



**2024 Photo Contest**  
See Page 4

Growing Lackawaxen

## CARE CABIN

*Food Pantry Open*

**Every 4th Saturday of the Month**  
November & December 3rd Saturday of the Month

169 Urban Road, Hawley PA 18428

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VFW POST 5635  
ROUTE 590 LACKAWAXEN, PA

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CHICKEN BBQ



**SUNDAY, MAY 26TH 2024**  
SERVING 1PM-4PM

**\$15/TICKET**



**MEAL INCLUDES:**  
1/2 CHICKEN  
3 BEAN SALAD  
POTATO SALAD  
COFFEE & DESSERT

VFW POST 5635  
ROUTE 590  
LACKAWAXEN, PA

50/50'S

RAFFLE BASKETS

GUN RAFFLE

**CONTACT BILL FOR TICKETS - 551-697-2802**



@ LackawaxenTownshipPA



@ lackawaxenpa

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BRIDGEPORT, CT  
PERMIT NO. 140



169 Urban Road  
Hawley, PA 18428

Main Office: 570-685-7288  
Road Dept.: 570-685-3200  
After Hours: 570-685-7825  
Building: 570-685-2900  
Zoning: 570-685-2990  
Sewage: 570-685-2990

### MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

**Supervisors Workshops**  
are held on the  
third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.  
at the Township Building,  
169 Urban Road, Hawley, PA

**Supervisors Meetings**  
follow at 7:00 p.m.

*Both meetings are open to the public.*

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

are held on the first Wednesday of  
each month at 6:00 p.m.

We approve minutes from the previous month  
at our regular meetings. Our Supervisor meetings  
are where the regular business of the township are  
conducted. Comments from the public are of value  
and often influence public policy and our laws.

We encourage residents to attend  
regular meetings, hearings, and workshops.  
Meeting agendas are posted the Friday before on  
our website: [lackawaxentownship.pa.gov](http://lackawaxentownship.pa.gov)

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LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP  
PIKE COUNTY, PA  
A GREAT PLACE TO CALL HOME

# SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

## SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST 9AM-1PM

**Location: 169 Urban Road, Hawley, PA 18428**



**LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY**

**Find a list with prices of acceptable items online:  
[LackawaxenTownshipPA.gov](http://LackawaxenTownshipPA.gov)**

## HUMAN NATURE

Noun: the nature of human beings. Especially: the ways of thinking, acting, and reacting that are common to most or all human beings, or that are learned in social situations.

I have to question whether or not today if "human nature" is a good thing to have or a bad thing. As a kid growing up I learned that it was right to stop and help a neighbor, or lend a helping hand when a friend or relative had to move. We would all rally around and bring a truck and grab heavy boxes to load or unload. It was what we did. We would open doors or hold them for others as they made their way in or out of somewhere.

Today it seems that no one has time for that. Life has become so busy that even a simple smile or a wave of the hand hello has been lost to a more narcissist human nature. So often anymore when walking in to the post office or the supermarket or any public

place I will greet someone with a hello, or a how are you doing? And half the time I get nothing, but the other half is usually met with a quick smile and a response. It's a good feeling when you get that smile and a response. You don't know what any one person you encounter during the day is dealing with and to put a smile on someone's face is rewarding.

Recently we lost three people within a week of each other all from cancer all of which were the same age 57.

Think about that! We are all in this together, doing what we can to survive and trying to enjoy the life we've been given.

You can change the way that you live your life. But if you can make someone else's better, that's "Human Nature".

*Written by Jeff Shook, Supervisor*

# YOUR SAFETY FIRST: 911

We hope that you never have to call 911! But if you did, could the ambulance or fire departments find you in the shortest amount of time? In the event of an emergency, every second counts and could make the difference in saving a life or losing one.

The township has an ordinance #103 in place requiring everyone to have a 911 sign at their place of residence. The township will also supply the sign, number and post for the cost of \$25.00. If you are unable to pick this up at the township office or to install them at the end of your driveway, please contact Denise (570-685-7288) at the township and we will make arrangements to deliver and get them installed for you.

Time is of the essence when there is an emergency, help our first responders, help you.

The board of Supervisors have been reluctant to impose fines and or litigation for this matter in the past. But the time has come for the township to follow its ordinance and make the effort get everyone a 911 sign.

Please contact the township, get your 911 sign and have it installed properly at the end of your driveway.

