

North Coventry Township

newsletter for

www.northcoventry.us

6th Annual Coventry Woods Festival

North Coventry Township will be hosting the 6th annual Coventry Woods Festival on
Sunday, May 18, 2014, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

at the Fernbrook Access of Coventry Woods, 1954 St. Peter's Rd.

This festival is designed to recognize and celebrate North Coventry Township as a healthy community with healthy lands.



Fun For The Entire Family

The time schedule has not been confirmed,
 but activities include:

- ◇ Crafts
- ◇ Games
- ◇ Children's Obstacle Course
- ◇ Moon Bounce
- ◇ Stubbilbine House Open
- ◇ Charcoal Portraits
- ◇ Pigeon Creek Trail Scavenger Hunt
- ◇ Seeing-Eye Dog / K9 Unit Demo
- ◇ OJR District Elementary District Chorus
- ◇ Ceremony
- ◇ **6th Annual** Fernbrook Derby Goat Race
- ◇ **1st Annual** Cow Plop Bingo

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Spring 2014

Camp Adahi and Camp Fernbrook

by E. Spencer Claypoole, Chairman, North Coventry Historical Commission

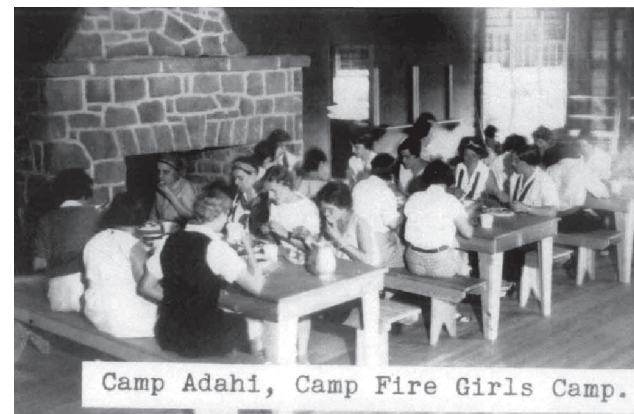
At 1 p.m., on May 18, 2014, North Coventry Township will hold the annual Coventry Woods celebration at the Fernbrook entrance to the park. In preparation for this event, I wanted to tell the story of Camp Adahi and Camp Fernbrook, both of which were located at this entrance.



The camp lodge and five smaller cabins that wind their way up the hill are located at the Fernbrook entrance. These buildings were constructed by Charles Boyer. Boyer was a farmer and a butcher, doing business out of the Arcade Farmer's Market on High Street in Pottstown. He also farmed the roadside area of his property. He was born on August 27, 1878, in Berks County to John (born 1856) and Catherine (Steihl) Boyer, and died in 1962. Charles married Carrie H., who was born on August 18, 1876, and together they had four children. In 1931, during the height of the economic depression sweeping our county, Charles wanted 'to try something different.' He hired local men to build a camp for the Camp Fire Girls. (One of their daughters was Mabel, a member of the Camp Fire Girls.) This camp was known as Camp Adahi.

Deeds show that Charles and Carrie purchased their property on October 8, 1928, from Mary A. Yost, although the Boyer family was living on the property before that time. One of the first things Charles did was renovate the two-story farm house near St. Peter's Road, now known as the Stubblebine House. For a time this was the caretaker's house for future camp owners. As Charles began planning to retire in the 1940s, he built a new house east of the Stubblebine House on St. Peter's Road.

In 1946 the Evangelical and Reformed Church purchased the camp with the Shenkel Church having oversight for the property, under the direction of Reverend Schlingman. The church maintained the site with a new name, Camp Fernbrook. The church also provided a service center, using buildings that they constructed, known as Luke and John. In the early 1950s a young couple was hired to provide oversight of the property and program with living space in the caretaker's house. This couple was Carl and Marie Bade. From 1973 to 1991, resident Mickey Swinehart became camp caretaker with his wife, Barbara, cooking meals for the campers. During this period a pavilion was constructed in memory of their daughter. On May 12, 1998, the church sold the camp to a community group in Philadelphia. Now, the camp was renamed Camp Nueva Esperanza. The property remained with this group until purchased by North Coventry



Township in 2008. The camp and surrounding wilderness area is called Coventry Woods, a large wilderness that has been such since before the colonial days.

