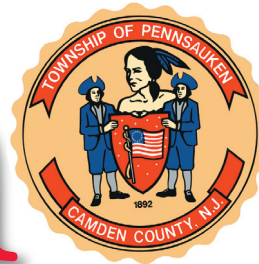


# All Around Pennsauken



VOL. 24, NO. 1

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

January 2019

## Residents Can Register Online To Schedule AARP Tax Preparation



The AARP Tax Aide program at the Pennsauken Free Public Library has been chosen to be a pilot site for a national AARP online tax preparation appointment system. This will allow people to register online to make their own appointments for the 2019 season, which starts Feb. 1 and ends April 15.

AARP tax aide counselors will be at the Pennsauken Free Public Library on Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting on Feb. 6 and continuing through April 11. Please note the times for tax preparation have changed for 2019. Tax preparation hours at the Library will be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To make an appointment online, visit AARP.org, click on the tax aide site location link and choose the Pennsauken Library. Fill in the information requested, pick the date and time preferred, and click "Submit." A confirmation e-mail will be sent immediately afterwards. If the date and time requested are not available, individuals have the choice to be waitlisted. Canceling or rescheduling appointments can be done online as well at AARP.org. The new AARP appointment management app goes live on Tuesday, Jan. 15.

If you don't have an e-mail address or don't want to submit information online, beginning on Jan. 15, you can call (856)

*continued on page 23*

## Two New Members Elected To Pennsauken Township Committee



Jessica Rafeh and Marco DiBattista are the newest members of Pennsauken's Township Committee. Both were elected in November 2018 for their first terms of office.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

At the beginning of this month, two new voices joined the governing body representing the people of Pennsauken. Jessica Rafeh and Marco DiBattista were elected to Township Committee in November's general election; and the two are extremely eager to serve their community.

"I'm really excited for this opportunity and I'm humbled by it," says Rafeh. "I appreciate that the residents of Pennsauken believed in Marco and I; we're ready to make a difference."

"As a guy who spent his whole life in town, I'm ready to help guide the direction of Pennsauken and help lead this community into the future," adds DiBattista. "It's a great opportunity and Jess and I are excited to get started."

Jessica moved from Venezuela to the United States at a very young age and has lived in Pennsauken for nearly 20 years with her husband, Husan. Rafeh is an adjunct professor at Rowan University, teaching courses in English as a Second Language. She is fluent in Arabic, English, and Spanish, a first for a member of Township Committee.

"I'm a true example of the rich diversity of this town," explains Jessica. "I'd like to help bridge that gap and help residents who may not speak English have a voice; to know that language isn't a barrier. I want residents to be comfortable coming to Committee and have someone listen to them and be a liaison."

Marco DiBattista is a lifelong Penn-

*continued on page 29*

## A New Year, A New Trash Collection Company In Pennsauken

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director, Department of Public Works

For the first time in over 20 years, Pennsauken residents will have their trash picked up by a different trash collection company.

Approximately every five years, the Township is required to go out to bid for pricing on trash collection. This cycle, South Jersey Sanitation Company, Inc. was awarded the contract for 2019-2021, with two additional one-year options. Although the collection company is changing, the days that you are serviced for your trash, recycling, white goods and yard debris remain the same. The only difference here is the company performing the work. The trash rules and regulations will also remain the same. In



Beginning this month, South Jersey Sanitation Company, Inc. will be handling the trash and recycling collection for Pennsauken Township.

introductory meetings with the company for Pennsauken, I walked away with a owner and the designated route manager

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## Look! inside

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## JANUARY CALENDAR

### Browning Road Senior Club

The Browning Road Senior Club invites local seniors to come and meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Meetings are held at Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 Route 130, Pennsauken at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments are served; there will be a short meeting

followed by BINGO. For more information, call Pat at (609) 790-6760.

### PASA

The Pennsauken Alliance on Substance Abuse (PASA) meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 9,

7:00 p.m., at Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken. PASA works to increase community awareness about substance abuse, as well as provide prevention programs. The public is invited to attend.

### Town Watch

Pennsauken's Town Watch hosts its next meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Pennsauken Police Department, Second Floor. Come learn how to make our community safer. For more information, call (856) 488-0080 ext. 2417.

### American Legion

American Legion Fredrick W. Griggs Post 68 will meet on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 7:00 p.m. These monthly meetings are held at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave. All veterans who served during qualifying conflicts are welcome to join. The Post has an Auxiliary Unit which also meets at 7:00 p.m. at the same location. Any ladies who are the spouse or the daughter of a veteran are welcome to join.

### Symphonic Wind Ensemble

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble of Concordia University, Wisconsin, under the direction of Dr. Louis A. Menchaca, will be performing in concert on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7:00 p.m., at Martin Luther Chapel, 4100 Terrace Ave. Free will offerings accepted. For more information,

call (856) 665-0116.

### Soup Cook Off

VFW Post 1270 is hosting its first-ever "soup cook off" on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2:00 p.m., at 2324 Penn St., Pennsauken. Prizes awarded for best three entries. There is no entrance fee, but participants can taste and judge submissions for \$5. Cook off participants can sign up by stopping by the post or calling (856) 317-9081. The deadline to register is Saturday, Jan. 12.

### Pilates & Pours

Real Girl Pilates and Eclipse Brewery are hosting a "Pilates & Pours" event on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at 25 E. Park Ave., Merchantville. Includes a one-hour pilates class, followed by your choice of one pour or flight of beer. No experience necessary; the class is for all levels. The fee is \$20 and pre-registration is required; limited space is available. For more information or to sign up, search "Pilates and Pours at Eclipse Brewing" on Facebook or "Pilates and Pours Eclipse Brewing" on Eventbrite.com.

## Pennsauken Half Century Jets Meet Fourth Tuesday Of Every Month



Last month, the Pennsauken Half Century Jets held their Christmas party at the Pennsauken Country Club. This senior group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. in St. Cecilia's School Hall, 4851 Camden Ave., Pennsauken. This month's meeting will be on Jan. 22. For more information, call (856) 456-0173.

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## EDITOR'S Starting Off A New Year By Enjoying Every Sandwich

DESK



By Frank Sinatra,  
AAP Editor

I've got some pretty eclectic tastes in music. Whether it's classical, jazz, or a song from 1982 that just won't die, there's usually something I can pull up on my iPod that can match my mood.

During the weekend prior to writing my annual column, a quote popped into my head from one of my favorite artists, Warren Zevon, the musician best known for his hits "Werewolves of London," "Lawyers, Guns, and Money," and "Excitable Boy," among others. Prior to his passing from cancer in 2003, Warren, who was a frequent guest on the "Late Show with David Letterman," made his final appearance on the TV program; he was the only guest that night. When dis-

cussing his terminal diagnosis, he commented to Letterman that, "You're reminded to enjoy every sandwich." It was so simply poignant that "Enjoy Every Sandwich" became the name of a tribute album to him after his death.

When you boil it down, making and eating a sandwich can be one of the more mundane aspects of our lives. Oftentimes, we quickly assemble a concoction of lunch meat with a quick spread of mayo or a squirt of mustard. You can also go with the classic combination of peanut butter and jelly, perfect for consumption in haste. You often don't really think about the process. It's time for lunch and you're hungry; you make a sandwich and eat it. In a matter of minutes, you're done eating and back to the tasks of the day: finishing work assignments, picking up the kids after school,

or grabbing something at the store. In comparison to other things that happen during the day, it's almost a throwaway moment.

But what if it wasn't?

Don't get me wrong, people enjoy eating sandwiches. But what if it's something, if you'll pardon the pun, which you should truly relish?

We always remember the more significant moments of our lives. They stick with you. And I'm not suggesting that you ponder that time you had pastrami on rye back on February 12, 2004. But what would happen if we took a moment to appreciate where we were and what we were doing? You could be sitting at home, which means you have a roof over your head. Your cold cuts are... well cold; the fridge works and you paid the electricity bill. You actually have

something to eat, when so many still go hungry in our community. The little things aren't so little after all. When you put them together, it puts the big picture in true perspective.

So enjoy every sandwich; revel in the quiet you can get from a long car drive; appreciate folding laundry still warm from the dryer. Savor the small, as it pertains to the bigger things life has in store. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised with what you find and experience. Plus,

you'll have already had lunch. That's a win right there.

On behalf of the entire staff of All Around Pennsauken: our publisher, designer, contributors, and advertising staff, here's to a great start to 2019. We're privileged to be able to bring you informative and entertaining local news each and every month; and we look forward to another year of sharing what makes our community great.

Wishing all our Friends and Neighbors  
a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year!

All Around  
Pennsauken

## PERFECT HOME IN A GREAT COMMUNITY!



### Merchantville – Historic Cattell Tract

This Magnificent True Victorian, Has It All! 4 stories of living space, hardwood flooring throughout, gorgeous wrap around porch, center hall foyer entry, pocket doors leading to the parlor/sitting room, family room with new carpet and brick gas fireplace and pantry with wet bar! Beautiful country kitchen with custom built-ins, 2 staircases, central vac system and a 3 car detached carriage house. Timberline roof/lifetime warranty shingles. The sprawling back deck overlooks the the spacious garden. \$330,000



### Moorestown – Perfect home in a great community!

This home features a large living room with sliders out to your back yard patio and fireplace, a remodeled kitchen w/granite countertops, custom cabinets and storage. The large master bedroom has a custom remodeled full bathroom and walk in closet. The basement is huge and can be a perfect man-cave or make it into a family room or both. The Study/office is currently being used as a third bedroom. It's definitely a Must See!! Plumbing, HVAC and air condition have all been serviced in the past year. \$269,000



### Merchantville – Great Investment Opportunity!

Historic Merchantville! This large three story twin duplex features two bedrooms, full bath, kitchen, dining room and a spacious living room on the first floor. Also washer & dryer in the unit. On second and third floors, we have three bedrooms, very spacious living room and dining room, large kitchen, hardwood floors, enclosed porch with lots of windows and washer and dryer in the unit. And both front and back staircase. Detached garage, lots of new windows, spacious side and back yards. \$189,500



### Paulsboro – Duplex

Both units rented, vouchers in place, good tenants - each unit featuring 2 beds, 1 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen, basement, rear yard... Great investment property. Tenant owned washer/dryer/a/c units. Property being sold "AS IS" ... \$74,900



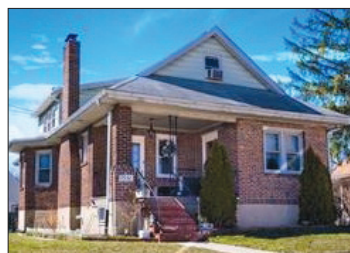
### Pennsauken – Bungalow

Move right into this adorable bungalow, interior was updated a little over a year ago with brand new flooring, paint, carpeting upstairs, bathroom completely redone, kitchen redone with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and tile backsplash. Amazing front porch which wraps around the side of the home and a backyard deck also, close to major highways and easy access to Philly and close to shopping. \$114,000



