

20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township PA 18444 covingtontwp.org



Volume 41 June 2014

#### **Board of Supervisors**

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Building Inspector David Lamm

#### Zoning Code Enforcement

Officer William J. Wright

#### Zoning Secretary

Melinda Thomas

#### Sewage Enforcement Officer George Van Brunt

Newsletter Editor William J. Wright

Newsletter Co-Editor/Graphics Melinda Thomas



## Covington Township Receives 2 Grants to Assist in the Enclosure of the Moffat Pavilion

Covington Township was recently notified by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development that they were awarding a grant for \$190,000 to assist in the Moffat Park pavilion's phase 2 project. In addition, Lackawanna County Community Re-invest Program approved a 10,000 award to also assist in the project. The money is intended to be used to enclose the pavilion and make the pavilion kitchen functional. The Board of Supervisors have sought funding to enclose the pavilion for the primary purpose of making it more available to the community for a longer period of time. Once the pavilion is enclosed, its usage will not be interrupted by cold, rainy and/or windy days.

## From Your Supervisors....

In other news, consideration of a water spray park for the estate grounds was reviewed but found to be significantly more expensive than originally expected. Construction, as well as normal upkeep costs, were considered to be exceptionally high.

The Supervisors reviewed the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance & decided to use the review of a consultant, Carson Helfrich, to make necessary revisions.

The purchase of a new police vehicle was approved in February.

Quotes for the professional cleaning of rugs and hardwood floors were obtained and work on the project was completed the week before Easter.

The supervisors voted to cooperate with the North Pocono Cultural Society in applying for Covington Townships portion of the County Arts and Cultural Grant.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

The supervisors would like to again remind residents that the annual Memorial Day celebration will be held at our Police Station at 1pm on 5-26-14. All interested citizens are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.



## Layland Family Recognized 💘



Covington Township resident and Moscow Policeman, Brian Layland, along with his wife Michelle & two sons, Evan & Elliot, were recently mentioned by the Board of Supervisors for their effort and time spent cleaning the accumulation of trash on Sanko Road. The Board of Supervisors wanted the Layland family to know that their efforts did not go unnoticed or unappreciated! Thank you for your work!



## *covington Township* at your Service

Board of Supervisors (570) 842-8336 ~ Chairman David J. Petrosky (Meeting 1st Tues. of the month @ 7pm; Work session last Tues of the month @ 7pm)

Building Inspector (570) 842-4607 ~ David Lamm

<u>Dept. of Public Works</u> (570) 842-8356 ~ Director Thomas M. Yerke

<u>District Magistrate</u> (570) 842-2111 ~ John Mercuri, Esquire

Fire Dept. (570) 842-4130 ~ Brad Jones, Fire Chief

Main Office (570) 842-8336 ~ Kate Tierney, Secretary; 9am-4pm Monday-Friday, Moffat Estate

Pavilion Rental (570) 842-7580 ~ Marlene Beavers

<u>Planning Commission</u> (570) 842-6548 ~ Denise Hokien, Secretary (Work Session 1st Wed. of the month @7pm, Meeting 3rd Wed. of the month @7pm)

Police Dept. (570) 842-6400 ~ Bernie Klocko, Chief

Real Estate Tax Collection (570) 842-8336 ~Kate Tierney (Tues. 9am-12pm, 1-3pm; Wed. & Thurs.9-11am, or by appointment)

<u>Recreation Committee</u> (570) 842-8336 (Meeting 3rd Thurs. of the month @7pm)

<u>Sewage Enforcement Officer</u> (570) 842-9333 ~ George VanBrunt

<u>Sewer Authority Office</u> (570) 842-0757 ~ Ann Bentler, Manager (10am-6pm Monday-Friday; Meeting 2nd Tues. of the month @7pm)

Township Engineer (570) 842-4310 ~ Mary Louise Butler, Engineering Surveying Consultants & Design, Inc.

Wage Tax & Local Service Tax Collector (866) 701-7206 ~ Berkheimer Assoc.

