



## Chairman's Corner, by Brien Kocher

Bushkill Township continues to develop recreational opportunities throughout the Township. Thanks to a \$137,000 grant from the Northampton County 21<sup>st</sup> Century Open Space Initiative and a \$4,200 Treevitalize grant, Bushkill Township has begun developing the 90-acre Ballas Tract located off of Kromer and Jacobsburg Roads. During 2014, the parking area and an overlook have been installed and the Township anticipates beginning trail construction in 2015. The Township has also applied for funding through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to fund the trail system which will be installed around the perimeter of the tract. The 90-acre site may also be used for passive recreation, and a pond exists for public fishing. In addition, residents are encouraged to try out the Bushkill Township PPL Trail which links Jacobsburg State Park to the trailhead located on State Route 512. The Ballas Tract is only a short distance east of the main trail, along Kromer Road.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize volunteers that donate their time and energy to make Bushkill Township a great place to live. Thanks to Mr. Robert Aide and his business, *Elegant Lawn Care*, Field 12 at the Bushkill Township Recreation Complex was completed this Fall. Elegant Lawn Care volunteered in the grading, rock-hounding and hydroseeding of the new softball field. Thanks to Elegant Lawn Care for all the hard work. Enjoy the Fall message.



Field 12, which will be used for softball.

## PA Parks and Forest Foundation Award

This May, Bushkill Township received the prestigious 2014 Joseph Ibberson Government Award by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation at the West Shore Country Club in Camp Hill. The award was sponsored by Chesapeake Energy and is given annually to recognize achievements in the stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and state forest systems. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation credited Bushkill Township for preserving in excess of 1,000 acres throughout the Bushkill Creek Watershed, working cooperatively with the 1,100-acre Jacobsburg State Park and Environmental Center, as well as for trail planning and development. Bushkill Township Chairman Brien Kocher stated "We work very hard with our open space program and we are glad that the state recognizes that. Within the past five years the Township has worked to preserve the majority of the watershed between Jacobsburg Environmental Center and the Blue Mountain area." Marci Mowery, President of the PA Parks and Forest Foundation, stated "We applaud this progressive township for embracing local lands and incorporating them into their long term planning process. The award was accepted by Supervisor, Jason Smith, who has lead efforts in open space preservation in Bushkill Township.



Marci Mowery-President PA Parks and Forest Foundation, Brian Harris-Township Manager, Jason Smith-Supervisor and a representative from Chesapeake Energy.

Thanks to a grant from the Broadband Technical Assistance Program, Bushkill Township recently unveiled a revised www.bushkilltownship.com which was created by the Township administrative staff and NA Studios located in Northampton. By visiting the newly redesigned website, residents and visitors alike can become more knowledgeable about what Bushkill Township has to offer, including: Township departments and services, meeting dates and minutes, events, and programs. The site also provides downloadable forms, permit applications, and much more. The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors encourage residents to frequent the user-friendly site since it will be updated with important announcements.



## 2014 Capital Improvement Projects

Bushkill Township continued to repair the 57 miles of local roads in 2014. As part of the long term road improvement plan, Round Table Drive and Johnson Road were paved, along with various areas throughout the Township which needed attention. In addition, the Pennsylvania Dirt and Gravel Road Program awarded Bushkill Township a \$30,000 grant to apply a Driving Surface Aggregate to Muschlitz Road in the vicinity of the tributary to Bushkill Creek. In addition to providing a better driving surface, the special aggregate applied has a very high compaction density and will reduce the amount of sediment entering Creek.



The major capital improvement project in 2014 was the construction of an 1,000-ton salt shed. B&B Pole Buildings was awarded the contract, and the project was completed during the spring. Proper use of this new salt shed will dramatically increase the amount of salt the Township can stockpile for winter.