Charles Boyer, Jr., and his brother, William Boyer, sons of Charles and Carrie, also built houses along St. Peter's Road near the Fernbrook entrance. Linda Levengood, a granddaughter, currently resides in one of the houses. I thank Linda for providing me with a wealth of information about the Boyer family years at Camp Adahi. Thanks, also, to members of the Shenkel Church of Christ (Bade and Swinehart families mentioned above) for their help.



Directory

Township Office

845 S. Hanover Street

Phone: 610-323-1694 Fax: 610-323-7239

The township building and police administrative offices are open
Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Board of Supervisors 2nd & 4th Mondays 7pm

James Marks, III
Chairman
E. Spencer Claypoole
Vice-Chairman
Harvey Greenawalt, Jr.
Rebekah Elliott
Richard Scheler

Planning Commission 3rd Wednesday 7pm

Jay Kline, *Chairman*
Pat Washburn,
Vice-Chairman
Dennis Gallino
David Mariano
Phyllis Chambers
James White

Zoning Hearing Board 2nd & 4th Thursdays

As needed 7pm
Ed DiCesare
Chairman
Albert Wrigley
Vice-Chairman
Virginia Lebon
Charles G. Stacks
Glen Hoff

Parks And Recreation 1st Wednesday 7:30pm

Jay Erb, *Chairman*
Colleen Skelton
Steve Weil, *Treas.*
Michael Trahey
John Ellwanger
David Edleman
Frank Booth

Environmental Advisory Council 3rd Wednesday 6:30pm

Adam Sager, *Chairman*
Bill Cannon
Kim White
John Werth

Historical Commission

3rd Thursday 7pm

Spencer Claypoole,
Chairman
Alice Sharp *Vice-*
Chairman
Louise Griffiths, *Secty.*
Joan Cleveland
Pat Smith
Gladys McGrath
Anita Kauffman

Open Space

Review Board

4th Tuesday 7pm
Chris Washburn, *Chairman*
Susan Deegan-Watson
Phyllis Chambers
Spencer Claypoole
John Ellwanger
Richard Scheler

Municipal Authority

4th Tuesday 7:30pm

Jay Meloy, *Chairman*
Dennis Hullmann
Robert W. Barlow
Richard Armstrong
Tim Forester
James D. Scheffey *Solicitor*
Steve Dunning, *Manager*

Water

Authority

3rd Monday 7pm

Dennis Hullmann,
Chairman
Timothy Forester
Barry Boettlin
Mike Gammon
Keith Learn
Ken Bickel
Linda Knox
James D. Scheffey *Solicitor*
Steve Dunning, *Manager*

Township Manager

Kevin Hennessey
610-323-1694

Financial Officer

Debbie Giordano
610-323-1694

Administrative Assistant

Lois Lucas
610-323-1694

Building Code /Zoning Officer

Deborah Russo
610-323-1694

Road Department

Jonathan McKee Jr., *Road*
Master
Rick Kirk
Steve Shillinger
Dave Bertolet
Dave Rishel
Brad Holloway

Real Estate/Per Capita Tax Collector

Nance Sparks
610-970-0334

Fire Department

Norco Firehouse
610-323-3263
Fire Dept Fax
610-327-0714

Fire Marshal

Ron Comtois
610-323-1694

Fire Chief

Joel Mc Millan

Emergency Management

Matt Galamba
610-323-1694

Police Department

For all **police, fire** and
Medical emergencies: dial
911

Non emergencies

Call 610-323-8360

Fax: 610-326-2925

Police Chief

Robert Schurr
610-323-8360

Police Administration Manager

Ann Gery
610-323-8360

Pennsylvania Game Commission:

610-926-3136

District Justice

James DeAngelo
610-469-1910

State Senator

44th District
John Rafferty
610-469-8390

State Representative

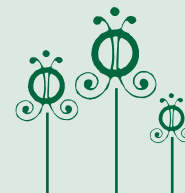
26th District
Tim Hennessey
610-326-2626

Chester County

Court House:
800-692-1100

OJR School District

610-469-5100



Did You Know . . . That Permits May Be Required?