Zoning Office & Zoning Hearing Board Secretary (570) 842-0457 ~ Melinda Thomas (8am-4pm Monday-Friday)

Zoning Officer (570) 842-0457 ~ William J. Wright (9am-12pm Monday-Friday or by appointment)



## From Your Police Department.....

While it's difficult to protect your home from professional thieves, most home burglaries are done by amateurs. These thieves are more easily thwarted if you employ some of these simple security precautions:

- Plan to "burglarize" yourself. You'll discover any weaknesses in your security system that may have previously escaped your notice.
- Lock up your home, even if you go out only for a short time. Many burglars just walk in through an unlocked door or window.
- Change all the locks and tumblers when you move into a new house.
- For the most effective alarm system, conceal all wiring. A professional burglar looks for places where he or she can disconnect the security system.
- Your house should appear occupied at all times. Use timers to switch lights and radios on and off when you're not at home.
- If you have a faulty alarm that frequently goes off, get it fixed immediately and tell your neighbors that it's been repaired. Many people ignore an alarm that goes off periodically.
- A spring-latch lock is easy prey for burglars who are "loiding" experts. Loiding is the method of slipping a plastic credit card against the latch tongue to depress it and unlock the door. A deadbolt defies any such attack. It is only vulnerable when there is enough space between the door and its frame to allow an intruder to use power tools or a hacksaw.
- If you lose your keys, change the locks immediately.

Continued on page 3

## From the Director of Public Works



Needless to say, it was an extremely difficult winter. At times the cold temperatures and large amount of snow pushed our road maintenance department to the

limit. However, as we approach warmer weather, we do want to express our appreciation to the residents of Covington for their understanding and cooperation during the difficult winter!

Bids for the repaving of road sections will be advertised in June and decisions will be made in July based on anticipated costs. Maintenance work on our dirt roads will likely begin sometime after the annual cleanup.

## Find Your Name Contest

The hidden name from our last newsletter was Florence Faller, however, she didn't find it & call for her prize. Another name chosen randomly appears in this newsletter. Can you find your name? Call (570) 842-0457 to collect!



Covington Corner is distributed quarterly to approximately 1,000 households and/or businesses and surrounding areas. If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter, please call Melinda Thomas at (570) 842-0457. The cost of a 2" x 2 1/2" ad is \$25.00 **JOHN J. BROSTOSKI, JR.** CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

> TAX SERVICES 570-499-7148

30 Daleville Highway ROUTE 502 MOSCOW, PA 18444

johnbrostoskitaxes@gmail.com

#### Continued from page 3 From Your Police Department

- Before turning your house key over to a professional house cleaner for several hours, make sure the person is honest and reputable as well as hardworking. Check all references thoroughly. If the house cleaner is from a firm, call your local Better Business Bureau to check on the firm's reputation.
- Instead of keeping a spare key in a mailbox, under the doormat, or on a nail • behind the garage, wrap the key in foil -- or put it in a 35mm film can -- and bury it where you can easily find it if you need it.
- Don't leave notes for service people or family members on the door. These act as a welcome mat for a burglar.
- If the entrances to your home are dark, consider installing lighting with an infrared detector. Most thieves don't want to be observed trying to get in a door.
- Talk to your neighbors about any suspicious people or • strange cars you notice lurking about.
- Trees located near windows or shrubbery that might shield a burglar from view can be major flaws in your home-protection plan. Consider your landscaping plan in light of your protection needs.
- Ask for credentials from any sales-person who . requests entry to your home. Ask that their ID be pushed under the door. Many professional burglars use this cover to check out homes. If you're doubtful, check with the person's office before letting him or her in.
- Do not list your full name on your mailbox or your entry • in the telephone book. Use only your initial and your last name.
- If someone comes to your door asking to use the • phone to call a mechanic or the police, keep the door locked and make the call yourself.
- Dogs are good deterrents to burglars. Even a small, noisy dog can be effective -- burglars do not like to have attention drawn to their presence. Be aware, however, that trained guard dogs do not make good



pets. Obedience training and attack training are entirely different, and only the former is appropriate for a house pet.