### Pennsauken – Pack your bags!

This Beautiful Pennbrook Center Hall Colonial. Home Features Formal Living Room & Dining Room, Bright Sunk In Family Room With Half Bath and 4 Great Sized Bedrooms. Main Bathroom Was Recently Remodeled And Features A Fabulous Garden Tub, Master Bedroom Features A Huge Closet With Dressing Area And A Beautiful Recently Renovated Half Bath. There Is Also A Huge Full Basement. Newer Heater & Air, Newer Vinyl Siding & Newer Double Pane Windows. Spend Those Cool Summer Nights Relaxing On The Cozy Front Porch Or On The Back Patio Overlooking The Pond. \$198,000



### Pennsauken – Pack your bags!

Beautiful 4/5 bedroom 2 full bath 2 story brick home, 1 fireplace and 1 wood burning stove, open front sitting porch with detached garage, fenced in yard and full high water-proofed basement nestled on a lovely quiet street. This home has a very unique layout that features an upstairs that can be used as a separate living quarters, complete with its own full bath, family room with wood burning stove, office/den and bedroom or just a great home for a large family. This home is very deceiving, it's much bigger than it looks from the street, come and see for yourself. Asking \$144,900



### Merchantville – Cattell Tract!

Beautiful 3 bedroom Bungalow (circa 1920), features L/R w/hdwd floors, large windows and decorative fireplace. D/R w/hdwd floors, new kitchen that includes granite counter tops and glass back splash, stainless steel five burner gas stove, built in dishwasher, microwave and refrigerator, pantry, recessed lighting and replacement windows. First floor laundry room, spacious master suite and new full bath with heated porcelain floor! Upstairs we have an additional room with lots of closet space, great for a bedroom or family room. Close to all the Merchantville Shops and Walking Trail \$254,900



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## WAGSWORLD A Tale Of Alley Cats And Cookies In The Kitchen

By Bob Wagner,  
AAP Columnist

I am sitting on the back step, conversing with Bob the Cat. Actually, only I am conversing; but Bob the Cat is a terrific listener.

I was explaining to Bob that all the good smells wafting out into the alley came from Christmas cookies, which he had no chance of scrounging. His best meow, his prettiest face, even the ever popular rolling on the back with feet up in the air, would not get him a sample

cookie. I knew this, I said, because I had tried all of the above just a while ago. I was told, in no uncertain terms, that the cookies were for friends, family, coworkers, folk who worked for us during the year, the Woman's Club, the church, and the poor. Simply put, the people my wife and daughter like and not for the likes of me! Or, by way of association, any alley cat who happens to be a friend of mine.

I had filched a can of tuna as I was being thrown out of the kitchen and shared it with Bob. He nibbled gracefully

and pretended to listen to my gripes, as we enjoyed the late afternoon sun on the back concrete steps.

After a bit, my whining subsided and Bob's nibbling slowed. A few of Bob's children showed up to share tuna, then Bob's significant other. It was getting crowded and a bit chilly, so I said goodbye, and went inside to warm my old bones. The constant action in the kitchen soon drove me back outside, in the company of my friend and cohort Jones. We drove up to the riverfront to visit the deer and turkeys. We have been making this run almost daily for months, and enjoy the antics of the wildlife. Besides, the wildlife actually looks glad to see us, unlike the kitchen cookie ladies.

Back home at the edge of dark, I turn on the Christmas lights that help make the neighborhood sparkle. I can stand

the cold just long enough to enjoy smoking my pipe, which further endures me to the bride.

I contemplate the year gone by, as well as the New Year, which has already arrived as you read this. I smile at the thought of new ways to make the bride crazy. I find myself amazed that the girly girls are preparing for college. I look forward to seeing Miss Megan sing and dance at new shows, while the twins come up with new ways to keep me laughing.

Generally speaking, even though the aging process has more brakes than gas pedal, there is always a new way to enjoy life. For one, I don't have to worry about kicking the bucket soon. The bride told me, just before she kicked me out of the kitchen for the last time, that I WOULD be around long enough for her to have the 50th anniversary she so justly de-

serves. Nothing less will do.

Stay tuned for a new year of silliness I'll tell you when the party is scheduled. I believe the bride wants you all invited. Happy New Year...

## Pennsauken Township Committee Meetings For 2019

The Pennsauken Township Committee held its annual reorganization meeting on Friday, Jan. 4, at the Pennsauken Country Club. Advertised previously in accordance with the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act," the agenda included the swearing in of a new mayor, deputy mayor, and committee members, as well as the appointments to various professional positions.

During the reorganization, Township Committee set their 2019 meeting dates; due to this issue's printing schedule, we were unable to publish the information in this edition.

All future public meeting are held at the Pennsauken Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., at the corner of Rt. 130 and Merchantville Ave., second floor, at the times specified.

All Around Pennsauken posts these public meetings in each issue. Meeting dates can also be found at the Township website, [twp.pennsauken.nj.us](http://twp.pennsauken.nj.us). Changes to the meeting schedule will be advertised in the Courier-Post and Retrospect newspapers and will be posted online via the Township's website, [twp.pennsauken.nj.us](http://twp.pennsauken.nj.us); Facebook page, Facebook.com/PennsaukenTwp; and Twitter feed, @PennsaukenTwp.

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## Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club Holds Open Houses

Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club is having open houses throughout this month. Located in the basement of Grace Episcopal Church, 7 East Maple Ave., Merchantville, the display features a two-rail, O gauge model railroad, including 4,000 linear feet of track and a reproduction of Philadelphia's 30th Street Station.

The area's largest operating O gauge model railroad display will be open to the public on the following dates:

Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 5 and 6, noon to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 12 and 13, noon to 3:00 p.m.

All open houses are free to attend.



Cherry Valley Model Railroad is holding a series of open houses this month.

Free parking is also available.

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## Blessed To Make Capital Improvements To Temple Lutheran Church



Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken is hosting a building rededication service on Sunday, Jan. 6. The church has undergone several large capital improvements, thanks to the generosity of congregants.

Special Submission By Rev. David L. Stoner

For 92 years, Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken has been blessed to be a blessing to the local community. From every member to every activity, Temple Lutheran Church has been that blessing since it began in its first building on Camden Ave., all the way back in 1926.

Reverend George Garver, the church's pastor in 1962, asked the congregation to "march forth" on March 4 of that year; and they walked from the Camden Ave. location to a newly completed building at 5600 N. Rt. 130, across from the Pennsauken Municipal Building.

We have been blessed to have this be

our congregation's home for the last 56 years. But in that time, our building had aged; and work was needed to insure that Temple Lutheran Church would be blessed to be a blessing for many years to come.

Bud and Dorthy Derr, longtime

*continued on page 8*



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## Woof! Woof! It's Not Too Late For Dog Licenses

By Loverboy, Faithful Dog of AAP Editor, Frank Sinatra

My daddy's letting me have my own article this month! He wanted me to let you know about dog licenses. I'm a dog. I have a license. I'm kind of an expert.

According to something you humans call a "codebook," any dog that lives in Pennsauken, is seven months old or older, and has a set of permanent teeth, needs a license. And while it's a little metal tag that we dogs wear around our collar, it's a pretty big deal.

Dog licenses aren't just for keeping track of all the awesome puppies big and small that live in town; they can be used

to help find your favorite four-legged friend if they get out of the backyard.

Dog licenses are just \$12 for a dog that's been spayed or neutered, or \$15 if your pet is "au naturale." That's not too pricey. And the fee doesn't just go to process the application. A portion goes to Pennsauken's doggie "trust fund," which helps pay for things like free vaccination clinics.

It's still not too late to get a license for your dog. In fact, you have until the first Monday of February before you'll be charged a \$10 late fee. So don't wait! Your furry kid will thank you for it.



## inTown Congratulations To This Year's Holiday Decorating Contest Winners



Creativity: Joe and Melissa McCollum, Marion Ave.



General Appeal: Rich Zuvich, Weymouth Drive.



Holiday Spirit: Fred Kelvy and Lara Ross, Osler Ave.



Visual Impact: The Hak Family, Bryn Mawr Ave.

## CLERKS Application for 2019 Dog Licences

C  
L  
E  
R  
K  
S



By Gene Padalino  
Township of Pennsauken Clerk

Name of Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Cell No. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Dogs at this address \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_

M/F \_\_\_\_\_ Dog's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Dog's Hair (Circle one) SHORT MEDIUM LONG

Color and Markings \_\_\_\_\_

Altered (Circle one) Yes/No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Rabies Inoculation Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**As of the first Monday in February, all dog license renewals are late and a \$10 late fee will be assessed.**

**FEES: \$12** if the dog has been spayed or neutered (altered)/\$15 if not spayed or neutered (altered). Renew by mail: fill out form and enclose a check or money order for the exact amount made payable to the Township of Pennsauken and mail it to Attn: Twp. Clerk's Office, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken, NJ 08110. **Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and copies for proof of rabies inoculation.** Renew in person between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Township Clerk's office. Any questions please call 856-665-1000 x122.

State regulations consider a dog's vaccination valid only if it DOES NOT expire before Nov. 1 of the current year and failure to obtain or renew a dog license could result in a court summons.



## Join Us in Celebration of 100 Years in Pennsauken & Merchantville

American Legion Post #68 is building a

**MEMORIAL WALKWAY**

at Wellwood Park in Merchantville, NJ

For Info or to order your Brick – CALL 856-304-1501

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## Local Families Helped Again This Year By Pennsauken's Holiday Angels

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Once again, local families in need during the holidays received a helping hand from Pennsauken's angels. The Township's annual Angel Tree program continues to be an amazing outlet for generous members of our community. Last month, over four dozen families were the gracious recipients of toys, bicycles, and more, so that their children had presents under the Christmas tree to open.

"I'm continually amazed at how giving our community is. They are the true driving force behind Pennsauken's Angel Tree program," says Elwood "Duke" Martz, director of Pennsauken's Parks and Recreation department. "During the holidays, residents and businesses alike put on their Santa hats and embrace the season of giving; and local families that are facing a variety of different struggles are the grateful beneficiaries of that generosity."

"I think about the joy on the kids' faces as they open their gifts," says Pam Forman, a Township employee and Angel Tree program volunteer. "I think it's phenomenal that the Township has this program; and every year, we get an outpouring of gifts for needy families. There are still a lot of good people out there who care about children."

Many individuals, groups, and businesses provided financial donations to help the Angel Tree program purchase toys for needy families, including the



Pennsauken residents, local organizations, and area businesses donated toys to help over four dozen families during the holidays through the Angel Tree program.

Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce; the employees who work at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building; Linda Johnson; the Camden County Freeholder Board; Gross-Hollinshed VFW Post #1270 and the VFW Post #1270 Auxiliary; and the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission. Organizers of the Angel Tree program would particularly like to recognize Physician and Tactical Healthcare Services, LLC (P.A.T.H.S.) for their extremely generous donation, which enabled the program to help even more families this holiday season.

Others donated new, unwrapped toys to the Angel Tree program. Members of P.M.A.C. hosted a special holiday happy hour at the Pennsauken Country Club, where admission was a new, unwrapped toy. Mister Softee of Pennsauken held a

special toy drive last month; individuals who donated were eligible for free giveaways. Thanks also go to Saint Stephen's Roman Catholic Church; Bombardier Transportation, Pennsauken Youth Athletic Activities; T&M Associates; Rosenberger North America; Wines 'Til Sold Out; Ellyn McMullin; Dan and Michelle Swinton; Carol and Steve Peake; Lisa Occhiolini; and Carl Shaw, all of whom helped create another record toy collection for the Angel Tree program this year.