No permits are required if you are only re-coating your driveway, but if you are adding blacktop, a resurfacing permit is required. Application fee is \$100. and forms are available online or at the township office.

A driveway that is new or is being converted from dirt/stone into blacktop or macadam requires a permit and the cost is \$150. plus a \$400. escrow. A preliminary inspection of the area is required before any work can begin. The escrow is returned to the individual once the township engineer signs off on the final inspection. The forms are available online or at the township office.

A permit is required if you are putting any blacktop/macadam down to enlarge a parking or a turn-around area. Fees are dependent on the size of each project. Forms are available online or at the township office.

Please note that paving over curbs on any project is prohibited.

Inspections are done on the work performed within the township right-of-way on the work mentioned above and all work must be done according to Township and Penn Dot specifications, which are given to you when you pick up your applications. These inspections will help to ensure that any work is performed properly and is compliant with the specifications.



North Coventry Police Department Helpful Information

As the warm weather approaches we see an increase in contractors, driveway paving companies and driveway sealing solicitations. Please remember that North Coventry Township requires a permit for any for-profit company that solicits for business in the township. Should you be approached, the first question you should ask is whether the person has a permit issued by the township. You want to see the actual permit and not take the persons word that they have a valid permit issued by the township.

Always be wary of imposter/distraction burglaries. Never allow anyone in your home who you do not know or who you cannot verify if they are a legitimate employee from companies such as electric, cable, gas and water providers.

Under the Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act all contractors are required to be registered with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office if they perform at least \$5,000. worth of home improvements per year.

Typical Signs of Asphalt Paving Scams include:

- ❖ Selling door to door
- ❖ Claiming to have asphalt left over from another job
- ❖ Pressuring the homeowner to make a quick decision
- ❖ Not offering a written estimate specifying the work to be done and an agreed price
- ❖ Cash only sales
- ❖ Any deal that seems to be too good to be true
- ❖ Unmarked trucks/vehicles or trucks with out of town/state addresses and phone numbers.

If you have any questions about the authenticity of a contractor we encourage you to contact the North Coventry Police Department 610-323-8360.

As always the North Coventry Police Department reminds all residents that the best way to prevent thefts is to lock your vehicles, even while in the driveway, and make sure your residences are secure by locking doors and windows. The Police Department will conduct a vacation check of your home while you are out of town. All that is needed is for you to contact the Police Department or fill out a Vacation Check Request form online at northcoventrypolice.com.

2014 Chester County Hazardous Waste and E- Waste Event



For residential only | businesses and contractors will be turned away

Event Starts At 9:00 a.m. and Closes at 3:00 p.m. sharp
Saturday, May 17, 2014, at Owen J. Roberts Middle School
981 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

Acceptable E-Waste

CPU's/Laptop Computers	Monitors	Printers	Copiers (desktop & stand-alone)
Televisions	Answering Machines	Camcorders	Cell Phones
Docking Stations	Electric Typewriters	Pagers	Fax/Copy machines/Duplicators
Microwaves	Radios	Telephones	Remote controls/Gaming Consoles
Stereo/Tape/CD Players	Toner/Ink Cartridges	VCR/DVD Players	Testing Equipment

Maximum Amount Accepted – 25 Gallons or 220 Lbs. / No Metal Drums

Not Acceptable – Unidentified Waste

Tires	Fire Extinguishers	Appliances	Explosives & Ammunition
Latex Paint	Appliances With Freon	Trash	Propane–Helium Tanks
Asbestos	Gas Cylinders	Alkaline Batteries	Infectious Or Medical Waste
Radioactive Waste	50 Gallon Drums	Pressurized Cfc's & Hcfc's	



On a septic system?

When's the last time
you thought about it?



**Your septic system
is part of your home
and your responsibility.**

Don't wait until you have issues with
your septic system. Protect your
home investment and avoid costly
replacement—call a licensed septic
tank contractor today.

- Have your septic tank inspected and pumped out by a licensed septic tank contractor as needed (on average every three to five years).
- Protect your system by practicing simple, daily tips (see reverse).



EP940244-12005 September 2012

SEPTIC TIPS

Keep it Protected—Get it Inspected!