Thank you,  
Board of Supervisors

## MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

### Building Officer

Rich Tussel, Building Inspector  
570-685-2990, Ext. 17 • Fax: 570-685-2550  
building@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov

### Zoning/Code Officer

Rich Tussel  
570-685-2990, Ext. 17 • Fax: 570-685-2550  
building@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov

### Commercial Building / Electrical Inspector

Todd Kliikus  
570-493-1229  
todd@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov  
Hours: By Appointment Only

### Sewage Department

Ron Tussel, Sewage Enforcement Officer  
570-237-6454 • Fax: 570-685-2550  
rontussel@gmail.com

### Tax Collector

Michelle Thompson  
taxcollector@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov

### Road Department

Jay Knapp, Roadmaster  
570-685-3200 • Fax: 570-685-2550  
Emergency/After Hours: 570-493-4584  
Roadmaster@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov  
Hours: Mon.–Fri. 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Office Manager

Denise Steuhl, Township Secretary  
Denise@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov  
Hours: Mon.–Fri. 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Treasurer

Jeffrey Shook  
570-685-7288  
Jeff@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov  
Hours: By Appointment

### Assistant Treasurer

Cathy Wargo  
cathy@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov

### YOUR SUPERVISORS

Chairman – Jeffrey A. Shook  
Jeff@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov

Vice Chairman – John W. Beisel  
John@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov

Supervisor – Michael B. Mancino  
Mike@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
570-685-7288  
169 Urban Road, Hawley, PA 18428

## 911 Sign Ordinance • Lackawaxen Township

Effective February 24, 2014

All residents of Lackawaxen Township Pike County shall display their 911 addresses in accordance with the guidelines below:

### LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP CARES ABOUT OUR RESIDENTS

Responders need the proper signage so they can locate your home in the event of an emergency. We are requesting your assistance in making the 911 Sign requirements work effectively.

But ultimately SAFETY is YOUR Responsibility!!

To ensure the 911 Sign addresses are posted in a uniform manner, sign placement guidelines have been adopted as part of Ordinance 103.

### 911 SIGN INSTALLATION

- Lackawaxen Township Ordinance# 103 requires the sign to be Constructed of extruded or rolled aluminum with a minimum thickness of 0.080 inch.
- Have white reflective numbers or letters minimum height 4" by 2" wide on a green or blue background on both sides of the sign.
- Minimum of sixteen (16) inches in height and a maximum of eighteen (18) inches in height and minimum six (6) inches to eight (8") inches wide.
- Oriented perpendicular to the named street on the right side of the driveway. The signpost shall be placed to the right of the intersection of the driveway.
- Be between three (3) feet and six (6) feet maximum above the ground elevation where the sign is mounted.

### OBSTRUCTIONS (Including Snow) Shall Be:

Removed to permit the sign to be visible for a distance of not less than fifty (50) feet from the sign in both directions of travel. Signs may also be placed on mailboxes, provided the mailbox is on the same side of the street as the house, or on trees, which are fully visible from the street with no obstructions blocking view of sign, i.e., branches, brushes, snowbanks, etc.

For more information or to order yours, please contact the Township Office Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 3:00 pm at 570-685-7288.



Lackawaxen Township,  
A Great Place to Call Home.

# 2024 Living in Lackawaxen Photo Contest

## *Congratulations to the 2024 winners!*



- ①. **1st Place: Carol Pletnick**  
with her breathtaking eagle image
- ②. **2nd Place: Cathy Green**  
with her stunning fall image
- ③. **3rd Place: Shannon Dearing**  
with her captivating double  
rainbow image

*Thank you to all the participants  
for sharing the beauty of  
Lackawaxen with us!*



# GROWING Lackawaxen Twp.

## 2024 Growing Lackawaxen Movie in the Park Dates

Located at Veterans Memorial Park (109 Scenic Drive, Lackawaxen, PA 18435)  
Follow us on Facebook for more information, @GrowingLackawaxen

**June 22nd:** The Strangers, Rated R, not suitable for children

**July 27th:** TBD

**August 17th:** TBD

**September 28th:** After the Car Show Fundraiser from 4pm-7pm stay to watch Grease

FREE to attend - bring your chairs and blankets  
Food and light refreshments provided



**Saturday,  
July 6, 2024**  
(Rain Date: July 7)  
12pm - 4pm

**Central Volunteer Fire Dept.  
75th Anniversary  
Open House**

**FREE ENTRY,  
FAMILY FRIENDLY  
FUN & FOOD!**

**CENTRAL VOL. FIRE DEPT.**  
574 WESTCOLANG RD, HAWLEY, PA

## You Can Now Pay Your Taxes Online!

Michelle Thompson, your Lackawaxen Township Tax Collector, has been working hard to implement online payments for your taxes. We are happy to announce that you can now make a payment online by visiting our website ([lackawaxentownshippa.gov](http://lackawaxentownshippa.gov)).

Below are some key notes that she would like you to be aware of when paying your taxes.