"Pennsauken's Angel Tree program is so successful because we have some of most caring people around who live and work in our community," says Jack Killion, mayor of Pennsauken Township for 2018. "We thank each and every person, business, and organization that helped make this year's donation drive bigger than the last."

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## Security Consultant To Speak At January 9 PMAC Luncheon

Corey Jones, owner and founder of Safetyman Security Consulting, will be the guest speaker at the

upcoming Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce (P.M.A.C.) networking luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Marco's at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

A retired police sergeant, Jones will be discussing ways to address safety/security issues in the workplace.

Sign-in begins at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 9, with the meeting starting at noon. Ad-

mission is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. to Nancy Ellis at (856) 438-0833 or pmaclteam@gmail.com by Monday, Jan. 7.



Safety consultant Corey Jones will be the guest speaker at the PMAC Networking Luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

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## Pennsauken Police Hold First-Ever "Coffee With A Cop"



The Pennsauken Township Police Department hosted its first-ever "Coffee with a Cop," event on Dec. 15. Held at the Dunkin' Donuts at 5005 Rt. 130 in Pennsauken, residents interacted with officers, asked questions, and learned about some of department's ongoing efforts to strengthen community relations.

## Blessed To Make Capital Improvements To Temple Lutheran Church *continued from page 5*

Pennsauken residents and lifelong Temple members, understood what blessed to be a blessing really meant. Upon their death, one-third of their estate was bequeathed to our church to be used for the future. This generosity, combined with the generosity of all the men and women who have ever been a part of Temple, make it possible for us to refurbish our old building for all future missions.

Our building was in dire need of repairs and updating. With the money from the Derr estate, and a great leadership team, we chose Pennsauken's own, B. Tait Builders, to remove and replace the heating and cooling systems; update the electrical and plumbing infrastructure; remove and replace the floors and ceilings; add a handicap-accessible bathroom; refurbish our existing restrooms; and modernize our fellowship room. We even replaced an antiquated public address system with a state of the art digital sound system that will meet our needs

for many years to come. We have been blessed to be your blessing.

We've not accomplished this for our own benefit, but for the needs of Pennsauken. God has blessed us greatly, and we will continue to be a blessing to this community and beyond. Our Lida Knaus Food Pantry serves 100 families in a month; the mission trip to John's Island provides much-needed repairs to homes in South Carolina; and we also welcome outside non-profits to use our facilities. We're working to become as diverse as our community.

We invite the Pennsauken community to join us for our building rededication service on Sunday, Jan. 6. Our worship service is held at 10:00 a.m. and we will hold a pot luck celebration afterwards at 11:30 a.m. We also offer our friends and neighbors a safe place to serve and worship in our great Pennsauken community. For more information, call (856) 663-7783 or e-mail [templelutheran@comcast.net](mailto:templelutheran@comcast.net).



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## Pennsauken Lions, Leos Spread Cheer, Plan For A New Year

December was a busy month for the Pennsauken Lions Club and the Leo Club they sponsor at Pennsauken High School. Both groups helped welcome Santa this year in both Pennsauken and Merchantville's holiday parades, passing out candy to the parade goers.

The Leos and Lions also went to the Cherry Hill Target and helped visually disabled children shop for their families for the holidays. Pennsauken, Haddonfield and Gloucester City Lions and Leos contributed money to allow each child to get a \$50 gift card, so they can shop for their parents and siblings – and sometimes something for themselves too! After their purchases were made, they went to the employee lunchroom and had snacks and met Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Even though it's cold outside, the Pennsauken Lions Club has already



**Pennsauken Lions and Leo Club members helped visually impaired children shop for their families during the holidays.**

begun to plan their spring activities. They will hold their annual membership open house on Monday, March 18, at the home of member Sharon Rush. This event is open to anyone interested in meeting members and possibly becoming

a Lion while enjoying a superb dinner and great company. To R.S.V.P., contact Sharon at (856) 665-1722. She'll give you her address and directions.

The delicious all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage/design your own omelet breakfast will be held on Sunday April 7, at Macaro's Catering, 6225 Westfield Ave., Pennsauken. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person and includes buttermilk pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea; as well as a "design-your-own-omelet" station with fixings including peppers, onions, mushrooms, chopped ham, cheese, and more. Members of the Leo Club at Pennsauken High School, under the watchful eye of Chef Joe Di-Amore from Steak 38, will cook your omelet to please. There will also be a basket auction, which includes gift cards for area restaurants, and assorted prizes.

On April 22, the Lions will be holding their spring cigar night at Steak 38 in Cherry Hill at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$65 per person and includes appetizers, dinner, dessert, and two premium cigars. If you are interested in attending, call (856) 662-3838 or (856) 665-1722. Space is limited, so this special event is first come, first served.

The Lions are continuing their sight campaign to buy a vision screening cam-

era. They are a bit over half way there and have recently applied for a grant from the Lions 16-L Foundation to help purchase the camera and perform eye screenings as requested. If you would be interested in making a donation towards the camera, the Lions club is a 501(c)3 organization, so it would be tax deductible. Contact the Lions at PennsaukenLionsClub@comcast.net for more information.

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## SENIORCORNER

By Sonny DiSabato,  
Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors.

“Branching Out to Caregivers” is a caregiver support group that provides resources and health caregiving. Held at a variety of locations throughout the year, attendees can learn and discuss caregiver stress, legal concerns, adult

## Camden County Offers Support To Caregivers

medical day centers, Alzheimer's and dementia education, and much more. These events are presented by the Camden County Board of Freeholders, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior and Disabled Services, and ADRC.

Upcoming dates are Tuesday, Jan. 15, 11:00 a.m. to noon, at the Bellmawr Branch of the Camden County Library,

35 E. Browning Rd., Bellmawr; Wednesday, Feb. 20, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Haddon Township Branch of the Camden County Library, 15 MacArthur Blvd., Westmont; and Tuesday, March 19, 11:00 a.m. to noon, at the South County Regional Library, 35 Cooper Folly Rd., Atco.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Erin at (856) 374-2582 or erin.small@camdencounty.com.

### Line Dancing Classes For Seniors

The Camden County Board of Freeholders presents free line dancing classes for seniors. These classes will keep the body moving and put a smile on your face!

Class sizes are limited and on a first come, first served basis, so please register early. The first class of the year will be on Friday, March 1, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., at the Carol Norcross Senior Wellness Center,

Michael DiPiero Building, 512 Lakeland Rd., Blackwood. For additional dates, visit [www.camdencounty.com/event/line-dancing-classes-for-seniors](http://www.camdencounty.com/event/line-dancing-classes-for-seniors).

To register, contact Tom Castellano at (856) 858-2986 or tom.castellano@camdencounty.com.

Best wishes for a great start to the New Year. Say a prayer for our soldiers serving overseas.

## Rotary Club's Andreola Celebrates One Hundredth Birthday

The Rotary Club of Pennsauken-Merchantville helped one of its members, Andy Andreola, celebrate his 100th birthday at a recent meeting. On hand to celebrate was Rotary District Governor Bill Donnelly and several current and former members of the Club.

At the meeting, Andy also received

his certificate acknowledging 55 years of perfect attendance at Rotary meetings!

Andy's accomplishments from his long Rotary career include receiving a ninth level Paul Harris Foundation recognition, as well as the Pennsauken-Merchantville Club presenting an annual award to a graduating senior at

Pennsauken High School in his name. Other achievements include rising from private to captain in the Canadian Army during World War II and playing professional hockey in Holland, where he led his team in scoring for three years.

Andy is an avid golfer and longtime member of the Merchantville and Riverton Country Clubs. His golfing achievements include winning the New Jersey Amateur Open, being the oldest qualifier for the Seniors tour, and becoming captain of the American Seniors Golf Asso-

ciation European Team representing the United States in matches with Holland and Japan. He was owner of ABC Plastic in Pennsauken and secretary of Holman Automotive Group, Inc.

The Rotary Club of Pennsauken-Merchantville meets every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at Pinsetter Bar & Bowl, 7111 Maple Ave. in Pennsauken. Anyone who may be interested in learning more about Rotary is invited to attend a meeting or can contact us at (856) 663-0898 or at [PMRotary@yahoo.com](mailto:PMRotary@yahoo.com). Who



Longtime Rotary Club member Andy Andreola recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Who knows? Going to Rotary may help you live to see 100!

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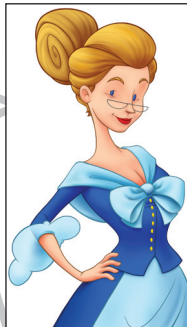
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# inSchool

## PHS Students Visit Rowan University



Juniors and seniors from Pennsauken High School toured Rowan University's Glassboro Campus. Students met with the Rowan's assistant director of admissions and were educated in acceptance opportunities at the school.

## Great Progress Made On Upgrades To Vince McAneney Field

Last month, crews made significant progress on the upgrades to Vince McAneney Field as part of the capital improvements made possible from last year's passed bond referendum. The new video scoreboard, lights, speakers, and turf field have all been installed; additional stadium improvements are ongoing; and the new track surface will be completed this spring.



## Ms. Vance's Third Graders Love The Grinch

Ms. Vance's third grade class listened very intently as their teacher read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" This seasonal story is one of Dr. Seuss' classics.

After discussing how the Grinch's character changes from the beginning of the story to the end of the story, students made "Grinch" faces from paper plates! These "Grinches" were displayed in the hallway for everyone to see.

During a holiday sing-a-long, all third graders sang, "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch." Each third grader made a Grinch face to use as a mask when the song was performed!

Students at Carson Elementary made "Grinch" faces using paper plates.



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**FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi,  
MEd2., M.S., M.B.S., M.A.2,  
Ed.D., Superintendent,  
Pennsauken Public Schools

As we ring in a brand new year, I would like to take a moment to once again thank our Pennsauken School family for a wonderful semester. Each member of our staff plays a special part in the success of our District, and your hard work and dedication to our students is a true gift to our community. I am proud to be your superintendent.

I am also extremely proud of our stu-

## Great Accomplishments In Pennsauken Public Schools

dents who have worked extremely hard since the beginning of the school year. Your persistence will continue to provide many benefits and wonderful opportunities to learn and grow.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge two high school seniors who are reaping the benefits of their hard work by being accepted into Ivy League schools. Starting next fall, Davis Tran will be going to the University of Pennsylvania for bioengineering; and Ngan Chiem will be attending Princeton University to study international politics. These two

universities are extremely difficult to get into, due to the caliber of students that apply. For example, the University of Pennsylvania only accepted 9 percent of applicants for admittance into the Class of 2021; and Princeton only accepted 5.5 percent. The criteria of these schools are stringent; and we at Pennsauken have not one, but two students already accepted into these prestigious Ivy League schools this year! It is truly something to celebrate; not because it is unique, but rather because these are the types of students that go to Pennsauken Public Schools. Our schools' hallways are filled with bright and eager minds, ready to excel. In the coming weeks, you'll be hearing more about students just like Davis and Ngan, who will be accepted into high profile colleges and universities. We applaud them for their accomplishments and look forward to sharing more such announcements.