## Winter Reminder

With the 2014-15 winter season right around the corner, we would like to take the opportunity to mention a few important reminders. The main roadways (high traffic areas) are given first priority for salting and plowing. During a heavy snowfall, efforts are focused on the main roadways until they are cleared, after which the secondary roads are treated. Cul-de-sacs are the last to be plowed. Cul-de-sacs are the most difficult to plow and require the greatest amount of time. The Public Works Department prefers to push the snow off the road, leaving cul-de-sacs free from snow piles that could melt and cause icing conditions.

Cars parked on the street become a major problem during inclement winter weather. As the plow goes around the parked vehicles, it leaves piles of snow on the roadway. To avoid this problem, please remove vehicles from the road during snowstorms or when a snow emergency is issued. Residents are reminded that it is illegal to park on the street if there are 2 or more inches of snow.

**Please note that it is illegal to deposit snow into the street from your driveway.**





Bushkill Township residents are reminded that they can drop-off their yard waste at the Township Public Works facility, located at 897 Clearfield Road. Accepted items include leaves, small brush, trimmings, plantings, and Christmas trees. Residents are required to show proof of residency along with the required permit. Permits can be obtained at no cost from the Township building located at 1114 Bushkill Center Road. The First Regional Compost Authority (FRCA) main facility is also open to residents to drop-off brush, wood, wood chips, leaves, and grass clippings (certain rules apply) at the Central Processing Center, 6701 Weaversville Road, Northampton. The FRCA is governed by five (5) local townships and was originally formed to recycle yard waste. More information can be found at [www.frcaweb.org/](http://www.frcaweb.org/). Residents that are unable to transport their leaves for disposal may contact the Bushkill Township Public Works Department at 610.759.2758 to arrange for leaf pick-up.

## Bushkill Township Police Department



Bushkill Township police officer, Scott Dempsey, was promoted to Captain during the Township Board of Supervisors meeting December 5, 2013. Dempsey has spent the past 15 years with the Bushkill Township Police Department, joining as a part-time officer in June 1999 and being transitioned to full-time in January 2000. “This was an important day for the Police Department, as the promotion filled a key leadership position in the organization,” said Bushkill Township Police Chief, Michael McLouth. “I have no doubt that Captain Dempsey will provide strong leadership within the Department and continue to serve the community of Bushkill in a dedicated and professional manner.” Dempsey has served the Department as a Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, DARE Officer, and Detective before being promoted to Corporal in 2010, where he was assigned to supervise patrol shifts and perform the duties of the Department’s records and public information officer.

In January, Officer Nate Correll approached Police Chief Michael McLouth about a project to effectively patrol and respond to emergencies inaccessible to the traditional patrol vehicles used by the Department. The notion was to have a rapid response type vehicle available to provide a preventative patrol and respond to emergencies in areas such as the Township’s trails and parks systems, rural State Gameland areas, and open space areas being acquired by the Township.

“The project was not discussed during the budget process, but we felt the endeavor was an important outreach tool consistent with the Department’s mission of community safety,” said Chief Michael McLouth. The two officers worked together and partnered with several community businesses to raise the money needed to fund the project at no additional expense to taxpayers. The cost of the motorcycle, equipment, and training was entirely supported through generous donations from dedicated community partners. Thank you to National Penn Bank, Giant Food Stores, Muschlitz Excavating, Ted's Used Cars, Midnight Recovery, Bushkill Auto Sales, Evergreen Lake, Kemmerer Graphics, and Blackman’s Cycle Center.



Officers Correll (left) and Abel (right) completed motor officer training on May 21<sup>st</sup> and have begun patrolling parks/trails and other areas in Bushkill Township.

# Bushkill Township's MS4 Program

## Understanding the MS4 Program-What is the MS4 Program?

Untreated or uncontrolled storm water runoff is the number one cause of impairment in our local waterways. Polluted runoff is often transported through municipal drainage systems until it eventually discharges into streams, lakes, and rivers untreated. An MS4, or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, is comprised of drainage systems, including streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels and storm pipes, owned by a state, county, city, town, township, borough or other public entity. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water Phase II regulations require permit coverage for storm water discharges from MS4s, mainly those located in urbanized areas.