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> BRANCH OFFICE 602 Birch Street Scranton, PA 18505 (570) 343-0413 Corey Brian Strauch, Supervisor



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# June 2014







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 "Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'!" Audrey Hepburn	2 "If you can dream it, you can do it." Walt Disney	3 Board of Supervisors Meeting 7pm	4 Planning Commission Work Session 7pm	5 Senior Center Trip: "Better with a Band" @ Hunterdon Hills Play- house. Call Betty at 570-842-6727 for info.	6 D-Day invasion of WWII began. 1944	7 Recycling 9-11am
8 Moscow Fire Company's Annual Chicken BBQ 12pm-5pm	9 Donald Duck debuted in 1934.	10 Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm	11 "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that do not work." Thomas Edison	12 1st baseball game was played in 1839.	13 "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." Abraham Lincoln	14 Flag Day
15 "Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it." ~Confucius Father's Day	16 Social Security Act was passed by the House of Rep- resentatives in 1935.	17 Richard Lawler performs the 1st kidney transplant in Chicago 1950.	18 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	19 Recreation Committee Meeting 7pm	20 Last day of school for North Pocono School District!	21 Recycling 9-11am Summer Solstice
22	23 The U.S. Secret Service is created in 1860.	24 Board of Supervisors Work Session 7pm	25 Korean War began in 1950.	26	27 Hellen Keller born in 1880.	28 Congress declares Labor Day a legal holiday in 1884.
29 Massachusetts declares itself an independent commonwealth	30 Margaret Mitchell's novel, <i>Gone With the</i> <i>Wind</i> , is published					

#### North Pocono Preschool & Child Care Centers



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# North Pocono Library Events

Summer Reading Program registration begins June 9th for kids in grade 6 & under!

#### JUNE EVENTS

Sat., June 14th Flag Day celebration 10am Sat., June 21st at 11am Magician Brent Tues., June 24th from 10am - 2pm Pocono Pace Car Sat., June 28th at 11am Science Tellers JULY EVENTS

#### **JULY EVENTS** Thurs., July 10th at 1pm Tie Dye T-shirts - Registration required! Sat., July 12th at 11am Game Day Sat., July 19th at 11am Cupcake Wars - Registration required! Thurs., July 24th at 2pm Animal Adventures



Mahjong Mondays at 1pm Mexican Train Dominoes, Tuesdays 1pm Weekly story hours on every Tuesdays at 11am ALL summer. Family Movie night monthly on the last Friday at 7pm. Bridge, Fridays at 12:30pm

Paper Mache Mondays, June 23rd - August 4th - Registration required! Cooking Demos for Kids, Wednesdays, June 25th - August 6th - Registration required!

Summer Reading Program closing event, Friday, August 9th at 11am.

For adults only! 2nd Annual Wine & Cheese Gathering, Friday, June 6th, 6pm - 8pm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
$\begin{array}{ccc} \bigstar & \bigstar \\ & \bigstar \end{array}$	☆ ☆ ☆	1 Board of Supervisors Meeting 7pm	2 Planning Commission Work Session 7pm	3	4 Twp. Offices Closed	5 Recycling 9-11am
6 In 1854, the Republican Party is officially orga- nized in Jackson, Michigan.	7 Ringo Starr, musician from the Beatles, was born in 1940.	8 Zoning Hearing Board Meeting 7pm Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm	9 Covington Family Night Rides=\$1.25/ride Music by D.J.	10 Independent Fire Parade Night 7pm Rides \$15 wristband Music "The Fallen"	11 Company Annual Music by Tommy Guns Band	12 Picnic Fireworks Grounds open at 3pm Rides \$13 wristband from 3-6pm only
13	14 Marko Marcinko's Latin Jazz Quintet @7pm at the Moffat Pavilion	15 Howard Hughes & crew set a world record for an around-the- world flight in 1938	16 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	17 Recreation Committee Meeting 7pm	18 Thomas Edison records the human voice for the 1st time in 1877.	19 Recycling 9-11am
20 The draft began in America for Kipp Adcock World War I in 1917.	21 John Scopes is found guilty for teaching evolution in Tenn. & fined \$100 in 1925.	22 Thomas Jeffer- son becomes 1st head of the US Dept. of Foreign Affairs in1789.	23 William Booth founds the Salvation Army in 1865.	24 The 8th presi- dent of the U.S., Martin Van Buren, dies at the age of 79 in 1862.	25 The 1st test- tube baby, Louis Brown, is born in Oldham, England in 1978.	26
27 Korean War formally ended with the signing of an armistice in 1953.	28 The 14th Amendment to the Constitution is adopted in 1868.	29 Board of Supervisors Work Session 7pm	30 President Lyndon Johnson signs the Medicare Bill into law in 1965.	31 The U.S. Patent Office opens in 1790.		