The District is also excited to announce that in the past two years, enrollment throughout our schools has increased by 100 students. Word about the work we are doing here is spreading; and we want the community to see that we are creating a school environment that families want to be a part of. Pennsauken Public Schools have programs and educational opportunities that are setting us apart from other public, private, and vocational schools. Our continued goal is to build up a great school system into one that is truly exceptional. We will always face challenges; but we will face them together head on. And we will succeed in creating a place where our children can be truly prepared for college, the trades, and the working world.

So as we begin the start of 2019 and a new semester of learning, I look forward to working with our Board of Ed-

ucation, our District's administration, and our educators and support staff, to provide all of our students with the educational tools and life skills to grow and succeed.

### PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor  
nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

## Fine Student Council Organizes Food Drive



Fine families, students, and staff helped raise over 200 pounds of food for the Food Bank of South Jersey.

Fine's Student Council hosted a food drive for the Food Bank of South Jersey, a local organization that provides food and assistance to many communities throughout South Jersey.

For three weeks, the students brought in non-perishable food items to be donated, filling three large tubs with dona-

tions. The Food Bank weighed the donations; Fine's total was 262 pounds of non-perishable food!

The entire Fine School faculty and staff is so thankful for such caring and generous families. Thank you to everyone who donated!

## Pennsauken PTA Discount Cards Now Available

Pennsauken PTA Discount Cards are now on sale for 2019! Discount cards are a credit card sized plastic card that list discounts for select local retailers, including the 45th Street Pub, Penn Queen Diner, Pennsauken Sweet Shop, Tortilla Press Cantina, and more. Valid for one person each, discount cards may be used every day of 2019.

Cards are just \$10 each and be ordered via the high school's PTA at <https://pennsaukenhs.memberhub.store> or the Park Ave Campus PTA at <https://pac.memberhub.store>.



Pennsauken PTA Discount Cards are now available for 2019.



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## Tran, Chiem Accepted To Ivy League Schools

Last month, two seniors at Pennsauken High School were recognized for being accepted into Ivy League schools. Next fall, Davis Tran will attend the University of Pennsylvania; and Ngan Chiem will head to Princeton University.

"We're excited for this opportunity to recognize two students that represent an extremely talented student body," said Billy Snyder, coordinator of student services for Pennsauken Public Schools.

Ivy League schools are recognized for the quality of education they provide. Of the hundreds of thousands of students who are applying to colleges, many don't even consider Ivy League schools. Almost every incoming freshman was in the top 10 percent of their class, had GPA scores at 4.0 or higher, and SAT scores of 1400 and above.

The University of Pennsylvania received 40,413 applications for admission to the Class of 2021. Of those applicants, 3,757, or 9.3 percent were offered admission. Ninety-seven percent of the students admitted for fall 2017 came from the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. In comparison, Princeton University accepted 1,941 students, or just 5.5 percent of the 35,370 who applied.

"The admission process to an Ivy League school is not simple; you're competing against other high quality applicants," added Snyder. "It takes extremely talented, dedicated students, as well as a really successful team, to put it all together."

Tran, who has a cumulative GPA of 4.33 and is ranked third in his class, was accepted in the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and will be studying bioengineering.

"Biology has always fascinated me, but in the long term, I've been looking to go into regenerative medicine, especially stem cell therapy," explained Tran, who credited his science classes at Pennsauken High School for creating an interest in this field of study. "Bioengineering can provide that."

Tran is accomplished both in and out of the classroom. He is the co-founder of the Pennsauken High School Peer Mentorship Club and president of the Science National Honor Society. Davis was selected as one of the two delegates sponsored at PHS to attend the American Legion Jersey Boys State last summer and was selected for the Governor's STEM Scholar Program for 2018. He is

co-president of the school's Junior Classical League, vice president of the Leo Club, and a member of the National Honor Society. He is also a member of the New Jersey Science League. In addition, Tran is a founding member and snare drummer at ENCORPS DCI DRUM CORPS and is currently the drumline captain for the Apache High School Marching Band.

Chiem, who has a 4.5 GPA, an SAT score of 1510, and is ranked first in her class, will be majoring in international politics the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

"I'm interested in learning how the world behind the curtain works. How people in power use their power to effect change or stagnate a population of people," explained Ngan. "At PHS, I learned how to love learning; and so this curiosity from subjects like French and history, anything I could get my hands on to kind of understand how the world works, fosters into my aspirations to become a writer and a journalist."

Chiem is a member of the National, French, and Art Honor Societies. A recipient of the Camden County Freeholder



Davis Tran and Ngan Chiem, two seniors at Pennsauken High School, have been accepted to Ivy League Schools. Starting this fall, Tran will be attending the University of Pennsylvania for bioengineering; and Chiem will be studying international politics at Princeton University.

Board's Youth Leader Award in 2018, she is a commended student in the National Merit Scholarship Program and has been a Renaissance Gold Card holder since 2016. Editor-in-chief of the Penndian, Pennsauken High School's student newspaper, Ngan was one of 40 students selected to Princeton University's Summer Journalism Program in August 2018. She is president of the Leo Club; a member of

the Asian American Assembly and Senior Leadership Program; and served as student liaison to the Pennsauken Board of Education last year.

For a video on Tran and Chiem's accomplishments; and to hear from the influential teachers and guidance counselors in their lives, tune into Channel 19 Pennsauken Television.

## Fine Elementary Holds Parent Involvement Night

In November, Fine Elementary hosted its first bi-annual parent involvement night of the school year.

Families were welcomed to Fine to participate in engaging math and literacy educational activities. Parents were also informed of fun ways to support their children's math and literacy skills. Each grade, from pre-k through third, was stationed around the school for curriculum-specific activities.

This year's program was a great success! Students played grade-level card and dice games that supported concepts such as number identification and place value. For literacy, children enjoyed listening to nursery rhymes and creating their own rhyming pairs; others read

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," discussed ways to engage in the story before, during and after reading and made their own bookmarks. Families were able to take home all materials that were provided for the games in order to continue practicing these skills at home.

The Fine community enjoyed spending quality family time together, and getting to know one another. To cap off the event, families enjoyed a delicious catered dinner generously provided by Montegrillo's! Also, over 20 raffle prizes were given out from various local vendors.

We thank all of the families and vendors who participated in this event, and look forward to hosting our next parent involvement night in the spring!



Students enjoyed fun lessons in math and literacy during Fine Elementary's recent parent involvement night.

## Jacks In A Box At Baldwin



Jacks in a box! Students in Miss Schott and Mrs. L's classroom are enjoying learning about boxes. The boys loved using their imagination to make a two person Jack in a box. They loved popping out to surprise their friend!

## School District Tests Gym Mats For Mercury, Levels Well Within Safe Limits

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Last month, the Pennsauken School District sent students home with a letter stating that rubberized gym mats in several schools were proactively tested to identify if they had unsafe levels of Mercury.

"In an effort to comply with the standards of Mercury airborne exposure levels of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Minnesota De-

partment of Health (MDH), which is a widely used secondary testing standard, Pennsauken School District, as a precautionary measure, is taking an extremely proactive approach to investigating the levels of Mercury in rubberized gym floors," said Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, superintendent, Pennsauken School District, in his letter to parents and guardians. "The Pennsauken School District will

take every precaution to keep our students, staff members, and stakeholders safe."

Information provided by the Pennsauken School District stated that many schools throughout the U.S. that were constructed between the 1960s and the late 1990s had rubberized polyurethane gym floors installed for both safety and comfort. Over the past year or so, school

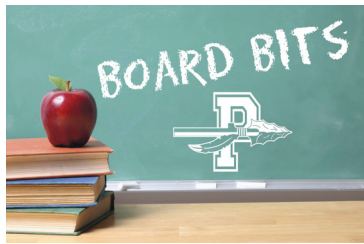
districts have identified that many of these rubberized floors began to emit mercury vapor as they age. As a proactive response to this issue, Pennsauken School District made the decision to conduct a survey of these gym floors in their schools.

Based on preliminary, independent testing by a certified industrial hygienist, the District reported that gym mats at

Pennsauken High School, Pennsauken Intermediate School, and both Delair and Fine Elementary Schools had Mercury levels well below acceptable thresholds. No other schools in the District were affected.

For more information, and to read the letter sent home to students, visit the District's website at Pennsauken.net.





By the Pennsauken Board of Education: Michael Bortnowski, Michael Hurley, Maria James, Samer John Jarbough-Rafeh, Diane Johnson, Scott La Vine, Nick Perry, Orlando Viera, and JoAnn Young

The Pennsauken Board of Education would like to welcome Scott La Vine and Samer John Jarbough-Rafeh as the newest elected members of the governing body. The Pennsauken School District has gone through many positive changes this past year. With the guidance

## Welcoming Two New Board Of Education Members

of Superintendent Tarchichi, and the collaborative leadership effort of Board Members, there is a great future ahead for Pennsauken Schools in 2019. Mr. La Vine and Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh both bring a unique background and skill set to the Board of Education.

Scott La Vine is a 22-year resident of Pennsauken who worked as a UPS driver for almost 30 years. He was inspired to run for the Board of Education after attending one of the open houses at Pennsauken High School, impressed with both the advances at the school and the vision that the District has for our community's children.

As a parent of a student who graduated from Pennsauken Schools, Scott re-

alizes the importance of having a District that provides the tools and resources necessary for educational success. He wants to ensure that all Pennsauken parents can rely on the District to provide those same opportunities for their own children to graduate and succeed.

Samer Jarbou-Rafeh has lived in Pennsauken for 17 years. Graduating with a Bachelor's in Civil and Architectural Engineering from Drexel University, he is a civil and architectural resident engineer for CHA Consulting, Inc., an international engineering consulting firm.

Jarbou-Rafeh worked as an adjunct professor at Mercer Community College, West Windsor, N.J., teaching computer literacy in Spanish and English;

National Institute for Certifications in Engineering Technologies classes; as well as courses for the Highway and Building program, which were specific for the Juvenile Justice Commission and Office of Education to provide classes and opportunities for juvenile who were in the process of being released from detention and integrating back into society.

An alumnus of Pennsauken High School, Samer wants to give back to the community that gave him so much. He believes that students in Pennsauken Township Schools deserve the best education, opportunities and facilities, so that we, as a community, can prepare our future generations to surpass the expectations of today's aggressive employment

market.

The Pennsauken Board of Education is excited to have Scott and Samer join us as we work to build a bright future for our children.

As we add two new members to the Board, we must also say goodbye to two individuals who worked extremely hard for the betterment of Pennsauken Public Schools. We would like to congratulate Cheryl Duffy for her years of service and tireless efforts for the Pennsauken School District and the community; thanks also to Mark Trost for his leadership and collaboration in his appointed term. We wish them both the best of luck in their future endeavors. Thank you for your service!