Have your septic tank inspected and pumped out by a licensed septic tank contractor as needed (on average every three to five years).

Don't Strain your Drain!

Use water efficiently to avoid overtaxing your system. Fix household leaks, run the dishwasher and clothes washer only on full loads, and consider installing high-efficiency fixtures.

Think at the Sink!

Don't pour grease, fats, or harmful chemicals like paints and solvents down your sink. They can clog or harm your system.

Don't Overload the Commode!

Do not flush non-degradable items such as dental floss, diapers, coffee grounds, or feminine hygiene products.

Shield your Field!

Care for your drainfield by only planting grass, not driving or parking on it, and reducing roof and surface water drainage near the drainfield.

Know your part, be SepticSmart!

Learn more at www.epa.gov/septicmart.

New Funding Package Improves Road, Bridges & Public Safety



Warmer weather is just around the corner, and no matter where you live or travel in Pennsylvania, you're going to see many more road and bridge projects springing to life.

It's all because state lawmakers did something last fall that had been talked about for years: Following Gov. Tom Corbett's lead, they enacted a \$2.3 billion transportation funding package that's expected to greatly improve public safety, create jobs — up to 50,000 — and encourage business growth and development.

And while this is good news for Pennsylvania, it's even better news for municipalities, which are responsible for more roads miles — 77,000 — than the state Department of Transportation, which oversees 44,000 miles.

Secretary of Transportation Barry Schoch says it was time for the commonwealth to move forward with a spending plan.

“Ultimately, we have a responsibility for public safety,” he says, “and had to choose whether to make the investment now or continue to put it off for future generations.”

Benefits spread from local roads to state highways. No doubt, the new revenues will make a marked difference in our township and others, many of which, faced with rising transportation costs and stagnant state funding, had been

slapping band-aids on roads and bridges for decades to prolong their life.

The new funding package, however, will deliver a two-thirds increase in the annual liquid fuels payments that municipalities receive. This state funding, which helps our township pay for road projects and purchase materials such as salt, will increase by \$237 million annually after the law is fully enacted in five years.

This year North Coventry received an additional \$22,479 in liquid fuel money. Unfortunately it all went to pay for extra road salt this past winter.

Significantly more money is in the pipeline, too, to improve dirt, gravel, and low-volume roads, aging bridges, and outdated traffic signals. A higher prevailing wage threshold for local road and bridge projects, another key provision in the funding package, will also enable townships to save money and schedule more work.

In addition to all of this, the plan is going to direct another \$1.2 billion a year to improve state-owned infrastructure.

This includes widening a section of Route 22 in Allentown; rehabbing part of Route 219 near Johnstown; upgrading Interchange Road in suburban Erie; resurfacing sections of Route 22 in northern Washington County; widening Route 202 in East Norriton and Whitpain Townships, Montgomery County; and extending Route 424 to connect Interstate 81 to Humboldt Industrial Park near Hazleton.

PennDOT also plans to spend \$782 million for three Interstate 83-related projects in the Harrisburg area and \$761 million to relocate U.S. Route 322 from the top of Seven Mountains to Boalsburg in Centre County, southeast of State College.

In addition to improving public safety, Schoch says, the transportation funding will benefit the economy by making Pennsylvania competitive with surrounding states, such as Maryland and Virginia, which recently passed their own funding initiatives.

“This measure sent a clear message to the business community,” he said on the day of passage. “We need to rebuild and take care of Pennsylvania's transportation system, which all of us own.”

This is a huge deal

The last time Pennsylvania made a major investment in transportation was nearly two decades ago, in 1997, when it enacted a 3½-cent increase in the state's gasoline tax, a fickle levy that fluctuates with prices and demand.

In the meantime, the commonwealth's interstate transportation network, much of which was built in the 1950s during the Eisenhower administration, has continued to age and weaken, and it's been harder and harder financially for state and local officials to stay on top of the problems.

In 2013, for instance, PennDOT imposed new stricter weight restrictions on 1,000 state and local bridges to slow the deterioration — a move that increased detours,

continued on page 7

New Funding Package Improves Road, Bridges & Public Safety *continued*

which added potentially life-threatening minutes to emergency response times and hindered the flow of goods and services.