## eworks Disp Minisink Lions Annual

Fireworks Extravaganza

Don't miss the Minisink Lions Club terrific annual Fireworks Extravaganza! This event is held on Saturday, July 5th (rain date July 6th) at the North Pocono Football Stadium, behind the North Pocono Middle School. Gates open at 6pm. Join us for great fireworks, fabulous food, and music by The Poets!

All proceeds go to the Lions' projects which benefit the North Pocono community!

## Other Fireworks Displays





## North Pocono Rotary Club Event

The North Pocono Rotary Club's 20th Anniversary celebration will beheld at the Elmhurst Country Club on June 20th.

There will be food, music, Entertainment, a \$5,000.00 raffle, & many other prizes!

If you are interested in supporting the work of the Rotary Club, tickets are available through any Rotary Club member or by calling Joan at (570)842-2050 or John at (570) 689-9114.

Each ticket admits 2 people and only 200 tickets will be sold for this event!

ALL proceeds benefit youth and community projects in our area!

August 2014





			$\sim$	~ ~		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
i Co M			°° (°	Jose Contraction	1 Conservative commentator, Rush Limbaugh, began his national radio show. 1988	2 Recycling 9-11am
3 Christopher Columbus leaves Spain on his voyage to the new world in 1492.	4 President Jimmy Carter establishes the Department of Energy in 1979.	5 Board of Supervisors Meeting 7pm	6 Planning Commission Work Session 7pm	7 Theophilus Van Kannel of Phila., PA receives a patent for the re- volving door. 1888	8 The 1st household refrigerating machine is patented in 1899.	9 P.L. Travers, author of the Mary Poppins books was born in 1899.
10 Kramer Car Show @ Moffat Estate 9am-4pm	11 Babe Ruth hits his 500th major league home run against Cleveland Indians in 1929.	12 Sewer Authority Meeting 7pm	13 The first coin-operated telephone is pa- tented by William Gray in 1889.	14	15	16 Recycling 9-11am Daleville UMC's Chicken BBQ
17 Kramer Car Show Raindate	18 The film <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> opens in New York City in 1939.	19	20 Planning Commission Meeting 7pm	21 Recreation Committee Meeting 7pm	22	23
24 31	25	26 Board of Supervisors Work Session 7pm	27 Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th president of the U.S. was born in 1908.	28	29	30
Runaway Taxes						

A group of friends and I were sitting around a table one evening discussing and, at least in our minds, resolving the worlds' problems when the discussion turned to the highly inequitable property tax system. As you may know, anyone who owns property is required to pay a series of yearly taxes (school, county, & municipal) on that property based on the assessed value of the land and residence. For example, if your assessed value is \$20,000 and your local tax is 10 mills, your tax would be (.010 x 20,000) or \$200. On the other hand, your school tax is currently 125 mills (by the way, it's the <u>*HIGHEST*</u> in Lackawanna County), your tax would be (20,000 x .125) or \$2,500 per year!

Unfortunately, over the years, as various costs increase, the amount of millage charged has also increased. This is particularly true when looking at school and county taxes! Covington Township, on the other hand, has NOT increased taxes for the past 14 consecutive years!