During tax season, schedule a time to drop your taxes off Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday. You can reach the Tax Collector at 570-685-1177 during the hours of 9AM-3PM, but if she is home during the off hours, she will answer your call. She makes it convenient for taxpayers to email ([taxcollector@lackawaxentownshippa.gov](mailto:taxcollector@lackawaxentownshippa.gov)) her with questions as well.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO REMEMBER FOR OUR TAXPAYERS:

- County/Township tax bills are mailed out March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - o Take advantage of a 2% discount if you pay by April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Face value amount is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Payments made after June 30<sup>th</sup> include a 10% penalty fee.
- School tax bills are mailed out August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
  - o Take advantage of a 2% discount if you pay by September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Face value amount is due by November 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Payments made after November 30<sup>th</sup> include a 10% penalty fee.
- The Tax Collector can only collect taxes for the current year, previous years' delinquent taxes need to be paid to the Tax Claim Office. Call 570-296-3407 or visit their website: [www.pikepa.org/government/tax\\_claim/index.php](http://www.pikepa.org/government/tax_claim/index.php)

### SUGGESTED TIPS FOR OUR TAXPAYERS:

- Proofread your checks
  - o The numeric number amount must match the written narrative amount.
  - o Make sure you sign and date the check correctly.
  - o Add your Bill number and/or Control number in the memo of your check.
  - o A phone number is also helpful if there is an error on the check.
  - o DO NOT USE light colored pens, the bank scanner will not read it.
- Make sure you fill out every line completely.
- If you use an online bill pay service, be sure to update the mailing information for the current Tax Collector.
- Checks should be made payable to:  
Lackawaxen Township Tax Collector, Michelle Thompson  
PO Box 32  
Rowland, PA 18457

\* These suggested tips are especially important if you are sending your payment right before the due date.

GROWING LACKAWAXEN'S

# ANNUAL Car Show

SEPTEMBER  
28TH  
4PM-7PM



FREE FOR  
PUBLIC

## Fundraiser & MOVIE IN THE PARK *Grease*

MOVIE STARTS AT DUSK

MONEY RAISED BENEFITS THE CARE CABIN FOOD PANTRY

Prizes for 4 Categories  
\$10/Car  
Register the day of the event  
Contact Jeff for information: 570-352-5425  
Food & Beverages Available

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK  
109 Scenic Drive, Lackawaxen PA 18435

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFO:  
[@GrowingLackawaxen](https://www.facebook.com/GrowingLackawaxen)

## BE SOMEONES HERO



- PRESERVE LIFE
- PROTECT PROPERTY
- SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

JOIN GREELEY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE TODAY

EVERYONE CAN HELP! WE ARE SEEKING FIREFIGHTERS, FIRE POLICE, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND SOCIAL MEMBERS

We train every Tuesday at 6:30pm and hold meetings the second Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Stop in and speak to us or reach out to us online:  
[facebook.com/greeleyfire23](https://facebook.com/greeleyfire23)  
[greeleyfire23@gmail.com](mailto:greeleyfire23@gmail.com)

245 Route 590 Greeley PA 18425

### LACKAWAXEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## BENEFIT CAR SHOW

Saturday, August 24th  
**12:00PM - 4:00PM**  
 AT THE FIREHOUSE - 774 ROUTE 590 - LACKAWAXEN, PA

*Stay after the car show for our annual field day & firework display*

Follow us on Facebook for details: @lackawaxenfd



Lackawaxen EMS presents:  
**HANDS-ONLY CPR EVENT**

**JUNE 7 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
 Department  
 (245 Rt. 590, Greeley, PA)  
 for a **FREE hands-on only CPR demonstration!**

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022, the average rate of survival for a patient in the United States that suffered a cardiac arrest event was only **9.4%!**\*

AND

Out of all of those cases:  
 By-standers only performed CPR **40.1%** of the time\*

**Let's Change Those Statistics!**

**SIGN UP HERE**



[www.lackawaxenems.com/training](http://www.lackawaxenems.com/training)

or By Calling Our Station  
**(570) 685-4022**

**"Keep Your Loved One Alive, Till EMS Can Arrive"**

\* Statistics provided by the 2022 "Utstein Survival Report"

## Central Volunteer Fire Department Annual Gun Raffle

**Saturday, August 24, 2024**

4:00pm - 9:00pm  
 Doors Open at 3:00pm

Dinner and Beverages included with ticket.  
 Dinner only - \$10.00 at the door.

PA Games of Chance License #1405

\$20 Donation per Ticket

Walk Arouns  
 Tricky Tray  
 50/50  
 Door Prizes

### 2024 Raffle Firearms

1. Smith & Wesson "Response" 9mm Semi-Auto Carbine
2. Heritage Rough Rider Single Action Revolver .22LR/.22Mag, 6.5inch barrel, incl. Cowboy Action Holster
3. Ruger LCP Max .380 Auto, 2.75" barrel pistol
4. Sig Sauer P322, .22LR, 4" barrel pistol
5. Walther PPS, M2, 9mm, 3.25" barrel pistol
6. Winchester XPR rifle 6.5 Creedmore
7. Tristar Arms Upland Hunter Over/Under Shotgun, 20 gauge
8. Hatsan Escort Semi-Automatic Shotgun, 12 gauge
9. Diamondback AR DB-15 Semi-Automatic Rifle, 5.56mm
10. Henry Pump Action Rifle, .22Mag

For more information or to request tickets, visit [www.cvfd27.com](http://www.cvfd27.com) or find us on Facebook!

