NJ Environmental Education. Diana and her husband, Mike were inducted into the Hackettstown Area Hall of Fame recognizing the volunteer work accomplished.

While in college she was part of the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad Crew with empathy training who talked to the victims while they were being treated. Years later, Diana, who was 8 months pregnant at the time, would use this first aid training and perform the Heimlich maneuver on her five-year old daughter

to dislodge a strawberry from her esophagus.

Diana stated, "Volunteers always learn something new they will use later. Volunteering opens new doors and enriches lives."

Anyone interested in volunteering in the Butterfly Garden may contact her at dianadovel3@gmail.com. Meanwhile, Diana notes that there is an immediate need for volunteers for the Warren County Hospice Butterfly Release on June 7th. The ceremony takes place at 4 p.m. at the KNMBG Butterfly Garden.

A Grand Marshal reception in honor of Diana will be held on June 26, from 6-8 p.m., at Brother's Restaurant, 301 W. Washington Ave. Cost for the dinner is \$35/pp. Checks can be sent to Washington Celebrates America, P.O. Box 3, Washington, NJ, 07882. Proceeds benefit Washington Celebrates America, which is entirely a volunteer-driven organization. Any questions about the reception please contact Bruce Schott, 908-283-3816.

To learn more about Washington Celebrates America and to become involved, visit the Washington Celebrates America Facebook page or email wca07882@yahoo.com.



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A flood-prone section of County Route 659, also known as Spring Valley Road, is now open after a construction project to permanently elevate part of the road where a one-lane temporary repair has been in place since the summer of 2019. “Spring Valley Road is a critical road for our Northern Warren County community. These improvements will stand the test of time and will ensure that this section of road will never need to be closed again due to severe weather,” Warren County Commissioner Director Jason J. Sarnoski said. “On behalf of the County Commissioners, I’d like to thank the people of Hardwick and the surrounding communities for their patience during this long process, which included a two and a half year delay by NJ Department of Environmental Protection to grant needed approvals,” Sarnoski added. The 0.2-mile section of the road is now a full two lanes wide and includes an amphibian crossing installed under the road, with walls to prevent frogs and other amphibians from accessing the roadway as directed by the NJDEP. The road initially closed in January 2019 after weeks of record-high precipitation caused the levels of area wetlands along both sides of the road to rise. Periodic closures occurred until Warren County installed a temporary elevated road that summer. The new elevated road is constructed of prefabricated modular cement blocks with a cast-in-place cement cap on each side, filled with dense aggregate and then paved. Guide rails run the length of the elevated roadway, which has been raised as much as two feet higher than the original roadway surface.

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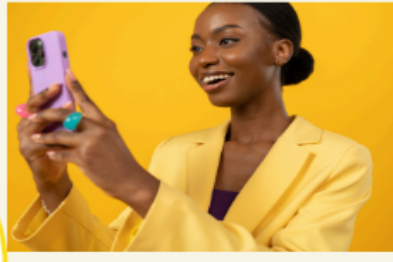
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