## Teamwork Is "Up" At Carson Elementary

As part of the School Climate Initiative and Carson Cup Challenge, Ms. Rock and Mrs. Messina's classes buddy up for monthly meetings to promote positive peer interaction.

Last month, they played a game called, "Up," which involved students breaking into groups and working together to keep a balloon from touching the ground. The larger goal was to foster good sportsmanship through kind, encouraging words and taking turns to ensure all teammates had the opportunity

to participate. And of course to have fun!

The room was full of smiles, high fives, "good tries," and laughter. Mission accomplished!

Playing a game called, "Up," students learn important lessons in teamwork and good sportsmanship.



## Learning About Magnetism At Carson

Students in Mr. Sax's class at Carson Elementary worked on testing the properties of magnetism. In groups, students used a magnetic wand to try and move a series of objects through a maze. In this experiment, students tested objects, both metal and non metal, as well as objects of assorted shapes. By coloring part of the maze and leaving part uncolored, students also learned about the effects of friction on the movement of objects.

What a great and fun lesson in science!



Students at Carson Elementary held a series of experiments that tested the properties of magnetism.



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## Board of Education Meeting

The Pennsauken Township Board of Education held its reorganization meeting on Thursday, January 3, 2019, at Pennsauken High School. Prior notice of this meeting was made in accordance with the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act."

During the reorganization, the 2019 meeting dates for the Board of Education were approved. Due to the printing schedule of this edition, they were not yet available.

Upcoming Board of Education meeting dates will be available at the Pennsauken School District website, Pennsauken.net.



## High School Students Help Out At Baldwin School

Pennsauken High School students from Ms. Schultz's class partnered with Baldwin staff and students to engage in reading activities, as well as play.

In Ms. Skinner's preschool classroom, students read "The Very Grouchy Ladybug" by Eric Carle. Baldwin friends enjoyed listening to the story. In Mrs. Rosenman's class, high school students helped build large towers. Students enjoyed measuring the different structures!

Thank you to Mrs. Schultz's students for spending time engaging the growing minds of Baldwin friends!

High schoolers from Ms. Schultz's class read "The Very Grouchy Ladybug" to students at Baldwin Early Childhood Learning Center.



## Fine School Students Of The Month For November

Fine School celebrated the teacher-selected students of the month for November. These 18 students enjoyed a soft pretzel, a drink, and a story read by principal, Mr. Honeyman; the story focused on being a leader and role model, the character trait focus of the month. They were also awarded a rubber bracelet donned with the label, "star student."

Congratulations to Jacob Bonawitz, Alivia Clark, Elise Cruz, Garner Draine, Nuhí Faruq, Samia Fetlow, Bahir Gadsen, Angelyna Gascot, Jadiel Guzman, Jesse Holmes, Keila Johnson, Sarah Kahlil, Taylor Lynch, Melia Miller, Naheem Muhammad, Leyrimar Siri, Zayan Taylor, and Sang Tran.

Congratulations to the Fine students of the month for November!



## Remembering Two Members Of Our District Family

Last month, we were saddened by the passing of two members of the Pennsauken School District family: former longtime Phifer teacher Robin Goebel; and Josephine Mozee, an educational assistant at Pennsauken High School.

Robin passed away on Dec. 8 at the age of 62. She loved teaching, and worked for the Pennsauken School District for 34 years, much of that time at Phifer Middle School. Each year, she organized the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk for the school at Cooper River. In her retirement, she served as an adjunct professor at

Rowan College at Burlington County.

Donations in Robin's name may be made to Samaritan Hospice, 5 Eves Dr., Suite 300, Marlton, N.J. 08053, or American Cancer Society, 1851 Old Cuthbert Rd., Cherry Hill, N.J. 08034.

Josephine Mozee, age 69, passed away on Dec. 15 after a tragic accident. Ms. Mozee began working for the Pennsauken School District in 2016. She was very excited about being employed with Pennsauken High School as an educational assistant. Josephine was an individual that spread her love to everyone, even people she didn't know. She had a pleasant disposition

and readily offered a smile, a hug, or a prayer to everyone that crossed her path. Seeing Josephine in the halls or the classroom was sure to brighten anyone's day. Josephine always took a personal interest in the people she worked with, asking about their families, interests, and activities. Her presence at Pennsauken High School will be greatly missed, as she touched the lives of so many adults and children.

The Pennsauken School District administration and staff offer our sincerest condolences to Robin and Josephine's family, friends, colleagues, and students.

## School District Recognizes Outgoing Board Members



At December's Board of Education Meeting, Cheryl Duffy and Mark Trost were recognized for their contributions during their terms of office. Thank you for your service to Pennsauken Public Schools!

## Intermediate School Holds Annual Turkey Trot



Congratulations to this year's winners of the Intermediate School's Turkey Trot!

The Pennsauken Intermediate School Physical Education Department held its annual Turkey Trot in November of last year.

The Turkey Trot is a 600 meter run that the students participate in during gym class. Fourth and fifth graders are split into grade levels and by gender for each gym period and race against the clock. The top two male and female winners received a frozen turkey. We would like to

thank DiPascale's at Meadowbrook for donating the four turkeys to our winners!

### Fourth Grade Winners

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## Following The Lead Of Our Concerned Citizens

By Tracey Howarth,  
Pennsauken Township

In a previous article, we wrote about always reflecting on the things we've done in the past to see if they are worth repeating for the future. Understanding where we've been and whether it worked only helps to ensure that our next moves are taking us in the right direction. Looking back at 2019, I can honestly say that there is not one thing that I would change about what we did. There were a few bumps in the road, but all in all, it is all worth doing over again.

The things we put in place are solid, sustainable, and worth repeating for as long as time will allow.

The one thing that brought us the most success was our concerned citizens. Some called or e-mailed; others stopped by; a few even took the time to talk over coffee and share their ideas and information with us. There is no greater gift than the insight of the concerned citizens that take time out of their own crazy and busy lives to share their thoughts and ideas with you.

Here are some ideas that were shared

with us. They've been either already been put in place or we will be trying to execute them this year.

One concerned citizen talked to us about our grass cutting program. He suggested that if we were to organize the grass cutting schedule by neighborhood instead of by individual property, residents would see a larger and faster improvement right in their own section of town. This approach also allows the contractor to complete their work faster because they would not be spending so much time driving from property to property. So this year, we are going to try and organize our grass cutting schedule by neighborhood. We hope this will have a greater impact throughout the town, ensuring that the residents feel better about their neighborhood.

Another resident called about a tree problem on an empty lot near their house. If the tree fell, it would not have a direct impact on their property. But they were very concerned about possible damage to either a car or a passerby. We took some steps to get the owners and or property maintenance companies of vacant properties or empty lots to assess the condition and placement of any trees on their property. This gives owners an

opportunity to remove a potential liability before anyone got hurt or any other property was damaged; it also would have a greater impact on the removal of dead trees throughout the town. The owner of that particular property with the tree was contacted and the tree was taken down. Mission accomplished!

Another idea came from our Shade Tree Commission. It was brought up that while dead trees are being removed, they aren't being replaced with a new, live tree. The Commission asked if there was any way we could have the owners of vacant properties replace these potentially dangerous trees with a new one in a safer spot. We are taking a look at the idea by researching state statutes and other local municipal ordinances for anything that might point us in that direction.

These are just some of the ideas that have been shared. There have been so many more calls and e-mails regarding issues with particular properties that have helped us to make improvements all over town and to hopefully make our neighbors feel safe.

Your thoughts matter; your ideas are being considered; and you are always our first priority. We've made progress, but there are still houses that need our

attention. As we move forward, we take great care in ensuring that we place each one in the program that will get it taken care of the quickest and with as little expense as possible. We will never reach the "zero" mark, but we will continue to work hard on controlling the things we can and pushing back on the responsible parties to do their part in keeping our neighborhoods clean and safe.

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2018, but none are more important than the involvement of our concerned citizens. Your involvement, thoughts, and ideas are key to keeping things going in the right direction.

Thank you for everything you do!

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## FOODADVENTURES New Checkers Location Opens In Pennsauken

By Rachael Shugars,  
AAP Columnist

I visited the new Checkers, located at 6720 S. Crescent Blvd., with none other than Frank Sinatra, All Around Pennsauken's editor. This gave us the chance to try a better variety of items off the menu.

I opted for a tradition Checkers burger and fries with a frozen Kool-Aid, Frank got the fish sandwich and fries with a chocolate milkshake. We also shared some chicken bites. There is only edge counter seating, but there are several tables available for fair weather dining outside on their patio; these tables are wheelchair accessible and easy to get to.

My burger was tasty. It was well cooked and had the usual accompaniments of lettuce and tomato; but had red onions as opposed to white onions, which I liked. It wasn't huge, but it was filling. The seasoned fries were crispy and didn't disappoint. The frozen Kool-Aid was awesome. I got blue raspberry, but it wasn't too sweet and is the perfect treat, particularly in the summer.

The fish sandwich was not your typical fast food item. It was nice and flaky; there was just the right amount of breading, which didn't take away from the amount of fish there was. The milkshake was thick, but good. There are four different flavors offered: chocolate, vanilla,

strawberry, and banana.

While we ate, Frank spotted some signage behind the counter, indicating service times that the Checkers team strives for. There was a 150 second limit on each order; and we found that they more than achieved this service goal. Checkers also offers a nice selection of beef and chicken options. The chicken bites were good. I can confidently say that my three-year-old would love them. They're crunchy and you get a good amount in each order. You can order them alone or as a combo meal, just like any other item on the menu. They also come with one sauce per order; additional sauces are extra. They also offer non-traditional fast

food items, like hot dogs, as well as chicken wings in a variety of flavors.

I think that at Checkers, you get a good product for the cost. It's the perfect lunch in a pinch or a quick-fix meal. It's also in an accessible spot right on Rt. 130. You can access their parking lot from either Rt. 130 or Browning Rd./Marlton Pike.

Go out and try the new Checkers in Pennsauken and enjoy your Food Adventures!

Be sure to head to my Facebook page, "All Around Pennsauken Food Adventures" and share some of your local dining experiences!



The new Checkers at 6720 S. Crescent Blvd. offers a variety of burgers, sandwiches, drinks, and more.



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## GotCut? Gives Back With "Haircuts With Santa"

GotCut? Barbershop on River Rd. in Pennsauken held a "Haircuts with Santa Claus" event last month. Local kids received a free haircut, gift, and picture with Santa.



## Flying Crust Opens On January 8

Flying Crust Pizza, the brick-and-mortar "to go" location of the Philadelphia-based food truck, is holding its grand opening on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Located at 7709 Park Ave., Flying Crust offers gourmet pizzas, over a dozen flavors of wings, gourmet burgers, Po' boy sandwiches, and salads.

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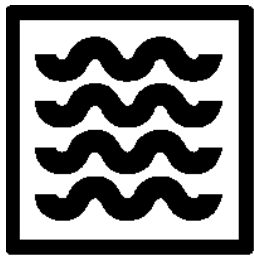
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# MPWC WATERLINES

## Adopt-A-Hydrant Program

With the arrival of colder temperatures, we know that inclement weather is likely just around the corner. The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission, in conjunction with our local fire departments, is asking our communities to partner with us in our Adopt-A-Hydrant program.