**Central Volunteer Fire Department**  
 574 Westcolang Rd, Hawley, PA 18428

Guns Supplied by:

Hunters Gallery (570) 689-7898

237 Mount Cobb Hwy, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Prizes Subject to Availability.

Winner can substitute prize for \$250 cash option.

Winner must comply with all State & Federal gun regulations & must pass a background check.

Winner must be 21 for pistols & 18 for rifles & shotguns.

Winner is responsible for sales tax & cost of background check.

Winner must make arrangements to pick up firearm within 30 days of notification or the firearm shall be forfeited to Central Vol. Fire Department.



## Join Forest Volunteer Fire Department

There's a spot for you!

### Firefighter

- Respond to emergency incidents
- Learn essential life saving skills
- Participate in weekly drills
- Free trainings provided
- Gain leadership skills
- Make a difference in our community

### Driver/Operator

- Drive fire apparatus to emergency incidents
- Operate fire apparatus on emergency scenes
- Free trainings provided
- Participate in weekly drills
- Make a difference in our community

### Live-in Firefighter

- Perform duties of a firefighter
- Live rent FREE in exchange for responding to emergency incidents
  - Wi-Fi, Washer/Dryer, Kitchen, Flat Screen TV, Gym Equipment, Lounge
- Attend station meetings and trainings

### Out of Town Firefighter

- Live outside of our response area
- Attend drills when available
- Free training provided
- Opportunity to stay in our live-in quarters

### Junior Firefighter

- Ages 14-17
- Learn essential life saving skills
- Participate in weekly drills
- Gain leadership experience

### Operational Support

- Organize and work fundraising events
- Plan community events
- Provide refreshments and snacks to firefighters on emergency scenes

[fvfd@forestfire rescue.com](mailto:fvfd@forestfire rescue.com)

Visit Us Every Thursday @ 7:00pm!  
 1129 Towpath Road Hawley, PA 18428

(570)226-3491

## Fawn Lake Forest Association Hold 5K to Benefit First Responders and Military

By Lee Romano, CMCA, AMS

What an amazing day we had in Fawn Lake Forest on Saturday, August 19th! Our 5K to support the Tunnel to Towers Foundation in honor of Maureen Gill-Donohue was a tremendous success! We had 257 runners and walkers, including many firefighters from our local volunteer fire departments and countless spectators. The day was both meaningful and enjoyable to all who were present.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation was started shortly after 9/11 by the siblings of FDNY firefighter Stephen Siller. Stephen was off duty on that fateful day ready to enjoy a beautiful day of golf with his brothers when he heard the news. He grabbed his gear and headed to the twin towers but was stopped at the base of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. He was unable to drive through, so he put on his 65 pounds of gear and ran through the tunnel to the towers where he ultimately lost his life

with his 342 brother firefighters, 60 police officers, eight paramedics and thousands of civilians on that day.

The Foundation set up in his name has followed in Stephen's footsteps year after year with a 5K series, both in NYC and many events around the country and world, to raise funds to benefit our nation's first responders and service men and women. They have provided mortgage free homes to the families of fallen first responders around the country, Gold Star families, homeless veterans, as well as specially adapted smart homes for our most catastrophically injured service men and women.

The FLFA Maintenance Team had the entrance to the community and the Clubhouse looking extremely patriotic with flags flying and banners installed. Our Beautification Committee also worked hard getting the Clubhouse and surrounding area decorated and ready for the event. To say

Fawn Lake Forest was shining that day is an understatement! Many attendees remarked on how beautiful everything was and were extremely impressed by FLFA.

The opening ceremonies were both moving and uplifting thanks to our many speakers and performances of the National Anthem, Taps and Amazing Grace on the bagpipes.

We then headed to the start line. There were several firefighters who completed the course in their turnout gear, as well as carried large American flags through the entire course. It was quite beautiful and moving to see.

Our little 5K in the northern Pocono Mountains raised over \$30,000! The motto of the Foundation is "While we have time, let us do good." Fawn Lake Forest Association definitely DID GOOD!

Our 2024 Tunnel to Towers 5K will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024! Mark your calendars and register at T2T.org!



**BE SOMEONE WHO'S THERE**

**JOIN LACKAWAXEN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT TODAY!**

Accepting ALL types of volunteers!