The question which highlighted our table discussion was "What, if anything, can be done to reign in the rapid increases in school and county taxes?". The strong consensus of opinion was that the North Pocono School Board, as well as the Lackawanna County Commissioners, would better understand the concerns of constituents if taxpayers clearly made our position known by writing letters to representatives or showing up at regular meetings. Make your

positions known! If you are opposed to increased taxes, make sure your school board members and county commissioners understand that you have had enough!

Go to meetings, write letters, form groups, become active & get involved! You can be assured that people will listen and, if your representatives clearly understand your position, they will begin to realize that cutting costs is a much more feasible and effective solution than raising taxes. It may be a hard decision to make, but it is the *right* decision for the people of North Pocono! We support our teachers and schools, but we will not continue to support needless wasteful spending!



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## 5th Annual William R. Kramer Memorial Scholarship Car Show



Sunday August 10th, 9am - 4pm (rain date Sun., Aug. 17th)

The Kramer Family would like to thank the many friends, family members and businesses for their support in making this annual car show a smashing success! Last year we had 190 registered cars with approximately 1,000

guests in attendance! Spend a few hours at Moffat Park enjoying the great food, fabulous cars, and memorable music! All proceeds from the event are used for North Pocono high school scholarships. For more information, contact Bill Kramer at (570) 604-2227. Information can also be found at www.wrkmemschlr.com.

## For Your Better Health

Experts agree - sugar truly is a health destroyer. Whether it is real sugar or sugar in the form of high fructose corn syrup, it will result in negative health effects with over consumption. Some research conducted by Duke University and Princeton University specifically cites high fructose corn syrup for causing a concerning amount of damage to the liver that is as bad as excessive alcohol consumption! In addition, Princeton University found that the link between high fructose corn syrup and obesity was more pronounced than that of sucrose and obesity.

Interestingly, Americans are consuming in the food supply, 35 pounds of the sweetener on average every year! To avoid it is relatively simple - avoid processed foods and, of course, if you haven't already, ditch the soda habit or at least make a sincere effort to consume less soda.

Some of sugars metabolic consequences based on a variety of medical and scientific publications include but are not limited to the following:

- 1. Impairs defenses against infectious diseases
- 2. Can produce a significant rise in total cholesterol
- Has been connected to cancer of the breast, ovaries, prostate, and pancreas
- 4. Can weaken eyesight
- 5. Can cause many gastrointestinal problems including indigestion, functional bowel disease, and an increased risk of Crohn's disease
- 6. Contributes to obesity
- 7. Can increase systolic blood pressure
- 8. And numerous other problems as listed by Nancy Appleton Ph.D. and author of the book "The Sugar Habit".



Our thanks to David Lamm and Tom Yerke for the refurbishing and placement of the old Daleville sign next to the Daleville Cemeterv (located across from the United

Methodist Church). Over the years, the sign had become weathered and severely deteriorated. However, using the letters from the original sign, Dave and Tom were able to craft a new sign which we hope will last for many generations!



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Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 5207 Breakfast - 2nd Sun. of each month 9 amnoon (adults \$5 child 12 & under \$2)

<u>Moscow Fire/EMS Explorer Post 7</u>—Meets alternate Tues. Moscow Fire Station, Main St. 7 pm. For young men & women of the NP area 14-19 years of age (570)842-7211

<u>NP Rotary Club</u>—Meets at the Elmhurst Country Club Thursdays 6 pm in the summer, at alternate NP sites January through March (570)842-2547

<u>Minisink Lions Club</u>—meets 1st & 3rd Thurs. at the VFW—contact Patrick Verastro (570) 689-2843

<u>Covington Fire Co. Women's Auxiliary</u>— Meets the 1st Mon. of each month at 7 pm call Betty for more information (570) 842-0448

<u>NP Kids Closet</u> - supplies clothing to needy area children. Located in the basement of the Moscow Borough Building. We accept monetary donations payable to NP Kids Closet c/o Lynn Biondi, 1010 Forest Road, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

