



THANK YOU...

The Christkindl Committee chairpersons would like to thank the committee and the many additional people who volunteered their time, talents and underwriting dollars to make the 2009 Market so successful. THANK YOU, sincerely.

—Paula Christy and Joannah Skucek, chairpersons

If you enjoyed the market this year, consider joining the committee. The committee is open to everyone and new members are always needed. The committee meets year round on the first Thursday of the month at the MHRA office, 300 Chestnut (the corner of Chestnut and 3rd streets) at 7pm. The next meeting is Thursday, January 7th at 7pm.

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THANK YOU TO THE BOROUGH OF MIFFLINBURG AND THE BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORTED MIFFLINBURG'S MAIN STREET PROGRAM WITH A 2009 BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP IN THE MIFFLINBURG HERITAGE & REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION (MHRA).

Without you, the program, its events, its grant programs, this newsletter and many other worthy projects would cease to exist. —The MHRA Board of Directors

A+ Office Outlet, Richard Allen Ameriprise Financial, American Legion, Applied Computer Systems, Bald Eagle Brewing Company, Barb's Bouquet & Gifts, Barbra J. Wagner, DMD, Betsy Robertson Public Relations, Big Earl's Bike Shop, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Lawton Insurance/Erie Insurance, Cole's Hardware, Contrast Communications, Curves, Country Farm & Home, DBA Nu Look Driveway, Design Tiles, Keith Dunlap/State Farm Insurance, Rishel Meats, Gingrich & Associates, Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, Green Ridge Market, Griffith Development, Herr Memorial Library, David Holman DPM, John Holmes DMD, HL Klose & Sons, McDonalds, the Mifflinburg Masonic Lodge No. 370 F&AM, M&T Bank, MDJL Computers, Mifflinburg Bank & Trust, Mifflinburg Kiwanis, Mifflinburg Telegraph, Mifflinburg Massage, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Pompeii Soap Co., Preservation Mifflinburg Inc. (PMI), Projects by Peggy, Raymer & Sons, Ritz-Craft, Rishel's Meats, Schwartz - Adamo Funeral and Cremation Service, Ritz-Craft, Runkle Insurance, Showers Technology, Snyder, Ritz-Craft, Standard-Journal Newspapers, Union and Mifflin Child Development, Subway, Swineford Bank, Troy Berkheiser Productions, Tuxes 'n Tunes, and Dr. Paul Vidunas DMD.

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Mifflinburg



NEWS & VIEWS

published monthly by the Mifflinburg Heritage and Revitalization Association

Two of Mifflinburg's Top Educators Move On

Barry Tomasetti has resigned his position as Superintendent of the Mifflinburg Area School District to move on to the much larger Kennett Consolidated School District, outside of Philadelphia and Sharon Koppel has announced her retirement as Executive Director of SUM Child Development in March of 2010. Both will be missed and both accomplished much during their tenure here in Mifflinburg. News & Views asked each to share with the community two accomplishments they were most pleased to have been able to make happen in their positions here in Mifflinburg.

From Barry Tomasetti:

As a school district we have seen our students' academic achievements skyrocket over the past several years. They have become better readers, writers, mathematicians and overall better problem solvers. The success we've enjoyed has been possible only because of the hard work and commitment of many people. I feel privileged to have played a role in that success. But it truly has been a team effort, involving the school board, administrators, teachers, clerical personnel, cafeteria workers, maintenance staff, bus drivers - everyone associated with Mifflinburg Area schools, as well as parents and most importantly the students who have met the challenges that we have set before them.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity to come to Mifflinburg. Leaving is difficult, not only because of the dedicated educators and board members with whom I've worked, but also because of the friends my family and I have made here, and because of the many caring, friendly people in this community. I wish only the best for Mifflinburg Area School District. I look forward to following the continued success that your staff and students are bound to achieve.

From Sharon Koppel:

Two accomplishments, I am particularly pleased to have made happen are:
1) Creatively and cost effectively blending the different programs and funding streams for quality early care and education services. Families' needs don't separate into individual programs. In Snyder Union and Mifflin counties families can receive blended Head Start and Child Care services, or blended Early Intervention and Head Start services...or some other blend, whatever a family needs. SUMCD eliminates the administrative barriers and brings the appropriate combination of services to the child and family. We've done this by thinking "outside the box" and I've had the honor of leading SUMCD in these systems' changes which have resulted in SUMCD being one of the most innovative organizations in the state.