- Exterior/Interior Firefighters
- Drivers/Operators
- Fire Police
- Rescue Personnel
- Fundraising/Auxiliary

Visit us at [facebook.com/lackawaxenfd](https://facebook.com/lackawaxenfd)  
 Call us: (570)685-7330  
 Email us: [lackawaxenfd@gmail.com](mailto:lackawaxenfd@gmail.com)  
 Visit us: 2nd & 4th Tuesday's at 6:30  
 774 Route 590, Lackawaxen, PA 18435

Tunnel to Towers Foundation

TUNNEL TO TOWERS NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES

**TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN & WALK**

PIKE COUNTY, PA

**RUN. WALK. HONOR.**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17**  
 RACE STARTS AT 9AM

**FAWN LAKE FOREST ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE**  
 113 Bay Center Circle  
 Hawley, PA 18428  
 PikeCounty@t2t.org

FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION, VISIT US AT T2T.ORG

#TUNNEL2TOWERS #T2TRUN

## Our Pest Control Pals

In Pike County, we live in the woods, so that means that we live alongside many “pests” like mosquitos, flies, gnats, and the ever-expanding patches of invasive plants. We use a lot of chemicals to try to combat them, including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and more. According to the most recent EPA Pesticides Industry Sales and Usage report from 2012, the US population spent almost \$14 billion dollars that year on pesticides. Agricultural and commercial operations account for a lot of that usage, but over \$3.3 billion was spent on home and garden applications. That total includes all types of pesticides, but about 80% of it was spent on insecticides alone. There has been very little published since then with official estimates of pesticide usage in the US recently. However, a 2019 article published in Discover Applied Sciences notes that the US is the second-largest consumer of pesticides globally. Unfortunately, these chemicals can also end up in our water supply, carried into groundwater and surface waters by stormwater runoff. Additionally, they can negatively impact non-target species like our pollinators.

Luckily, many of our Pike County neighbors consume those pesky insects for us—free of artificial chemicals and free of charge. For instance, all native bat species in PA are insectivores, and each individual can eat about 1,000 insects or more every night! According to Bat Conservation International, some of the species of bats in northeastern PA include the federally endangered Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat as well as the globally endangered Little brown myotis and Eastern small-footed myotis. These bats eat many of the common pests that intrude on our houses or picnics, including mosquitos, flies, ants, moths, spiders, and more. All of that insect-eating also adds up to billions of dollars in savings to the US agricultural industry each year, as many of those insects would otherwise harm crops. We can help bats help us by installing bat boxes on our properties to give them safe shelter and turning off our outdoor lights at night. Bat boxes can be purchased or made yourself—find plans and tips at Bat Conservation International.

Even though spiders are some of the common pests around our homes that bats help us control, the spiders themselves are also helpful insectivores. According to Phys.org, spiders are excellent garden

inhabitants because they don't harm the plants growing there. Incredibly, spiders eat so many insects each year, that the weight of all their meals rivals the weight of all the people on Earth combined! To support spiders in your garden, plant sturdy vegetation that can hold their webs and leave dead plant stalks intact until spring cleanup. Spiders and beneficial insects use this plant material as a warm place to “overwinter” where they will be protected from the freezing temperatures and predators until they re-emerge in the spring.

Birds are another group of



friendly insect eaters. According to the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, birds not only eat individual insects, but they also have a large impact on their population dynamics. Because many birds preferentially prey on large insects, they are targeting the adult reproductively viable individuals in the population and limiting the population's ability to produce more individuals. Birds also avoid insects that are infected by parasites, which leaves those infected remaining in the population to infect and kill others. This multiplies the ability of the birds and the parasites to manage the insect population. We can all help birds by applying stickers or a thin coat of paint meant to reduce reflections and bird collisions on our windows and by keeping predatory housecats inside.

All these animals are rather recognizable, but we have even more pest controlling friends who are less well-known – and they're not limited to animals, either. Purple pitcher plants are a species of carnivorous plants in our area that consume any insect or spider that falls into its open pitcher-shaped leaves. Pike County also hosts roundleaf sundew plants which capture insect prey with

sticky hairs on their leaves. Both of these plants are often found in bogs because of the nutrient-poor soil there; they can supplement their nutrient intake by digesting these insects. Some fungi in our soil, like *Metarhizium*, can also kill common agricultural pests that attack crop species.

Insecticides are much less necessary when these natural insect eaters are supported and present. Moreover, chemical pesticides can harm wildlife outside of the target species— including those who eat the pests. When chemical pesticides are necessary to control large and invasive populations, be

sure to apply them well before any precipitation to ensure that they will be fully absorbed by the target and not carried off into water supplies and other environments with stormwater runoff.

