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PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW BUS TOUR
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COUNTRY FARM & HOME CRAFT FAIR
Sat, March 14, 10am-3pm
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GARDEN TEA PARTY
Sat, March 28, 11am-1pm
Adults...\$20, Children (under 13)...\$15
A Fun, Formal Tea...in the Gardens
Mothers & Daughters, Grandmothers,
Aunts & Friends!
Benefits Kelsey's Dream Chemo Duck,
Spring "QUACK ATTACK"

Gardening Workshops

VEGETABLE GARDENING...FREE
Saturday, April 4, 10am
Joel Imgrund, PSU Extension

GARDEN COMPOSTING...FREE
Saturday, April 18, 10am
Penn State Extension

SPICE IT UP WITH HERBS...FREE
Saturday, April 25, 10am
Penn State Master Gardener

"Make & Take" Classes

HERB GARDEN PLANTER...\$40
Tuesday, April 28, 7pm

PATIO PLANTER...\$40
Tuesday, May 5, 7pm

BUTTERFLY PLANTER...\$40
Tuesday, May 12, 7pm

SUN SPOT PLANTER...\$40
Tuesday, May 19, 7pm

COUNTRY FARM & HOME Gift and Garden Center
Rt 45 Mifflinburg 570.966.4030

March 2009

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Mifflinburg



NEWS & VIEWS

published monthly by the Mifflinburg Heritage and Revitalization Association

Buy Local By Larry Mitchell, MHRA President

With the present economic slump it is more important than ever to shop with local merchants. Our Commonwealth, as well as many of the other states, have a crisis on their hands that is brought on by decreased spending and worker layoffs that impact heavily on the tax base that the Commonwealth and local Government depends on to fund operations. By buying local you insure that the money stays in our communities and recycles for the good of all. Each community has a vast reservoir of money available to spend on goods such as groceries, clothing, and services. How that money is spent can affect the whole welfare of that community and its future.

I first studied this problem with the Pennsylvania Rural Leadership team in better times and found the following results:

Velocity of Money – Let's say you spend a dollar for a meal at a locally owned restaurant or for produce from a local farmer. That dollar may be re-spent by that person to buy a book at a local bookstore, that person may then spend it to have her hair done at a local salon, etc. The dollar buys many things as it circulates through the local economy. With Big Box stores most of the money is taken and shipped to a corporate office far from the community where it was spent. This money will no longer help the community where it originated. It is spent once and gone. Many communities have fought back by issuing their own currencies. This local money can be bought at a discount and spent at local businesses. Ithaca, New York has been a leader in this strategy and has had great success with "Ithaca Dollars." The threat to local economies has become much greater with the advent of the Big Box "one stop shop" stores that offer everything from groceries to oil changes.

When is a Bargain Not a Bargain – Buyer beware. Most Big Box stores contract with National Brand companies to buy products that can be inferior. Recently there was an article about a Big Box store's contract with a famous blue jeans manufacturer. The Big Box would only pay a low amount for a pair of jeans so the manufacturer is going to produce their product with a lighter weight cloth for that seller. Can you buy the Brand Name jeans cheaper at that store? Yes. Is the quality the same? No! This practice has become especially common in Big Box stores selling building supplies. The Brand Name faucet you just bought for big savings at the Big Box may have been manufactured specifically for that company without the same reliable parts that it would have elsewhere. The Big Box store has special ordered the expensive shell with cheap insides. Will the Big Box store willingly tell you that the product is different from a similar unit at another store? No! But it is cheaper in price – and in quality.

False Economy – With gas prices fluctuating using a gallon of gas traveling to a Big Box store may be false economy. The present mileage reimbursement for the State of Pennsylvania is almost fifty-cents a mile. This is the amount that the State figures it costs to buy, maintain, and gas a vehicle. So a twenty-mile round trip costs about ten dollars. That is probably a whole lot more than going to a merchant three blocks away where you may be surprised to find a very competitive price too.

Where Local Merchants Excel – Local merchants very often have a much greater selection of merchandise than the Big Box. The Big Box stores may have all the books that are currently best sellers but they won't have much else. If you are a hunter with an odd caliber rifle don't waste your time with the big stores. They will only have the most common ammunition. Local merchants almost always beat the Box Stores with their service. You can actually get to know the owner and they will actually get to know you. If you need to get a hard to find item they will order it for you. Don't try that at a Big Box store. Local merchants will frequently service what they sell and will always try to ensure that you are happy with your purchase.