**MS4 Programs** are intended to improve our Nation's surface waters by reducing the quantities of pollutants that are picked up by stormwater runoff and transported into the storm sewer systems during rainfall events. As part of the MS4 Program, municipalities hold a permit to discharge stormwater into local waterways. This permit requires the municipalities to implement and maintain a formal Stormwater Management Program that:

- (1) reduces the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent possible;
- (2) protects water quality; and
- (3) satisfies the water quality requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. In Pennsylvania, the MS4 program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The MS4 program has six elements termed "Minimum Control Measures" that when implemented should result in significant reduction in pollutants discharged into receiving streams, wetlands, and other waters. The six Minimum Control Measures and the actions required include the following:

### 1. Public Education and Outreach

Distribute educational materials and conduct outreach to inform citizens about the impacts that stormwater runoff has on water quality.

### 2. Public Participation/Involvement

Provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the stormwater management program or other programs which improve water quality.

### 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Develop and implement a plan to detect and eliminate non-stormwater discharges into stormwater systems.

### 4. Construction Site Runoff Control

Develop, implement, and enforce an erosion and sediment control program for construction site activities of that disturb one acre or greater.

### 5. Post-Construction Runoff Control

Develop, implement, and enforce a program to address discharges of post-construction storm water runoff from new development or redevelopment areas.

### 6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

Develop and implement a program that reduces or prevents pollutant runoff from Township operations. All municipalities should be committed to improving water quality through better management of stormwater runoff. Every resident and business owner can participate in the municipal stormwater program by reducing or preventing pollutant runoff from their own property and by reporting any non-stormwater discharges into the Township's drainage systems.



## Jacobsburg Historical Society



Jacobsburg Historical Society's annual Market Faire & Rendezvous is traditionally held during the last full weekend of October on the grounds of the Boulton Historic Site, located in the southeastern corner of Bushkill Township. This year's event will be open to the public on **Saturday, October 25 from 10AM to 5PM and Sunday, October 26 from 10AM to 3PM**. Parking is available in the field behind the John Joseph Henry House at 402 Henry Road, just off the Belfast Exit of Route 33.

The Market Faire & Rendezvous is family-friendly, with a living history encampment representing many periods of American history, including the Pre-Colonial, Colonial, and Fur Trade Eras. Demon-

strations and events include primitive archery, blacksmithing, black powder demos, children's games, a scavenger hunt, a Market Faire of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> century traders, and individual blanket traders. Demonstrators of Early American Arts & Crafts will present their skills in leatherwork, hornwork, ropemaking, quillwork, shoemaking, and gunmaking near the Nicholas Hawk Gun Shop. Open hearth cooking demonstrations will also be provided in the Summer Kitchen. The Early American Craft Education Center, the John Joseph Henry House Museum, the Nicholas Hawk Log Cabin Workshop, and the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum and Gift Shop will all be open to the public during this event. Please contact the Jacobsburg Historical Society office with any questions or for further information at 610.759.9029, or by email at [Jacobsburg@rcn.com](mailto:Jacobsburg@rcn.com). You can follow the event planning on our website [www.jacobsburghistory.com](http://www.jacobsburghistory.com) or find us on Facebook @ Boulton Historic Site and Jacobsburg Historical Society.