Bats, spiders, birds, plants, fungi, and more of our wildlife neighbors are actively controlling the pests in our homes, gardens, and agricultural fields. In fact, they rely on those insects as their food source. Let's support those who are supporting us by giving them plenty of shelter options and steering clear of the chemical pesticides, bright lights, and other factors that threaten their survival and pest-controlling success.

## Protecting Your Drinking Water Source

By: Ellen Enslin, CPESC, Program Manager

Groundwater is the main source of drinking water for all Pike County residents. Protection of groundwater is vital to human and environmental health, as well as a sustainable economy. Many people think our drinking water is protected from pollution, especially because our water source is underground and out of sight. However, wells become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health get into our groundwater.

When precipitation falls on impervious surfaces like asphalt or concrete, water cannot infiltrate into the ground and instead becomes runoff. Runoff washes downslope across the land surface until it reaches an area where it can seep back into the ground, typically a forest, grassland, or other permeable area.

Contaminants (like road salt, motor oil, etc.) that are left on the surface of the ground can be swept up by storm water runoff and carried away from the original site. This collection of pollutants in runoff is considered non-point source pollution and is one of the main ways pollutants enter our waterways. Though the soil filters some things from the water, it is not able to filter things such as paints and motor oils which can eventually end up in our aquifers which we drink from!

### What Can We Do to Help?

- Inspect and pump your septic system regularly. A typical septic system should be pumped every 3-5 years. PA DEP Septic System Information.
- Recycle used motor oil (Many places that sell motor oil accept used oil for recycling).
- Dispose of household hazardous waste, such as bleach and paint, properly. Don't dump chemicals down drains or on the ground.
- Limit the amount of fertilizers and pesticides used in your yard. If you are going to use lawn chemicals, try to buy only what is needed and follow the instructions on the label.
- Plant native species on your property. Growing native plants requires less watering and chemicals since they are better adapted to living in our area.
- Pick up after your pet when out for walks.
- Conserve water at home and at work.
- Test underground fuel oil tanks for leaks. If possible, place them above ground.
- Learn more about your well through Penn State Extension. Penn State Extension has created dozens of short articles, videos, and courses to assist with some of the most common management issues.

Check out more ways to protect water quality at home at our Source Water Protection webpage!

[pikeconservation.org/source-water-protection/](http://pikeconservation.org/source-water-protection/)

## Fight the Bite

Prevent the transmission of mosquito borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and the Zika Virus by removing mosquito breeding sites.

### 1. Avoid

Remember to wear long, loose, and light clothing. Close windows if screens are not installed.

### 2. Repel

Use repellent containing DEET.

### 3. Eliminate

Eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. Empty all containers containing standing water, remove used tires, and clear gutters and drains.



Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program of Monroe, Pike, & Wayne Counties  
703 Main St Suite 405  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
Phone: (570) 517-3416  
Website: [www.monroecountypa.gov](http://www.monroecountypa.gov)





# Your Honor? No, My Honor

By Alan Cooper

On an otherwise non-descript morning in June of the year 2000, I was sworn in by the Honorable Harold A. Thomson, Jr. as District Justice for Pennsylvania Judicial District 60-3-03, encompassing Lackawaxen, Dingman, and Shohola Townships. Though much has changed since then, including the title (now Magisterial District Judge), my family (four young children now grown and on their own) my hair (less on top, more on my face, and all of it gray), the one constant has been the gratitude I have for the people who elected me to this position and the respect I have for the office (along with my wife of thirty-nine years, Marianne, who I adore and love more each day). Over the years I have been involved in thousands of matters, some small, some large, and many in between. Throughout that time, I have never lost sight of the fact that the responsibility given to me can have a significant effect on people's lives, that my job is to listen closely, to allow those who come before me to be heard, to be fair, to be patient, and to treat everyone, and that means everyone,

with respect. And, of course, to get it right. Have I achieved these goals one hundred percent of the time? Of course not. No one is perfect, and for those times I fell short I apologized, but I tried, I really did. Every day, every case.

While some judges refer to their courts as "my courtroom," I once heard a colleague describe it as, "the court in which I am privileged to serve," and I have always tried to think of it that way. The courtroom doesn't belong to me, it belongs to the people, who have graciously asked me to serve

as its trustee, to protect its dignity and integrity until the next person comes along.

This position of trust is now held by the Honorable Ashley Zimmerman, who I'm sure will do an excellent job, probably better than me, certainly no worse. And while for the past quarter century I have been addressed as "Your Honor," the fact of the matter is that it has been my honor to spend my days as your Magisterial District Judge, presiding in the courtroom where I have been privileged to serve.