Make A Difference – We can all make a difference in our local community if we just think before we buy. Can you get the product or services locally? Spending your dollars at local merchants will help to keep them anchored in your community. It will help fill up the vacant downtown storefronts. It re-circulates the money in your community where it can do the most good. It will help make your town a vibrant and vital place where people are proud to live. ■

MARCH Calendar of Events

- Every Wed. Club 39-Senior Center
2 - 4pm Union Co. Gov. Bldg.
- Mon., Mar. 2 Charles Cool Snyder Dinner
& Buggy Museum Mtg.
Call Buggy Museum 966-1355
- Tues., Mar. 3 MHRA Board Meeting
7pm 300 Chestnut
- Thurs., Mar. 5 First Thursday Bingo
6pm Buggy Museum
- Thurs., Mar. 5 Christkindl Committee
7pm 300 Chestnut
- Fri., Mar. 6 Blood Drive
9am- 1:30pm MAHS
- Fri., Mar. 6 Spring Open House
thru Sat., Mar. 28 Country Farm & Home
- Sat., Mar. 7 Home Gardeners' School
8:30am- 3:50pm HS Auditorium
- Sat., Mar. 7 Recycling
8am-11am Industrial Parkway
- Sun., Mar. 8 Daylight Savings begins
- Tues., Mar. 10 PMI
7pm Ranney's on Saratoga
- Mon., Mar. 16 Shade Tree Commission
7pm Borough Hall
- Tues., Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Tues., Mar. 17 Planning Commission
4:30pm Borough Hall
- Tues., Mar. 17 Borough Council
7pm Borough Hall
- Wed., Mar. 18 Blood Drive
1 - 7pm Carriage Corner
- Thurs., Mar. 19 Cancer Society Daffodil Sale
- Sat., Mar. 21 5 locations (see inside)
Mon -Fri Mar.16-21
only the Curves location
- Mon., Mar. 30 School in session
(3rd snow makeup day)

Save the dates:
Spring Musical
Thurs., April 2, Fri., Apr 3 & Sat., Apr. 4
MAHS Auditorium 7:30pm



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MISSION STATEMENT

MHRA exists to help promote and maintain a supportive environment where business, community and government work together to foster growth and development, while preserving Mifflinburg's historic past.

Email: mhra@dejazzd.com



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Mifflinburg News & Views
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BOROUGH BUSINESS...

be in the know

by Steve Benner & Margaret Metzger

Regular Street Sweeping to Resume

With spring just around the corner, it is time to get rid of the grunge and grime of winter. Street sweeping has resumed and all residents are reminded to follow the posted parking schedules along Borough streets. Weather permitting, we will be following the regular schedule. Residents can also help out with spring beautification by taking time to sweep sidewalks and by removing the remnants of old man winter: left over leaf debris, sticks, and anti-skid material. ■

Early Warning

The Borough has been informed that PennDOT has set a tentative bid date of March 2012 for the complete reconstruction of Route 45 between Forest Hill Rd. and 8th St. Why is this being planned so far in advance, you might ask?

The project is huge. A complete road reconstruction will entail the removal of the parabolic concrete that is under the existing pavement and was installed between 1920-1930 and used as road surface for many years. This concrete, which is now under many layers of pavement, has deteriorated and cracked. The cracks in this underlying concrete are what cause the existing pavement to deteriorate so quickly.

The Borough will be pursuing a cooperative project with PennDOT to replace/relocate water lines, sewer lines, storm water facilities, curbs and sidewalks as part of this state road improvement. And, I must mention shade trees; many are overgrown (beyond the curbline) and will have to be replaced. Prepare your minds for a different looking Chestnut Street! There is no doubt that the mess in our downtown will be large for quite some time during this project. However, the potential for improvement is also quite large.

There is a lot of analysis to do before the construction. The Borough will be determining the viability of existing infrastructure, budgeting, planning, and designing. It is our intent to keep you updated as the scope of this big project progresses. ■

Recycling Center: A Volunteer Community Service

Diligent volunteers braved the -11°F weather on January 17th to help residents off-load and deposit recyclables. The recycling center is manned by volunteers on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 8 to 11am. You can help make this operation efficient by having your recyclables sorted before you arrive.