In the event of a fire, firefighters need access to the water supply via the nearest hydrant as quickly as possible, so that the fire can be extinguished and prevent minimal loss of property and help save lives.

By adopting a hydrant, you'll be helping everyone in your neighborhood, surrounding businesses, and fire crews. When you keep your adopted hydrant free of weeds and shrubs during warmer months and clear of snow and ice in winter months, you save firefighters precious minutes while fighting fires.

***When the hydrants are visible and accessible, everyone benefits!***

Individuals can participate by adopting a hydrant nearest their homes. This is also a great opportunity for scouts, civic groups or individuals looking to earn **community service hours**.

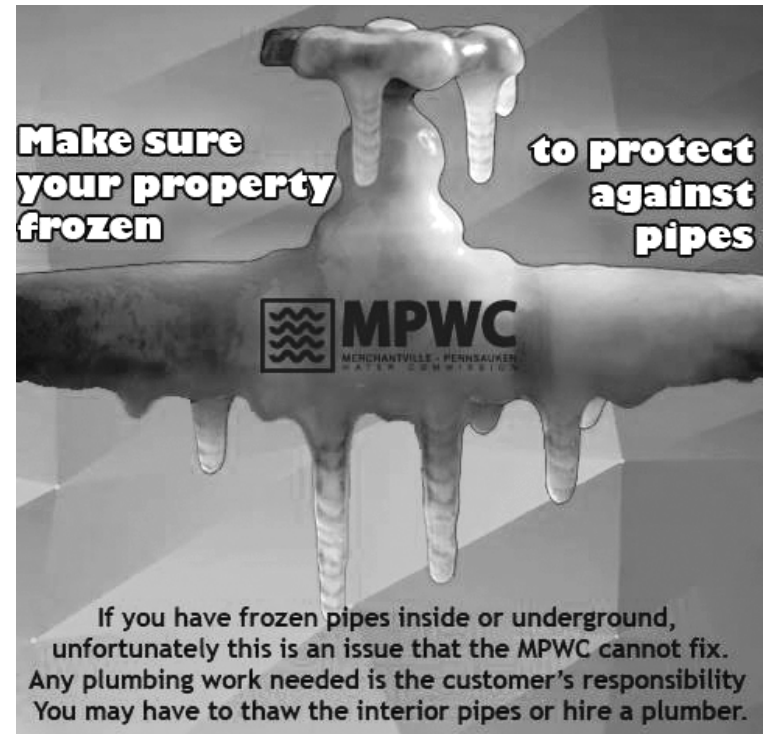
For more information and to apply, visit our website at **www.mpwc.com**. If you have any questions, you may e-mail [hydrants@mpwc.com](mailto:hydrants@mpwc.com).

The MPWC and your local fire departments thank you for your support!

**If you've signed up to participate in our Adopt-A-Hydrant project, remember to send us your pictures! If you're clearing your adopted hydrant of snow or other debris, snap a photo so that we can share it on our Facebook page!**

## Five Tips To Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Keep the garage door closed (especially if the garage is attached to the house).
- During a deep freeze, keep the thermostat set to the same temperature day and night. Lowering the thermostat could cause pipes to freeze.
- If you're going out of town, drain the water system completely. Do this by shutting off the main valve and letting all the faucets in the home run until the system is empty (no more running water comes out of the tap).
- Check for and fill in holes or cracks in exterior walls and foundations to prevent cold air from coming into the walls.
- And remember to insulate and protect your water meter!



## Estimated Meter Readings

The MPWC estimates meter readings when we are unable to access your property to obtain an actual meter reading, or when your remote device is not functioning properly. Estimated readings can result in higher-than-usual water bills. When reviewing your quarterly bill, look for estimated meter readings. If your meter reading has

been estimated, the letter "E" will appear on your bill. An example is provided below.

Please be aware that customers are responsible for paying bills in full by the due date whether the reading is actual or estimated. If you receive a bill with an estimated meter reading, please contact our office right away. Our Customer

Support Representatives will schedule an appointment to obtain a meter reading and to verify that your remote is still functioning properly. It is important that you have your bill corrected prior to the due date in order to avoid unnecessary interest charges, overpayments or adjustments. If you have any questions regarding your bill, please contact us during business hours at (856) 663-0043.

PREVIOUS READING	CURRENT READING	USAGE	
01/15/09	1193E 04/15/09	1208E 15	
UNITS	CODE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public and are held at 6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken.

### Questions about your service?

Call 663-0043 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., emergencies – call 663-0045 anytime.

## A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

Our senior and disabled customers are reminded that there is still time to submit their enrollment forms for their 2019 discount!

Stop by our administrative headquarters on Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken to pick up an application. You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com).

Our customer support representatives will be happy to assist you in completing your enrollment form. Your enrollment form requires your block and lot number, so please bring along a copy of your tax bill.

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Mr. Edward Brennan, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer



## Making A New Year's Resolution To Recycle Better

In recent months, you may have read or seen items in the news about important changes in recycling. China is the largest purchaser of plastic waste in the world. But in the beginning of last year, they banned the import of this type of plastic. In addition, China is refusing recyclables from the United States that exceeds .5 percent contamination. That's not a very big margin of error. As a result, recycling guidelines have become more specific about what can – and what can't – be placed in your yellow recycling can.

With the start of a brand new year, Pennsauken is strongly encouraging residents to become better recyclers. Here is some information that should help you make sure that what you put out for recycling actually belongs there.

The majority of what you're already recycling is still accepted: glass jars and bottles; aluminum and tin cans; plastics that have the number 1 or 2 on them; and paper products including newspapers, white paper, cardboard, envelopes, magazines, etc.

Here's where it gets a little more complicated. The glass jars, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, etc. all need to be cleaned out of any contaminants before you place them in your recycling can. That means the empty can of peanut butter, your gallon of milk, or your can of tomato paste needs to be completely washed out. It also means that paper products – including your Friday night pizza box – can't be stained with grease or caked on food. So if that pizza box has grease and cheese, or you can't get out

the dried up chocolate fudge in the jar, it actually belongs in the trash.

There are also a few things that you may have tried to recycle in the past that actually don't belong there. Coat hangers, pots and pans, drinking glasses, and the like are actually trash. More importantly, any and all types of plastic bags are NOT recyclable in any way, shape or form. You can't even place your recyclables in a trash bag. Plastic bags clog up sorting machines; and any costs associated with clearing them are being passed on to municipalities and taxpayers.

More information and materials regarding the new recycling guidelines will

be made available in the coming weeks. Any residents who have questions can reach out to Pennsauken's Department of Public Works at (856) 663-0178 or [publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us](mailto:publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us).

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## Register Online To Schedule AARP Tax Preparation continued from page 1

665-5959 ext 7 and leave a message with your name and phone number. An AARP tax aide counselor will get back to you in 24-48 hours to answer your questions and set up an appointment.

The Pennsauken Free Public Library will be accepting a limited number of walk-ins for tax preparation, but only on a first come, first served basis. The Library's front desk will have numbered cards to give out, up to the maximum number of tax payers allowed for that day.

When you come in to have your taxes prepared at the Library, you must bring: a government-issued photo ID for all taxpayers; Social Security cards (not Medicare cards) for each person whose name is on the tax return; ALL tax docu-

ments (W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, etc.); last year's tax return, whether prepared by AARP

or not; and copies of your last paystub(s) for 2018, if employed last year.

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## HEALTHYLIFESTYLES

### Vaccination, Awareness Needed To Prevent Spread Of Measles

In October of last year, the New Jersey Department of Health began working with local health officials to investigate an ongoing outbreak of measles. As of December 12, 2018, 19 confirmed cases of measles have been linked to the outbreak, all located in Ocean and Passaic counties. And based on data provided from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, as of December 1, 2018, 292 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 26 states and the District of Columbia.

According to the CDC, measles symptoms appear about seven to 14 days after infection. Symptoms include a high fever,

cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. After a few days, tiny, white spots often appear inside the mouth. The tell-tale rash breaks out, often starting at the hairline and spreading to the neck, torso, arms, legs, and feet. At this point, a person's fever may reach more than 104 degrees.

Measles is highly contagious and spreads through coughing and sneezing. The virus can live for up to two hours where an infected person coughed or sneezed. Infected individuals can spread the measles for several days before and after the rash appears. CDC data shows that if one person has the measles, 90 percent of the people close to that indi-

vidual who are not immune will also become infected.

The best protection against measles is the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. The MMR vaccine provides long-lasting protection against all strains of the virus. While there has been a large amount of debate about vaccination, the MMR vaccine is safe and highly effective.

Children should receive two doses of MMR vaccine for the best protection; the first dose of the vaccine should be administered at 12 through 15 months of age, while the second dose is given from 4 through 6 years of age. Families planning to travel overseas will need to vaccinate their children differently. Babies 6 through 11 months old receive one dose of MMR vaccine before leaving; chil-

dren 12 months of age or older need two doses of MMR vaccine (separated by at least 28 days) before departure.

Older individuals that have previously been vaccinated for the measles and have come in contact with the virus should reach out to their primary physician immediately to determine whether or not their immunization is still effective. If it is not, appropriate steps include another dose of MMR vaccine or prescribing a medicine called immune globulin, which contains antibodies to help the body protect itself from being infected by various diseases.

For more information on the measles, visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html). A detailed list of measles exposures in New Jersey can be found at [www.state.nj.us/health/cc/topics/measles.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/health/cc/topics/measles.shtml).

### Pennsauken's First Responders Holding "Battle Of The Badges" Blood Drive

Pennsauken's police officers, firefighters, and EMTs are competing to recruit the most blood donors for an American Red Cross "Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive. The winning team gets bragging rights; but the whole community benefits by gaining life saving blood transfusions. Approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in the United States. Just one pint of donated blood can help save as many as three people's lives.

The blood drive will be held on Thursday, Jan. 24, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Appointments are preferred; donors can sign up online by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and using the "Battle of the Badges" sponsor code. All donors will receive a "Battle of the Badges" t-shirt as a thank you.

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## FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Starting Off The New Year With The Friends Of The Library

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

It's time to catch your breath after the hectic pace of the holidays, so the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library will be slowing things down a bit in January to let everyone get used to a new year. Not for long, though. We'll have lots of events coming up soon you won't want to miss.

Our popular "Munch and a Movie," resumes Jan. 15 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Library's Community Room. Bring yourself and bring a friend to share a great movie, snacks, and beverages, all of which the Friends will provide. You just bring whatever you want for lunch. As always, we can't publicize the name of the movie in advance, but you can get in on the secret by calling the Circulation Desk.

A new year might be just the time to remember someone special in your life with a leaf on Ira's Tree of Knowledge, on display in the Library's lobby. You'll find everything you need to know about reserving and engraving a special leaf on the tree in the Ira's Tree brochure at the Library lobby desk.