## Northampton County Farmland Preservation

Northampton County currently has 148 farms preserved on approximately 13,782 acres. For those who may be interested in applying to the Farmland Preservation Program, the following information should be helpful. First, you must be enrolled in Bushkill Township's Agricultural Security Area (ASA). If you are not sure if you are in the ASA, contact the Bushkill Township Office or contact the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Office to find out. If you are not in the ASA, there is a simple no-cost application to complete for enrollment. The overall process does take some time, so you would want to enroll as soon as possible. All properties in ASAs will automatically receive an application from our office after November 1 of each year. The application is to be returned to our office no later than 4:00 pm on December 15. A property must meet the following three criteria to even apply to the program:

1. At least 25 acres to qualify for farmland preservation. A tract between 10 and 25 acres may qualify **if** it is contiguous to another preserved farm AND it has at least 10 acres of cropland, grazing or pasture.
2. 50% or more of the property must be in cropland, pasture or grazing, and must be currently in production.
3. 50% of the soils must be Class I-IV soils.



The Northampton County Farmland Preservation Board will review and vote on qualified applications and funding availability, and will expect to notify landowners of their status in March of each year. There is a booklet available with detailed information on the program. If you would like to receive a copy, or if have any questions, please contact the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Office at 610.746.1993.

# Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

Residents are reminded to visit the new Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center located on Belfast Road. The new 9,300 square-foot environmentally-friendly building offers numerous educational programs such as Bat Chats, Owl Prowls, Aquatic Invasive Species and Conservation Workshops, and a Holiday Open House. Call 610.746.2801 or visit [www.DCNR.state.pa.us](http://www.DCNR.state.pa.us) for the most up-to-date information or to register for our programs. Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center office hours are Monday through Friday from 8AM to 4PM. In addition, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources website includes links to every state park in Pennsylvania. According to the DCNR, there are 120 state parks in Pennsylvania on more than 283,000 acres serving approximately 36 million visitors each year. Admission to all Pennsylvania state parks is free, although there are fees charged for use of cabins, marinas, etc. Pennsylvania's 120 state parks offer over 7,000 family campsites, 286 cabins, nearly 30,000 picnic tables, 56 major recreational lakes, 10 marinas, 61 beaches for swimming, 17 swimming pools, and over 1,000 miles (1,600 km) of trails. Go out and get wild.



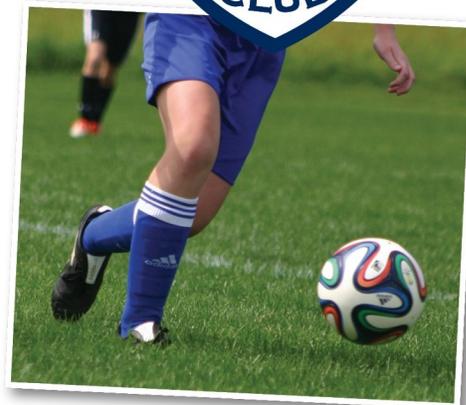
On September 27, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources celebrated National Public Lands Day by planting a variety of native trees and shrubs throughout Jacobsburg State Park. Park Manager, Rob Neitz, stated that “without the volunteers and the Northampton County Junior Conservation School, the event would not have been possible.” Over 150,000 volunteers participated nationwide in recognizing National Public Lands Day.

*Thank You*

to the  
**BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY**  
for being such great supporters of  
**Nazareth Soccer Club**

**2015 Spring Season Registration**  
starts in January

Check us out at [www.nazarethsoccer.org](http://www.nazarethsoccer.org)



**Corporate Sponsorships are currently available. If you are interested, please contact us at [info@nazarethsoccer.org](mailto:info@nazarethsoccer.org). Thank you to all of our current sponsors and volunteers!**

The following is a list of adult programs at the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity, located at 295 East Center Street in Nazareth. For more information, please call 610.759.4932 or visit our website at [www.nazarethlibrary.org](http://www.nazarethlibrary.org). The Library serves the Townships of Bushkill, Lower Nazareth, and Upper Nazareth and the Borough of Nazareth. Please consult the calendar on the Library's website for additional information, including information about our children and teen programs.