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## Two Centuries of History: Celebrating Whitehall Farmhouse at Three Hammers Winery

By Ryan Garvey

Since opening our doors in 2018, Three Hammers Winery has grown into a place the Hawley community can be proud of. Offering over a dozen varietals of both red and white wine at any time and providing experiences alongside our wines to bring them to the next level, we've made a home here on Whitehall Corners where anyone can explore a love of wine on our historic property. But we are hardly the first people to make something out of this little corner of land hosting one of the oldest buildings in Lackawaxen county. There's more than two centuries of history forming the foundation of this rural farmstead.

The Whitehall farmhouse is a rustic, 2 story home on the intersection of PA 590 and Welcome Lake Road made of stone and hand-hewn lumber, gathered from not too far away in the nineteenth century Lackawaxen pine forest (though certainly more modern



beams support it now, after eight generations of owners). The two original stacked-stone fireplaces and chimneys still stand, and white weatherboards cover the exterior. It has a back deck right next to West Falls Creek, and a fully finished basement. Modern additions have also been made over the years including amenities – heating, water, plumbing, electricity – but much of it still has the look and feel of the history going back to its original construction.

If you've been to our tasting room in Hawley, you may have learned a bit of the story behind the winery's name from one of us here while doing a tasting. Only a couple of decades after the



Farmhouse circa 1895.

turn of the nineteenth century, Philadelphia were already one of the leading industrial cities in the United States. The ship and oil industries were booming, and the city was starting to attract people from around the globe. It's little wonder three Quaker brothers – seeking a life of simplicity – would want to escape the hustle.

The Hammer brothers – Israel, Abel and Eli – settled here at what would become known as Whitehall Corners in 1820, where they started a logging mill, built a dam, and started a farm with a few cows and oxen – all big enough to keep themselves going, but never much beyond that – and there they lived in relative isolation for most of their lives. Their main source of money was sending logs via the river down to Philadelphia. The Lackawaxen area in those days was known to send more than fifty million feet of logs and lumber annually down the Delaware on barges. The Hammer brothers in particular never cut down any trees they sold, only milling trees already felled by nature on their six hundred acres. One notable tree that remains on the property to this day is a red oak, visible to visitors, that is estimated to be at least two to three hundred years old.

None of the brothers ever married, their only other housemate being a freeman of the day thought to be named Clinton Westbrook. They never really seemed to need additional help

for the majority of their lives. One brother was a tailor, able to make their clothes, another brother was a carpenter, able to make any furniture and such they needed, and the third brother seemed to have many talents that rounded out the fulfillment their simple needs.

In the later years, though, as their health declined and they became less able to sustain themselves, they began to “put their lumber out on shares,” – where they gave more control of the selling of their lumber to third parties. Said intermediate parties absconded with the money, leaving the brothers in debt. After it was believed that Abel passed, their sister Hannah, still living in Philadelphia, sold the property to Benjamin Tanner. It is unknown if this was to settle the debts or an effort to see her brothers cared for. It is known that she suggested that Tanner care for the brothers in their waning years.

Tanner ultimately did not honor that wish, however, and put them out after the purchase of the farmstead. From there, the brothers came to rely on the township for aid until their eventual passing. Of what happened to Clinton Westbrook, there is little known.

The property had several owners after the sister sold it to Tanner in 1855. Most notably, family members of Boy Scouts of America founder, Daniel Carter Beard. The nephew of the founder, Captain James Beard and his wife

Gladys, bought some half the original 600 hundred acres owned by the Hammers in the early 1900s as a place to recover after Captain James suffered a car accident that he was in due to the side effects of mustard gas exposure during WWI.

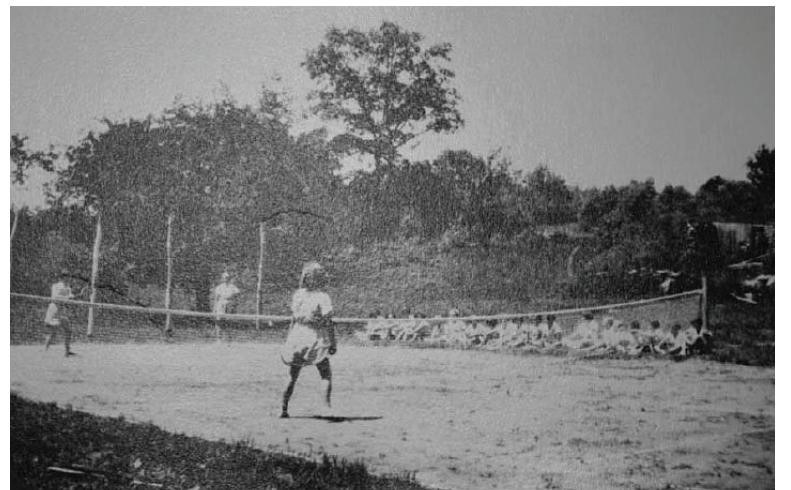
Gladys went on to teach at a local school near where the Cuckoo's Nest now sits (a position the town notably lacked at the time), her own daughter being school aged at the time. She also opened Camp Douglas – a girls' camp that used to be across the street. James Beard worked for the Manhattan Boy Scout Council with other members of his family before retiring and moving to Suffern, New York. They continued to use Whitehall as a summer home for many years. When they passed, the land and businesses were split between their children. Some of their families still retain parts to this day.