<u>NP Food Pantry</u>— Bill's Plaza (next to Tasty Swirl) every Thursday noon -1 pm Proof of North Pocono School District Full-time residency required. Dry goods donations appreciated. (570) 842-4741

Parish Buffet Breakfast—St. Eulalia's Church, Elmhurst, 3rd Sunday of every month 8:30 am -12:30 pm in church hall (65+ \$5)( 12-64 \$6) (6-11 \$3) (5+ under free)

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)—each Tuesday 6:30pm, Moscow Borough Building, Van Brunt St. Moscow

<u>Pierogi Sale</u>—St. Rita's Church, Gouldsboro \$7/dozen (570) 842-4995, (570) 842-8692 or (570) 842-4176

Jefferson Twp. Fire Co.—Station 29. All You Can Eat Breakfast first Sunday of every month 8 am—noon

<u>NP Library</u> - (all weekly events) Children's Story & Craft Hour Tues. 11 am; Bridge Club Fri. 12:30 pm; Family Game Night Thurs. 5 pm; Family Movie Night last Fri. of each month 7 pm; Adult Book Club 3rd Thurs. 6 pm; Mexican Train Tues. 12:30 pm; Lap-sit Story Hour for children up to 2 years old Fridays at 10 am; Third Sat. Science Saturday 11 am (570) 842-4700

www.lclshome.org/npocono

Business 2 Business—Meets every Thursday 8-9 am at Friendly's in Dunmore (570) 842-2808

<u>Moscow Mason Lodge</u> - Meets 2nd Thurs. of ea. month, Lodge Hall, Green St. Moscow, Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30

<u>Cross Road Assembly Of God, Elmhurst</u>– (570) 842-1454, Wednesdays, Family Night 7 pm; Thursdays, men & women events, call for more information; Fridays, 7 pm ages 12-18; Saturdays, Healing Service 6pm; Communion on 1st Saturday

<u>North Pocono Cultural Society</u> - Meeting 2nd Monday of each month, 7 pm at the Moscow Borough Building 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow (570) 357-1672.

<u>Gouldsboro Volunteer Fire Company</u> - Bingo every Thurs. 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:30pm

<u>NP LovinLife Ministries</u> - meets every Wednesday 7 pm for Bible Study at the Swartz Residence, 21 Swartz Drive. New members welcome. (570) 842-3205 <u>The Lucky Horse Shoes 4H Club</u> - meets 1st Sunday of each month 4 pm at Woodlands Stables, Freytown Road call Carol (570) 842-3742.

## Loud Noise From Neighbors

From time to time we have had complaints from residents relative to neighbors playing loud music and creating other loud noises from their yards. Please understand that although such disturbances can be quite annoying, the township prefers not to get involved in neighbor disputes and we hope that you can accomplish much more by simply talking to your neighbor and requesting that they have a little more consideration of others. In most cases, good neighbors understand and they will make a sincere effort to cooperate. However, if you have one of those situations which is completely out of hand and excessively disturbing to the neighborhood, I strongly suggest that you consider calling the Covington Township Police Department.

North Pocono Senior Center Open Mon. - FRI. 9 AM to 2 PM



OPEN Mon. - FRI. 9 AM to 2 PM ~ for adults 55 and over ~ <u>Call 842-6727</u> Located directly behind the Covington Police Department on Route 435 in Daleville

PINOCHLE TOURNAMENT: 9:30am - 2pm, 2nd & 4th Mon.

BINGO & DINNER: 3-8 pm, 3rd Monday

EXERCISE: Tai Chi Class 1:15 pm Thurs. Chair Exercises with Madelyn Kirkella 10:30am Tuesdays

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Cards, Games, Wii bowling, Dominos, Arts & Crafts, Health Screenings, Free weights, Ring Toss, Monthly Birthday parties, 10:30 am Brunch and more! Volunteers needed to serve lunches & dinners (10:30 to 12:30 & 3:30 to 6:00)

Lunch & transportation available with a reservation.