- Sit and Knit - second Tuesday of the month throughout the year
- Library Friends - third Tuesday of the month.
- TOPS - every Tuesday evening throughout the year
- November 1 – 4 Barnes & Noble fundraiser
- November 5 – 8 Friends book sale
- November 12 Nazareth Book Group *Goldfinch*
- November 15 Blood drive
- December 7 10,000 Villages fundraiser



## Halloween

Trick-or-Treat will be held Saturday, November 1 from 6-8PM in Bushkill Township. In addition, the surrounding municipalities of Nazareth Borough and Upper Nazareth Township will also be holding Trick or Treat the same evening.



The word Halloween is a shortening of All Hallows' Evening also known as Hallowe'en or All Hallows Eve. As we know, traditional activities include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties, visiting "haunted houses," and carving jack-o-lanterns. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried versions of the tradition to North America in the nineteenth century. Other western countries embraced the holiday in the late twentieth century, including Ireland, the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom, as did the far-off lands of Australia and New Zealand. Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic Festival known as Samhain (pronounced "sah-win"). The festival of Samhain is a celebration of the end of the harvest season in Gaelic culture. Samhain was a time used by the ancient pagans to take stock of supplies and prepare for winter. The ancient Gaels believed that on October 31 the boundaries between the worlds of the living and dead overlapped and the deceased would come back to life and cause havoc such as sickness or damaged crops. Part of the history of Halloween is the practice of dressing up in costumes and begging door-to-door for treats, which goes back to the Middle Ages and includes Christmas wassailing. Trick-or-treating resembles the late medieval practice of "souling," when poor folk would go door-to-door on Hallowmas (November 1), receiving food in return for prayers for the dead on All Souls Day (November 2). "Souling" originated in Ireland and Britain, although similar practices for the souls of the dead were found as far south as Italy.

**Residents are reminded to accompany their children and have a safe and happy Halloween!**

# Bushkill Township Proudly Honors Veterans

---

Our Township's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Veterans Remembrance and Flag Retirement Ceremony was held on Sunday, May 25, a very warm and sunny day. Over 200 people gathered at the Veteran's Memorial Flagpole to honor Veterans, both living and deceased. Thank you to all who worked hard and participated to make this a meaningful and successful event!

The Rev. David Schaeffer, Army Veteran and Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Nazareth, offered the invocation. Guest Speaker, Ruth Harton, a Gold Star Mother whose son, Army Cpl. Joshua A. Harton, was killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2010, offered a very personal and touching remembrance. Ralph E. Brodt III directed the Nazareth Community Band as they provided patriotic music, including a memorable piece remembering the Four Chaplains who gave their lives when the S.S. Dorchester sank off the coast of Greenland in 1943, taking with her 600 of the 904 souls on board.

Other participants included the Northampton County Sheriff's Dept. Honor Guard; the active Veteran's Advocate and the former County Veteran's Director, Ray Greene, who led *The Pledge of Allegiance*; and Lizzi Brodt, who sang a beautiful traditional version of *The National Anthem*. Leaders and members of Boy Scout Troops 44 and 74 and Venture Crew presented a Flag Retirement Ceremony. The program concluded with the Firing Squad Detail of the United States Army Reserve's 744<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion and *Taps*, played by Randy Baxendale.

Many of those present visited the tent where a Veterans Administration representative offered information and conversation. Beth Masiado and volunteers presented STARS for Our Troops (a special star with thanks to Veterans, as well as active duty and reserve troops). Greeting cards were available for signing for delivery to Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center and Home on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2014.

Mark your calendar for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual ceremony on Sunday, May 24, 2015. Special thanks is extended to Bill Brackbill and Susan Kirk!



## Veteran's Memorial Highway—Stars for Our Troops

Bushkill Center Road will receive an honorary designation as VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, thanks to a bill presented by State Representative Marcia Hahn, at the request of Bill Brackbill and members of the 2013 Anniversary Committee and the Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors. There will be two signs installed on Bushkill Center Road, one just south of State Route 512 and one near the intersection of Cherry Hill Road near The Missing Piece store. Residents are welcome to join Representative Hahn for the unveiling and dedication at the sign near State Route 512 at 1PM on Monday, November 10, 2014.