And while we're all taking a breather, maybe it's not too early to start thinking about and planning some of those mini-vacations and weekend trips we all like to take. There's plenty to see indoors to get out of the cold, so keep in mind the Library's Museum Pass Program for outings you've been to before, or for those you want to try out for the first time. The program is sponsored by the Friends and includes special "deals" on many area sights you can visit. Admission to the participating museums is always free, but the number of attendees varies from site to site. Passes do not cover parking in the city or bridge tolls, nor do they provide discounts for other purchases made while visiting. You'll also want to check on whether the place you plan to visit has limited off-season hours and adjust your schedule accordingly. In any case, be ready to familiarize yourself with the requirements for each location. Passes are available for the Academy of Natural Sciences; Air Victory Museum; Battleship New Jersey; Camden Children's Garden; Eastern State Penitentiary; Garden State Discovery Museum; Independence Seaport Museum; Morris Arboretum; Museum of the

American Revolution; National Liberty Museum; National Museum of American Jewish History; Paws Farm Nature Center in Mt. Laurel; Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge; and Grounds for Sculpture, our newest edition to the pro-

gram. Check out our passes and get going! Specifics are on the Pennsauken Library's website. Remember, too, that you must be a member in good standing of the Library, so find your card or sign up for one soon. It's never too late to join!

There's a lot that's coming up in the next few months, including our Valentine's

Day bake sale, new Chair Yoga sessions, a wine tasting fundraiser, art show and sale, annual poetry contest and so much more. Stay tuned. We'll keep you posted.

Our next Friends of the Library business meeting comes up on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7:00 p.m., in the Library's Community Room, so come join us!



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## GOING GREEN Avoiding The Pitfalls Of Misusing Your Garbage Disposal

By Kathleen Harvey,  
AAP Columnist

With the holidays over, the serious clean up begins, particularly in the kitchen. Some people may be tempted to throw food waste and all of the spoiled leftovers down the garbage disposal. Not so fast! Not everything should be put down the sink.

The modern garbage disposal has been a tremendous convenience for homeowners worldwide. It provides a quick and sanitary way to dispose of food waste. Because of their simplicity and solid construction, disposals are workhorses, potentially grinding away year after year. But even this venerable appliance can choke on certain items. Here are some things to never put in your disposal in any quantity if you want to keep it running smooth and keep your drains clog-free.

Bones will just keep spinning around with the blades. If you're lucky enough to get them down, they definitely won't make it past the drain pipes. Garbage disposals simply aren't made to deal with extremely hard items such as bones. If you do drop a chicken wing or fish bone in the disposal, don't panic. Disposals are hardy appliances, and can handle grinding up the occasional small bone. But if you try to drop a rack of ribs down your sink and grind them up, you're setting yourself up for disaster.

Have you ever tried to cut through something as hard as stone peach pits or accidentally bitten down on a cherry or olive pit? Those are just as bad as bones and don't belong in the disposal.

Celery's fibrous strings tend to tangle around disposal blades. This also applies

to asparagus and corn husks.

Coffee grounds are deceptive. They appear to go down easy, but really they're going to accumulate and cause a sludgy, sediment-like mess in your drain. Put those old grounds into a empty coffee can. When the can is full, sprinkle them around the base of acid loving plants, such as azaleas and rhododendrons.

Pasta, oatmeal, and rice all expand when exposed to water, even after being fully cooked. Whether you have a garbage disposal or not, don't dump them down the drain, where they will swell and either fill the disposal trap or cause even bigger problems.

Grease and oil might not even make it into the disposal and will likely clog up your pipes instead, creating a worse mess as it begins to go rancid. That's just not pretty.

There's some controversy when it comes to egg shells. Some say they're safe for the disposal and can help to sharpen the disposal's blades; others believe the shells' membrane lining can stick to the sides of the disposal and wrap around the shredder, wreaking lots of havoc. To be on the safe side, put egg shells in a paper bag in the garage until spring. Then mash them and put them in the vegetable beds for added calcium.

Even if you run your garbage disposer until the last shred of food is gone, and you let the water run the recommended time, you can still wind up with an out-of-control science experiment that stinks up your kitchen. Face it, some food is going to stick to the inside of the grinding chamber, and it's going to decay. Cleaning the garbage disposal with ice and lemon rinds

is one option. Another good maintenance practice is to put a squirt of grease-cutting dish washing cleaner like Dawn onto an

old toothbrush. Scrub under the splash guard of the garbage disposal until it's clean, and rinse thoroughly.

Once the kitchen is clean, break out the left over Christmas cookies and toast the New Year!



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## Keeping Dogs Safe In Cold, Winter Weather

By Nancy Welsh, Pennsauken Township Animal Control Officer

You probably know the risks of warm weather and leaving pets in cars, but cold weather also poses serious threats to your pet's health.

Just because the weather is colder doesn't mean your dog won't be looking forward to their daily walks or outside activities. It does mean that you will have to make adjustments to how long you are outside; you'll also need to keep a closer eye on your dog to make sure they are handling the cold okay.

Some dogs, like huskies, malamutes, and St. Bernards, can tolerate the cold weather better than others. Smaller dogs with thin coats, very young dogs or older dogs are more susceptible to colder temperatures, especially when it's 45 degrees or lower. At extremely low temperatures, dogs can experience hypothermia and frostbite.

Medium and large breeds can walk for 30 minutes if the temperature is 25 degrees and above. Small dogs can walk 15 minutes in that extreme temperature. When the temperature gets colder, I recommend that you take your dog for

shorter walks to go the bathroom and then back home. The same goes for going out in the yard. If there is snow or ice on the ground, shovel a path to a specific area so the dog has a place to go potty then come right back in the house.

Small dogs' bellies and chests are closer to the ground and will get cold much faster than larger, taller dogs. You may have seen little dogs with snow balls stuck to their chest and bellies when they come in from the outside. This is very dangerous and could cause hypothermia. In mild cases, dogs will shiver. As it progresses, they could show signs of lethargy and weakness. Hypothermia will continue to worsen if the dog is not taken inside to warm up. Severe cases can be life threatening.

When the dog's body gets cold, their body will pull blood from the extremities to the center of the body to help them stay warm. Ears, paws and tail can get so cold that ice crystals can form and damage the skin. Frostbite can be difficult to detect and may not be visible for a few days. Watch for signs of gray or pale skin. It could also make the skin turn hard. As the skin warms, it can be extremely

painful.

Smaller dogs with short fur can really benefit from wearing a coat or sweater outside in the cold winter months. Have several of them, so a dry one is always available. A wet or damp coat can chill a dog even faster. You should still be cautious of the temperatures with your dog even though they are wearing a coat. Sweaters and coats won't prevent frostbite on their ears, feet or tail.

If you take your dog for a walk in the snow, be sure to clean your dog's paws thoroughly when you return home. Neighbors may throw rock salt or ice melt on their sidewalks. Some of these products are not safe for dogs. Little pieces can get stuck between their paws and can cause severe burns to their skin. It can also be toxic if they lick their feet and ingest these products. If you see dry, cracked paw pads, you can use coconut oil to soften them.

Dogs that normally live outside during spring, summer, and fall cannot and should not spend the winter months outside. New Jersey now has an extreme weather law; dogs are not permitted to be left outside in extreme temperatures

of 35 degrees or lower. If you notice a neighbor's dog outside in these cold temperatures, don't hesitate to contact the police or animal control to check on the welfare of the dog. You could save

the dog's life.

The best policy for dogs in the cold weather is to use common sense. If it is too cold for you to be outside, it is too cold for your dog.



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By Joe Scavuzzo, Director, Department of Public Works

Public Works suspended curbside leaf collection on Dec. 31 and began switching the trucks over to prepare for snow. Although our staff will use fair weather days to clean leaves out of the parks and playgrounds, we will require all leaves to be bagged and placed at the curb for Wednesday's yard debris pickup. There is no limit to the amount of yard debris you may place out.

As for snow, plowing operations typi-

## Leaf Collection Ends, Preparing For Snow Plowing Begins

cally don't begin until there are 4 inches of accumulation. Public Works has the two-story rock salt storage building filled to the brim and ready for whatever conditions winter throws our way. It is our mission to plow from curb to curb and provide the widest area for emergency vehicles to maneuver. We encourage residents to not dig out their driveway aprons until we've been down your street. This is an unfortunate byproduct of plowing and we request your patience as our crews typically endure countless overnight hours to clear our town. Here's hoping for a mild winter!

### Live Christmas Tree Disposal

Pulling the January 2018 call log – and one instance in February – I noticed we received a handful of calls about how to dispose of live Christmas trees. I'd imagine the one that held onto their tree until February is more committed to the holiday than I am!

You can place your live Christmas tree at the curb on Tuesday afternoons for collection during the normal Wednesday yard debris pickup. It does not have to be in a bag, nor cut up, although the bag may make it cleaner to remove from your home.

If you have a live tree that is flocked or has lights/tinsel remaining on the tree, you will have to place it out with your

regular trash, due to the non-vegetative material.

### Dealing With Pot Holes

A winter article wouldn't be complete without the mentioning of pot holes. Public Works has a designated crew that responds to all reports of pot holes located on Pennsauken roads. Remember, not all roads within Pennsauken's borders are owned by the Township and maintained by Public Works. Pot holes tend to pop up when the weather begins to get warm and then cold again. That being said, if you come across one over the deep freeze months, we can temporarily fill them until conditions are improved enough for a proper cut-out and

patch can be made.

To report potholes found on County Roads, call Camden County's Department of Public Works at (856) 566-2980, or use their website, CamdenCounty.com, where you can submit a form. For all potholes found on Pennsauken roads, just give our office a call or send us an e-mail at our info listed below.

I hope you and your loved ones found the holidays to be enjoyable and we look forward to serving you this year! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach us at (856) 663-0178 or e-mail at publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

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## TALKIN' TRASH

The 2019 schedule of Camden County's household hazardous waste and electronic waste collection days, as well as any shredding events, have yet to be announced. This information will be published as soon as it is made available.

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## A New Year, A New Trash Collection Company In Pennsauken continued from page 1

sense of comfort after discussing our typical issues and the uncertainty that comes with change.

South Jersey Sanitation is not new to our area. They have serviced nearby Camden County towns, such as Barrington, Haddon Heights, Collingswood, Haddon Township, as well as several towns in Burlington County.

We will be providing new contact information for complaints that you can call directly to South Jersey Sanitation; or you can continue to call the Public Works office and we will forward your issues along to them for correction.

The Township anticipates that there will be a couple weeks of adjustment for the new company to familiarize their

crews with Pennsauken. That being said, you may be missed, or notice that your trash was collected at a different time during the day. Since the new trash crews only get one day a week to learn on any given street, it's not unreasonable to expect 3-4 weeks of stumbling before all of the kinks are worked out. We will work through it together and thank you for

your patience in advance.

In 2019, you will also notice that Pennsauken, in conjunction with other towns throughout Camden County, will be refining our recycling efforts. Due to China's refusal of contaminated recyclables from the United States, these requirements are trickling down to individual towns; as a result, we need to recycle better. South Jersey Sanitation's arrival to Pennsauken has no impact on our efforts to clean up our recycling. They are paid to collect and drop off trash, recycling, yard debris or white goods (metal) at the appropriate facilities. For some additional information on the adjustments in recycling, see page 23 of this issue of All Around Pennsauken.