The following items are accepted if they are clean, sorted, and dumped in the correct roll-off dumpsters without the plastic bag: #1 Plastic Bottles; #2 Plastic Bottles (no tubs, plates, cat litter containers, yogurt cups, lids etc.); Glass Bottles; Clear, Blue-green, and Brown (no plate glass or dishes); Corrugated Cardboard (no paste board or cereal-type boxes); Aluminum Cans; Magazines; Office paper; Newspaper; and Bi-metal cans (clean and separated from aluminum cans).

Again, do not put plastic bags in the recycling roll-off containers. The volunteers have the right and the authority to reject any/all materials if these rules are not followed. If you have any questions or need more explanation on the operation of the recycling center, please contact the Borough office. ■

An Important word from Chief Bickhart

SPECIFIC EFFECTS DRUGS HAVE ON THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Drugs affect the various areas of the brain and change normal brain activity. It is important to know what specific functions are located in each of the major brain areas, to better understand the effects of drugs and alcohol on behavior and functioning.

A. Hypothalamus: The hypothalamus regulates homeostasis, the body's system for keeping itself balanced. This includes: sleep and wake cycles, hunger, thirst, sexual behavior, blood pressure, and temperature. Also, the hypothalamus determines what part of the body are affected by analgesics and regulates hormonal impulses and emotions.

B. Medulla: The medulla is responsible for head balance, movement, and assisting the hypothalamus in regulating automatic body functions.

C. Cerebral Cortex: The cerebral cortex contains half of the nervous system's cells, which regulates the speed and vomiting reflexes. It is also responsible for language, abstract thinking, personality, and interpretation of emotion and sensory information, including judgment.

D. Cerebellum: The cerebellum is responsible for coordination of muscles, maintenance of balance, and specific memory and learning system functions that are not to one part of the brain.

Part 6 will cover the different drug categories.

Senior Center Happenings

Club 39, Mifflinburg's Senior Center, will meet every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4pm on the second floor of the Union Cty. Gov't. Bldg. and is open to all seniors. Scheduled Wed. programs are: Business Meeting & Commissioners (3/4), Bingo (3/11), Program: Mt. Climbing with Rev. Lahr (3/18), and Fun & Games, and birthdays (3/25). Other events: Breakfast out at the Turnpike Restaurant, 8:30am (Thurs. 3/12); Book Club, Herr Library, 11am (Thurs. 3/19); Dinner out, The Forest House, 5pm (Thurs. 3/19); and Bus Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse (Thurs. 3/26, 7:45am departure). For more information call Glen or Ruth Zimmerman at 966-0197. ■



Mifflinburg Club 39 Senior Citizens recently presented two \$500 donations— one to the Mifflinburg Hose Company and the other to the Ambulance Association. Pictured (l. to r.) are Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Schure; John Ford, Club 39 Treasurer; Carol Grove, President of the Ladies Auxiliary and Lieutenant of the Ambulance Association; and Glen Zimmerman, President of Club 39. ■

Mifflinburg Business Opportunities...



This property has so much to offer! Located on the 300 block of Chestnut St. Mifflinburg, it's in the heart of town. The huge storefront would be ideal for retail— crafts, decorating center, floral shop, book store, etc., etc.. Other uses would include office space, medical/dental office, etc. The front and back can be used separately or in conjunction with each other. Use the space you need and rent out the rest!!! Motivated Seller. Call Renee Vonada or any Villager agent! 523-3244 **\$79,000.** ■



Located in the heart of Mifflinburg at 357 Chestnut Street, this wonderful 19th century building was formerly used as an antique shop and is rich in history and character. It has over 10 rooms of space and parking in the rear. Tremendous amount of possibilities and potential! Let your creative imagination flow. Call Keith Robertson or any ReMax Agent at 966-9999. **\$74,900.** ■



Historic Building Office Space: corner office or retail space, is available at 500 Chestnut St., the former Commercial Hotel, now known as the Buffalo Valley Inn. It has four open rooms with two bay windows, half bath and storage closets, front and rear entrance, over 1,150 sq. ft. with front windows on main street. Hardwood floors are refinished. Municipal parking lot borders property. The space is zoned for commercial or retail. Aside from electricity, all utilities including heat are included in rent which is approx. \$710 per month depending on use. Inquiries, call: 966-3373. ■

Other Mifflinburg Properties are Also for Sale or Rent :

An almost new commercial building on Hardees Dr., that housed the **Villa Roma** restaurant. This large building is a total of 8,000 sq. ft. Two baths. \$635,000. A **historic home and office** property (3 bath) located next door to the Scarlet D on Chestnut St. Price reduced \$126,900. The **Mifflinburg Lumber and Supply building** on Mulberry at 4th (historic Mifflinburg railroad station with additions) 11,026 sq. ft., 2 bath, \$349,000 (ML&S is relocating to just east of town on rte. 45). For information on these three properties, call Tim Brouse at Villager Realty, 523-3244.