Thursday, June 5th, <u>Better with a Band</u> at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Lunch with assorted entrees are included in the price of your trip. For more information, call Betty at (570)842-6727

## **Clothes Closet**

Last Thursday of every month



<u>WHEN</u>: <u>TIME</u>: WHERE:

10am-3pm Daleville United Methodist Church

423 Dorantown Road, Covington Twp PA 18444

<u>DETAILS</u>: Open to the public. Free clothing available for men, women, and children.

- \* Light snacks will be available.
- \* Donation accepted of new or gently used, clean clothing on Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am-2pm.
- Emergency clothing, leave a message at the church office (570) 842-6776



## When am I responsible for injuries or damages caused by a dog in my household?

Pennsylvania has a statute known as the "Dog Law". There is also a history of court decisions in Pennsylvania on general negligence (lack of due care) principles

concerning the control of dogs. This would be called the Common Law. Taking the Dog Law and the Common Law together, several main principles are clear:

- 1. All dogs must be "under the control" of the owner or some person in charge of the animal at all times.
- 2. Liability or responsibility for injuries or damage can fall not only to the owner, but to anyone who harbors or has a duty of control over the dog.
- 3. If a victim is severely injured by a dog, the victim can recover all damages including medical bills, lost income and pain and suffering without any proof that the dog was vicious or had any propensity to cause damage.
- 4. If the victim is not severely injured, the victim can still recover medical bills even if the dog had never bitten anyone before and had never shown any signs of viciousness.
- 5. If a dog has bitten anyone before or has shown dangerous propensities, a victim can recover all damages, physical and economic losses, regardless of the seriousness of the victim's injury.

#### What is a "Dangerous Dog"?

The Pennsylvania Dog Law has a special definition for a Dangerous Dog. This is a dog that has attacked a person or a domestic animal without provocation and which has been found by a Pennsylvania Magisterial District Judge to be a Dangerous Dog after a hearing on a complaint filed by the state dog warden. Anyone who keeps or harbors a Dangerous Dog must take special steps to keep the dog confined and in some cases the dog can be confiscated and humanely killed.

#### Is a Landlord responsible for the dog of a tenant?

Court decisions in Pennsylvania have held that a landlord may be liable for injuries caused by animals owned and maintained by the tenant when the landlord has knowledge of the presence of a dangerous animal and where the landlord had the right to control or remove the animal by retaking possession of the premises.



## Lackawanna College Environmental Institute

For those of you who may not know, Lackawanna College has moved their environmental education programs from the Moffat Estate to a new 211 acre site and a new building located at 93 MacKenzie Road, Covington Township. The 5,000 square feet building features a wind turbine, a geothermo heating and cooling system, a solar array, and a low energy design plan. These features will help offset maintenance and operating costs.

The center will offer a variety of programs for the public, as well as, educators and students. For more information call (570) 842-1506 or visit their website at www.lackawanna.edu.



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personal injury claims, trials, family law, business law, real estate, title insurance, wills and estates

**ATTORNEY** 

JOHN J. MERCURI 570-842-4574

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### Covington Fireman's Picnic July 9th - July 12th

Wed. July 9th: Family Night; \$1.25/ride; DJ music Thurs. July 10th: Parade Night @ 7pm; Rides \$15.00 wristband; music by The Fallen Fri. July 11th: music by Tommy Guns band Sat. July 12th: grounds open at 3pm; Rides \$13.00 wristband from 3-6pm only; Fireworks





### **Other Fire Company Events**

Moscow Fire Company: Chicken BBQ June 8th Jefferson Fire Company: Fireman's Picnic June 10th - June 14th Elmhurst Fire Company: Fireman's Picnic June 25th - June 28th Gouldsboro Fire Company: Corn & Clam Bake June 14th and August 16th; Breakfast July 13th Springbrook Fire Company: Fireman's Cow Flop Picnic August 14th - August 16th

LaFiesta Italiana in Scranton August 30th - September 1st