The Beard family, as a whole, was known for their hospitality. Gladys, who grew up in Mississippi, brought her southern charm up to Pennsylvania with her, where she welcomed all with open arms. This is something the current owners, Rob Kobrzynski and Christine Pucciarello, try to carry on with the winery. “We are very honored and fortunate to have been able to acquire such

a beautiful property with such a wonderful history,” said Rob at the bicentennial celebration of the property. “We want to continue as stewards maintaining all that the Hammer Brothers built, while creating yet another appealing hospitality destination in the region.”

Today, Three Hammers makes up fifteen acres around that still-standing historic farmhouse. The stone foundation of the mill still sits across the street, the farm is gone, cattle and the oxen with it, and the only remaining crop switched over to some budding grape vines, but it's still largely the same as it's been for over two hundred years. The property's garage (not part of the Hammer brothers' original construction, but a later edition) now makes up our tasting room, where we also house the tanks for all of our white wine production. The place where an inground pool once sat (also a contemporary addition) is now our covered event space. The original well still hides at the back of the property.

Rob and Christine are making sure the history of this corner of Pennsylvania stays right where it is and that anyone who wants to visit us can experience that history for themselves as they walk the grounds. And while drinking some great wine in our tasting room!



Camp Douglas 1927.

# Two Centuries of History... cont.



Great thanks go to Lorraine Bently and her write-up "History Uncorked" for compiling much of the history contained here, as well as the Beard family for their contributions.

Thanks also go to Wayne, Pike, and Monroe County Historical book for additional information regarding the area.

Top Left Photo: Three Hammers Farmhouse today.  
Above Photos Clockwise of Today's Interior: Fireplace; Basement; Office; Porch.

## Lackawaxen Ecker-Haupt VFW Gearing Up For Activities

Spring is here and the Ecker-Haupt Post 5635 Veterans of Foreign Wars has a lot going on. The post members have done a major revamping of the decades old kitchen with mostly member labor but with some much appreciated local help. Come by during one of our barbecues or services and take a look.

Memorial Day will be here soon and during the weeks prior the VFW members and volunteers will be placing flags at the graves of all known veterans in the local cemeteries. Please let us know if you know of a veteran who has been overlooked in the past or if anyone needs a grave marker. We are a free and prosperous nation in large part due to the sacrifices of our armed services and veterans. Memorial Day commemorates those that have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives for our country.

The annual VFW Chicken BBQ is on and tickets will go fast. It is a fun day to catch up with old friends and neighbors or meet new ones. Serving 1-4pm Sunday May 26th at the VFW on Rt. 590 in Lackawaxen. A gun raffle is being held in conjunction with the BBQ. Members have tickets or you can get them at the Lackawaxen House in Lackawaxen or the Crossroads Restaurant in Yulan NY. Call Bill at 551-697-2802 for BBQ or Gun Raffle tickets.

Memorial Day Services will be

held at the VFW Post at 10:30am 27th May. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments following. Flag Day is Friday 14 June. The VFW Post members will retire worn and soiled flags that day.

Please drop off old US flags to be properly retired at our drop box in front of the Post.

We had a successful Patriots Pen and Voice Of Democracy competition this year with some outstanding entries. Please encourage middle school and high school students to participate in the competitions. These are writing and speaking contests held by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Other veterans service organizations hold similar. Contestants routinely comment on their increased awareness of the sacrifices our veterans have made and the workings of our government after participating in these contests. Information is available on the national VFW website and through the schools.

The new Pike County Veterans affairs office is open in Shohola. Address 835 Rt 6 Shohola PA. Phone 570-296-3563. This is the primary local resource for Veterans issues and dealing with the Veterans Administration.

The Annual Hunters Bingo went very well with over 200 people attending. The event has been growing every year. We thank the Lackawaxen Volunteer Fire Company for hosting us and all the

local support that went towards making this a great night. This event helps support Growing Lackawaxen which is an outstanding community organization. This is truly a community event.

As the population of the area grows, volunteer organizations are

getting stretched thin. The VFW has added a number of new members who have jumped right in and are helping out and enjoying themselves doing so. Lackawaxen Township works well and is a great place to live because of volunteers.

The political season is upon

us again and we encourage a lively civilized debate regarding the future of our nation. To truly honor a veteran and thank them for their service we hope all who are able will exercise their right to vote.

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 POOL

POPSICLE  
 SAILING  
 SAND  
 SUMMER  
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