120-122 E. Walnut, another almost new building, 4,800 square feet, 2 baths, lots of parking. \$225,000. Call owner Frank Reber, 523-6999

For Rent: The Rishel Meats Building on 8th St. and Walnut (formerly Teresa's hair and nail salon). 1,600 square feet, 1 bath, \$710 - depending on usage (lots of perks) Call Bill or Debbie Wagner, 374 9857.

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes!!!

Here comes tax time! It always seems just when you think you understand those forms, the I.R.S. goes and changes thing! If the frustration has got you down, maybe having your taxes done for you is the right move. It is not expensive and often a qualified professional will find ways to save you money that you would never have thought of. Here are some Mifflinburg neighbors you can count on to help you out at tax time: H&R Block, 966-4211; Gingrich, 374-4956; and Mathison, 966-0612. ■

MIFFLINBURG HOMEOWNERS— GET REPAIR HELP

The Union County Housing Authority has a new program that may be able to help, if you live in the Borough and meet the income guidelines. Priority will be given to the elderly. Annual maximum family income limits: \$33,050 (one person), \$37,750 (2 persons), \$42,500 (3 persons), \$47,200 (4 persons), \$51,000 (5 persons). Call 522-1300 for info., further details, and to request an application. ■

Around Town...

Bald Eagle Brewing Company— Mifflinburg extends a warm welcome to its latest new business "The Bald Eagle Brewing Company." The Bald Eagle Brewing Company is located at 315 Chestnut St. and is owned and operated by Tom and Brenda Sweet. The Bald Eagle Brewing Company provides ingredients and equipment to the home Beer Brewer, wine and soda maker. It is their goal to provide the best possible customer service to you. If you are new - great! They will help you get started with free monthly classes of 4 to 6 people. If you already enjoy making your own beer and wine, they do their very best to offer quality ingredients and supplies at competitive prices. If you don't see the products you are looking for, please ask and they will do their best to quickly respond to your request. Over the years they have developed a particular affinity for brewers of Belgium beer. If you would like more information, or would like to send in your favorite ingredients list, send an email to info@baldeaglebrewingco.com. They hope to open April 1 and will have regular store hours and hours by appointment.

Lawton Insurance (Erie Insurance) has moved its Mifflinburg office down the street to 225 E. Chestnut, across from Sheetz. The phone number remains the same 966-3145.

The Buggy Museum will hold its annual **Charles Cool Snyder Dinner** and museum meeting on March 2 at the La Primavera Restaurant. Call the museum for reservations 966-1355.

Blanket Making, March 19, 10am - 2pm and April 15th, 10am - 2pm — Kelsey's Dream will be making blankets for Children receiving bone marrow transplants at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Blanket making will be at Hoover's Bernina in Mifflinburg. They are in need of fabric donations and volunteers to help make blankets. Please let them know if you are interested in helping, by calling 966-4605 or email tlkuhns@dejazzd.com. For more information visit www.kelseysdream.org

The annual **Cancer Society Daffodil Sale** will take place M-F (March 16th-20th) at Curves 1-5pm and at CVS, Mifflinburg Post Office, Mifflinburg Bank & Trust and Greenridge Market Th-Sat. (March 19-21). For those who would like to pre-order, please call Curves at 966-1196 or Sally Rothermel at 966-0623. Bunches of cut flowers are \$10. The annual collector's Boyd's Bear "Carrie N. Hope" can be purchased for \$25, the collector's vase (purple) for \$15 and a mini pot of daffodils to plant for \$12. Purchase of the vase and bear includes a bunch of daffodils.

The restaurant alternative: Two organizations in town offer tasty meals on Friday evenings that are open to the public. **The American Legion** on Chestnut (across from the fire hall) serves delicious haddock dinners on Friday from 5-9pm and three other dinner choices plus burgers are always on the menu. **The Moose** (the south side of Chestnut in the 400 block) also serves Friday evening meals to the public from 5-7pm. Each Friday there is a special (in March: 3/6 chicken parmesan, 3/13 shepherds pie, 3/20 pork & sauerkraut, 3/27 beef potpie) plus haddock and a regular menu of fried chicken, burgers and other sandwich items. ■