In addition, the Stars For Our Troops program is designed to thank and recognize Veterans, as well as active duty and reserve troops, for their service to our country. Beth Masiado of Bethlehem receives flags that are no longer suitable to fly, removes the cantons, and cuts out the STARS point to point. The remainder of the flags, including scraps and even threads, are put aside for proper disposal by burning. It is a very respectful process. Each STAR is placed in a small container bag with a card that reads "I am a part of our American Flag. I have flown over a home in the USA. I can no longer fly, for the sun and wind have caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder—*You are not forgotten!*"

Bushkill Township is proud to support this program by agreeing to accept flags at the Township office. You may also request STARS to be presented or mailed to your Veteran or active duty service member. To date, Masiado and her volunteers have distributed over 12,000 STARS to groups and individuals. For more details call the Township office or e-mail Beth Masiado at [bmasiado@msn.com](mailto:bmasiado@msn.com).

## HERITAGE COMMITTEE BOOTH

Maybe you saw it? Maybe you wondered what it was all about? Maybe it provided you with some helpful information you did not know? What is it? It's the Bushkill Township Heritage Committee's new "Promotional Booth," displayed at various area events to promote Bushkill Township and what it has to offer. The Heritage Committee is a spin-off of the Bicentennial Planning Committee of 2013 comprised of several members who decided to continue promoting the Township beyond the focus of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The booth is entitled "200 Years of Progress" and was purchased with leftover funds raised for the bicentennial. In addition to both current and historical information about Bushkill Township, the booth displays vintage photos of the Township and sells copies of the popular "History of Bushkill Township, Pennsylvania 1813-2007," by James A. Wright and the 2013 "Past Memories" Anniversary Fundraising Calendar, now considered a collectors item. The Heritage Committee also held a successful dinner-dance in March that featured Tracy Lee and the Ravine Road Band and a historical slide-show presented by local historian, Darrell Mengel, so that our community could come together in an enjoyable social setting. Look for the committee's promotional booth at area events such as Nazareth Day, the Vol. Fire Co. Carnival, Election Day at the school, and perhaps a few other venues.

If you vote at Bushkill Elementary School be sure to stop by the tent provided by members of The Heritage Committee on election day (Tuesday, November 4). Greeting cards for Veterans will be available for signing. Bill and Nancy Brackbill will deliver them to the Wilkes-Barre VA on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2014.



**BUSINESS NAME**

Primary Business Address  
Your Address Line 2  
Your Address Line 3  
Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
E-mail: someone@example.com

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

*Inside this Issue: PA Parks & Forest Award, FRCA, Capital Improvement Projects, [www.bushkilltownship.com](http://www.bushkilltownship.com), Stormwater Management, and more...*

## Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors

Townships are among the oldest political subdivisions in Pennsylvania and are the most common form of municipal government. The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors are elected to six-year terms of office. Supervisors play the central role in local government and are responsible for providing emergency services, recreational opportunities, enacting ordinances, formulating and adopting budgets, approving expenditures, hiring employees, and guiding the future of the Township. The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors is committed to making Bushkill Township a great place to reside and raise a family.

*Photo (left to right): Rear—Jason Smith, Harrison Kline; Front—Julie Bender, Brien Kocher, and Carolyn Hill*



Board of Supervisors

Brien Kocher, Chairman; Jason Smith, Vice Chairman; Julie Bender; Carolyn Hill; and Harrison Kline.

Brian Harris, Township Manager; Gary Asteak, Solicitor; and Robert Collura, Engineer

Municipal Building	610-759-1250	Public Works	610-759-2758
Police Department	610-759-9588	Zoning Office	610-759-7197
Non Emergency	610-759-2200	State Senator Browne	610-502-1567
Emergency	911	Northampton County	610-559-3100