The ever-worsening situation prompted local government and business leaders, among others, to urge the General Assembly to not only develop a long-term, sustainable funding stream to support transportation but also to address the needs of the entire system — everything from local roads and bridges to highways, railroads, and ports.

As a result, lawmakers made several attempts to initiate comprehensive transportation reforms; however, the proposals stalled repeatedly. The most recent example unfolded this past summer when a billion-dollar transportation funding bill received nearly unanimous support in the Senate but fizzled in the House. Political fear about increasing the price of gasoline,

which has flirted with \$4 a gallon, has been at the root of this and other failures.

However, as 2013 drew to a close, something shifted in Harrisburg, and those requests for a multi-layered transportation funding package became a reality.

“This is a huge deal,” Sen. John Rafferty, majority chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, says. “It’s the most significant piece of infrastructure legislation that’s been done in 20-plus years.”

Common sense prevailed

Within the next five years, the funding package will generate billions more a year for roads, bridges, and mass transit by uncapping the state’s oil franchise tax, increasing various traffic fines, fees, and surcharges, and eliminating the cents-per-gallon gas tax.

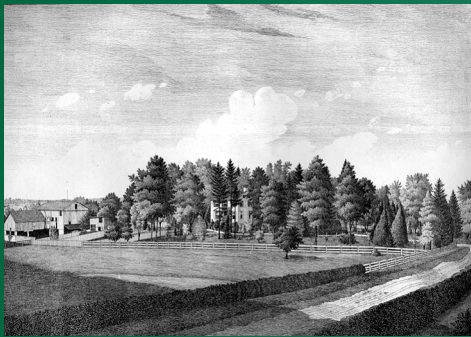
“The stars aligned because I

think the legislature came to the realization that it had to address [transportation] sooner, rather than later,” says Jason Wagner, managing director of the Pennsylvania Highway Information Association and director of policy and government relations for Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, an organization for road and bridge builders.

In other words, common sense prevailed, says Rep. Nicholas Micozzie, who took over as chair of the House Transportation Committee just weeks before Act 89’s passage.

“There are 25,000 bridges in Pennsylvania, and 650 are posted with weight limits and 18 percent are obsolete. We have another 9,000 miles of state roads that are in bad shape,” Micozzie says. “We kept banging away at that message, and it finally — finally — sunk in.”

We are looking for North Coventry History



Our Township Historical Committee is looking into producing a photograph/postal card picture book of our Township's history. The book would be produced by Arcadia publications. If you have old photos of families and/or township homes, or other historical resources that could be used for the book please contact a member of the Historical Commission. (See Directory.)



Reminder:

Is your swimming pool properly enclosed?





North Coventry Township
 845 S. Hanover Street
 Pottstown, PA 19465

Phone: 610-323-1694

Presorted
 Standard Mail
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 137
 Pottstown, PA

Application for Yard Waste Pick-Up

The pick ups will start in April, May and June and then again for the months of September, October and November. Township workers will, for a fee as set forth below, pickup at roadside piles of yard waste which will be ground up and transported for recycling. Applications must be filed by the last week of the preceding month.

Yard Waste Pick Up Per Roadside Pile | \$25

Senior Citizens (60 and above) | \$20

Name of Applicant _____

Location _____

Property Owner _____

Address _____

Materials _____

Circle One, for pick up during the week of

April 7th May 5th June 2nd September 8th

October 6th November 3rd

***These Rules Must be Followed
 or Piles Will be Rejected!***

- ❖ No clearing of woods.
- ❖ No old firewood.
- ❖ No lumber or building materials.
- ❖ No metal, nails, screws, or wire in any wood.
- ❖ Twigs 1 inch or smaller should be tied up (string or twine) in 12 inch x 4 foot bundles or placed in paper yard waste bags, flower bed waste in brown paper bags.
- ❖ Sort branches by size and stack on piles.
- ❖ Hardwoods size limit (oak, birch, maple, mulberry) 12 foot long, 6 inches diameter.
- ❖ Piles no more than 4 foot high, out by Monday of collection week, 3 foot from road edge, butt end toward road.