It's worth mentioning again: NOTHING is changing with your trash and recycling collection, except for the crew that does the work and the name on the side of the truck. We will experience the same six trash holidays during the year: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Each of these days will push the schedule back one day, just like it has always worked. If you have any questions at all, simply call the Public Works office at (856)-663-0178.

Visit  
**AllAroundPennsauken.com**  
for up-to-the-minute news, community events and exclusive web content!

## Two New Members Elected To Township Committee continued from page 1

sauken resident elected to the local governing body. Marco is a proud member of Pennsauken High School's Graduating Class of '94; he lives in the same home he grew up in with Lemonia, his wife of 14 years, and his two daughters, Sophia and Juliana; and has worked at the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority for over 20 years, currently serving as the organization's treasurer and office manager.

"I have no spot in my life where I haven't been in Pennsauken," says DiBattista. "I went to school here; my family and friends are here; I've seen this town grow. You have to know where you've been in order to know where you're going. Being from Pennsauken is going to play a big role in how I approach making decisions as a member of Township Committee."

The opportunities for service that Jess and Marco will have for the next three years are somewhat bittersweet, as two longtime Committee members are stepping down from public service. John Figueroa, a longtime volunteer firefighter and former Public Works superintendent, had served on Committee for almost a decade. Bill Orth, the head of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority and a dedicated community advocate, had been a member of Township Committee for well over 30 years, serving as mayor numerous times. Both Rafah and DiBattista know they have "big shoes" to fill. "As I think about John and Bill, 'big shoes' aren't strong enough words," explains DiBattista. "John Figueroa's family has done so much for this town for so many years. The lives they've affected. The guy has been a lifelong servant to the community. Bill Orth's love of this community is second to none. He's played an integral part in so many things personally that are great for this town. I'm honored to know him and call him a friend. It's almost an impossible feat, but Jess and I are going to work tirelessly to do it." "Marco and I hope to make a difference, just like they did for so many years, and continue moving their legacy forward," adds Rafah.

As they begin their first foray into public service, Jess and Marco want residents to know they want to hear from them and are ready to listen.

"We're residents too. We want the best for Pennsauken," says DiBattista.

"They can reach out and share their ideas with us."

"We're extremely approachable. We want people to feel confident to tell us what they think," adds Rafah. "We're going to listen."

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# inBooks

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## A Fresh Start In 2019 With Help From The Pennsauken Library

Happy New Year! It's 2019; with a fresh 12 months on the calendar, many decide to try to make positive changes in their lives. If you're one of those people looking to make a New Year's Resolution, the Pennsauken Free Public Library can help you keep on track.

Looking to change your career? The Library's Reference Department has an entire section for job seekers looking to make a move. Library patrons can use our computers with internet access to upload their résumés or fill out online job applications. For those looking to become

their own boss, there are plenty of books on how to start your own company.

Want to exercise more or learn how to eat better? The Library has videos on everything from aerobics to yoga; as well as a variety of books on eating healthy and staying fit.

Interested in learning a new language? Pennsauken's Library offers a variety of CDs that help patrons learn Spanish, Japanese, French, and more.

Taking up a new hobby? The Library has plenty of resources on a bunch of topics, from baking, knitting, scrapbook-

ing, and many, many more.

There are plenty of books, CDs, and DVDs at the Pennsauken Free Public Library to expand your horizons, so that 2019 isn't just a start of a new year, it's the beginning of a newer you!

### PENNSAUKEN LIBRARY

856-665-5959

www.pennsaukenlibrary.org

HOURS: Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

CLOSED: Monday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day, and Monday, Jan. 21, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

- Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library Meeting – Wednesday, Jan 9; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Join the Friends for their monthly planning meeting.
- Munch and a Movie – Tuesday, Jan. 15; 12:30 p.m. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy a FREE movie and snack, courtesy of The Friends of the Library. For this month's movie selection, please call (856) 665-5959.
- Library Board Meeting – Monday, Jan 28; 6:00 p.m. Each month, board members meet to review current issues, budget, policies, and staffing. The community is encouraged to attend.

### For Children Accompanied By Their Caregivers

- Wee Readers – Wednesday, Jan. 9, 16,

23, and 30; 10:30 a.m. Storytime for little ones up to age 2.

- Preschool Storytime – Thursdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31; 2:00 p.m. Storytime for children ages 3 to 5.

- Toddler Movement – Saturday, Jan. 12; 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Sabrina and Miss Susan for a fun and active time of music, guided movements, and dance. For ages 2-5.

- Baby Ballet – Saturday, Jan. 12; 11:30 a.m. Join Miss Sabrina and Miss Susan for a fun and active time of music, guided dance movements. For ages 2-5.

- Tail Waggin' Tutors – Tuesdays, Jan. 15, 22, and 29; 4:15 p.m. Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to practice their independent reading skills with a certified therapy friend from Therapy Dogs International! Pre-registration is required; call (856) 665-5959 ext. 6 or stop by the Youth Services Desk to register for your 15-minute time slot.

- Yoga Storytime – Wednesday, Jan. 23; 6:00 p.m. For children ages 3-8. Pre-registration is required; call (856) 665-5959 ext. 6 or stop by the Youth Services Desk.

- Sensory-Friendly Storytime – Saturday, Jan. 26; 11:00 a.m. This program is presented at a preschool level and uses books, songs, and activities to engage in developing emerging literacy, social interaction, and both gross and fine motor skills. Ideal for children who are differently abled, may be on the autism spectrum, have sensory processing issues, or feel overwhelmed by noises or crowds. Registration is required. For ages 2-9.

- Kara Kooking Klub – Saturday, Jan. 26; noon to 1:00 p.m. This interactive non-baking cooking class teaches children to measure, follow instructions, and cook in fun and creative ways. For ages 6 to 11. Advance registration is required for this program. To register, call (856) 665-5959 ext. 6, e-mail pennsaukenyslibrarian@gmail.com, or sign up at the Youth Services Desk.

- Parachute and Play – Monday, Jan. 28; 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Sabrina for parachute songs and games, followed by free-play with our puppet theater, DUPLO blocks, and more! Pre-registration is required; call (856) 665-5959 ext. 6 or stop by the Youth Services Desk.

- Pajama Storytime – Wednesday, Jan. 30; 6:00 p.m. Join Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina for night-time storytime fun — and feel free to wear your favorite pajamas! For ages 0-8.

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## GRAY MATTERS

### Looking Forward To Much Peace, Love, And All Good Things In 2019

By Judith Kristen, AAP Columnist

Well, here we are: 2019. The year I turn 40... again.

My way of looking at this is: the longer you "stay" a certain age, the better you get at it.

I wasn't much of a success at 40 the first time out, but let me tell you...31 years later, I have totally aced this thing!

Also, I am making no resolutions this year, other than sticking to that "40" thing. I see no point in failing at something so early on in the New Year.

And, let's face it, as long as Aunt Charlotte's is within walking distance of my house... there's no way I'm giving up dark chocolate almond bark, truffles, and peanut butter meltaways. 'Nuff said.

I am, however, looking forward to many things. My latest book, my 20th called, "Exceeding the Speed Limit," will

be out on Valentine's Day. And yes, that was a shameless plug. I didn't give them up for the New Year either.

I'm also looking forward to a road trip to Canada with my pal, Bobbie Bechtel, visiting with friends just south of us – we call them "The Delaware Delegation" – and I'm attempting the perfection of making of a scrumptious chocolate butter croissant. Aunt Charlotte's will surely play a part in that one I can tell you.

I will also continue my meditation practice, mindful thinking, and good deed doing. I have to stay out of trouble somehow. I will find homes for cats and dogs, hamsters, and African grey parrots. Any of Mother Nature's animal friends I can help, I will.

I must acknowledge that a lot of those good deeds I do are in honor of my son, Jon, who did good deeds at practically

every turn. He was a shining example to his mom of many a goodness, as well as the positivity that even a kind word can bring to someone's life.

There's so much good we can all do – and so we should just simply do it. No time to be sitting on our fanny.

As one of my favorite Paul Coelho quotes says, "The ship is safest when it is in port, but that's not what ships were built for."

Get the drift? I'm sorry, why did I just type that?

Anyway, that said, I dearly wish you – resolution keepers or not – and all those you love, a happy, safe, fun, loving, healthy, and prosperous 2019!

Peace and love and all good things – as always.

~Judy

## Calvary Baptist Church Celebrates 125th Anniversary

This month, Calvary Baptist Church in Merchantville is celebrating 125 years of service to the local community.

The Church was established as a mission in 1894. The current pastor, Rev. Herman S. Henderson, Jr., was installed in 1995. The goal of the church is to present a relevant, helpful Bible message, and foster a church family of friends that really care about each other. Activities, ministries and different groups offer opportunities for spiritual growth, development and fellowship with other people that share the same interests.

Calvary Baptist Church will hold its 125th anniversary celebration on Sunday, Jan. 27, 11:00 a.m., at 14 Spruce St., Merchantville. Rev. Anthony C. Talton will be guest preacher.

For more information about the cele-



Calvary Baptist Church in Merchantville celebrates its 125th anniversary with a special service on Jan. 27.

bration, call (856) 663-9383 or visit "Calvary Baptist Church - Merchantville, NJ" on Facebook.

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## inSports

### Phifer Boys Basketball Wins Paul VI Tourney



Congratulations to the Phifer Middle School boys basketball team, who won the Paul VI Grammar School Tournament last month 38-33! Photo credit, Pennsauken Athletics, Facebook.



### Elite Eight Volleyball Tournament Held On January 25

The Pennsauken Public School District will be hosting a community wide volleyball tournament on Friday, Jan. 25, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Pennsauken High School's main gymnasium, 800 Hylton Rd. The event was moved from the previous date in December due to scheduling conflicts.

This special event will feature teach-

ers from all buildings, principals, transportation workers, maintenance staff, food service workers, and coaches, as well as Pennsauken's police officers, firefighters, and public works staff.

This will be a fun, family-friendly event and all of Pennsauken is welcome! Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

For advertising rates and information call 662-5100.

### Pennsauken Wrestling Awards Dennis Armento Service Award To Duboff

Congratulations to Bruce Duboff, the 2018 recipient of the Dennis Armento Service Award. Pennsauken Wrestling recognized a member of the Pennsauken school community who works tirelessly for the students of the District. This memorial award is named after Dennis Armento, a teacher committed to helping students better their lives through job training and life skills who tragically passed away from cancer in 2016.



Bruce Duboff, seen here with Michael Armento, is the 2018 recipient of the Dennis Armento Service Award. Photo credit: Pennsauken Athletics, Facebook.

## PYAASPORTS

### PYAA Predators Win SJSJL Championship



Congratulations to the PYAA Predators U15 travel soccer team for winning the 2018 SJSJL championship. Pictured, from left to right, are Nico Bonilla, Aiden Riley, Jose Heredia, Kevin Lopez, Frank Coar, Evan Palillero, Will Hatley, Tyrone Eubanks, Joel Blanco, Miguel Martinez, Loghan Kane, Juan Dominquez, Josh Tlanipa, Andrew Hatley, Javier Luna, Damian Pagano, Dan Tellez, Dan Alvarez, and Coach Walt Hatley.



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