2) Creating a new network of "friends" of early childhood education in our communities through several facility building projects which brought together local businesses, community and health organizations, banks, universities, and more to build state-of-the art facilities for high quality early care and education.

Other thoughts on my time at SUMCD... For 28 years I have worked with the best group of employees who, sometimes reluctantly but always enthusiastically, followed me into uncharted territory as we tried things and pursued projects that others in the early care and education field would never think to do. We have built an exceptional system of services and an outstanding organization, together. Our organizational culture rewards creativity and innovation while providing support and guidance to always seek excellence. We eat, drink, walk, talk and live our mission: "Building the future through early care and education...one family at a time." I have been blessed to have spent my professional career with the SUMCD family, doing something that has been so satisfying and enjoyable.

The five programs we manage are: Head Start, Early Head Start, Community Child Care, Project PEEK, and the Child Care Information Service. Our budget is just over \$12,000,000; 280 employees; 25 service/office sites; serve about 2800 children each year; overseen by a 13 member Board of Directors.

Through News & Views, it is a privilege to thank Barry Tomasetti and Sharon Koppel for their service and dedication to the youth of our area. We were very fortunate to have had both of you at the head of very important parts of our educational program. ■

JANUARY Calendar of Events

- Fri., Jan. 1 **New Year's Day**
No School
- Sat., Jan. 2 **Recycling**
8-11am Industrial Pkwy.
- Mon., Jan. 4 **Schools Reopen**
- Club 39 **Union Co. Gov. Bldg, 2nd flr.**
Every Wed./ 2-4pm All seniors welcome
- Tues., Jan. 5 **MHRA Board Meeting**
7pm 300 Chestnut
- Thurs., Jan. 7 **Christkindl Committee**
7pm 300 Chestnut
- Tues., Jan. 12 **School Board Meeting**
7:30pm Admin. Bldg.
- Tues., Jan. 12 **Blood Drive**
1-7pm BV Ch. Of the Brethren
- Tues., Jan. 12 **Garden Club**
9:30am 300 Chestnut
- Wed., Jan. 13 **House Tour Meeting**
8pm 300 Chestnut
- Wed., Jan 13 **PMI**
7pm Ranney's on Saratoga
- Sat., Jan. 16 **Recycling**
8-11am Industrial Parkway
- Mon., Jan. 18 **Shade Tree Commission**
7pm Borough Hall
- Mon., Jan. 18 **Snow Make-up Day**
- Tues., Jan. 19 **Planning Commission**
4:30pm Borough Hall
- Tues., Jan. 19 **Borough Council**
7pm Borough Hall

Remember to shovel
snow from sidewalks promptly
—it's the law.



Enjoy
the
magic
of
Winter!

**MIFFLINBURG
HERITAGE AND REVITALIZATION
ASSOCIATION**

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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



Preserve the Past — Prepare for the Future

300 Chestnut Street
Mifflinburg, PA 17844
• 570-966-1666 •

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BOROUGH BUSINESS...

be in the know by Steve Benner

Leaf Collection is Finished

As of Fri., Dec. 4, curbside leaf collection by Borough employees has ended. If you were not able to meet this deadline and still have leaf waste, you are requested to make your own arrangements remove and discard the remaining leaves. If you need guidance or information in obtaining a location to dispose of your remaining leaves, personnel at the Borough office can assist you. ■

Christmas Tree Drop-Off

All residents wishing to dispose of their "real" Christmas tree after the holiday season are requested to place the tree on the east side of Industrial Parkway adjacent to the Borough equipment center. The trees will be chipped and donated as mulch. Please note that only "real" tree disposal is permitted without bags, ornaments, or other material attached. Anyone suspected of or caught using this location as a junk drop-off site will be subject to the penalties of the littering law. ■

How to Change your Electric Bill (Part III)

As mentioned in last month's article regarding electric utility rates, this month's article will focus on the Borough's rate structure and how it impacts the operation of the Borough. Unlike most municipalities, Mifflinburg does not generate operating money through millage based property owner taxation of real estate. Most of the Borough's general operating revenue is however generated through the wholesale purchase and resale of electricity within the Borough.

This method of revenue generation differs from tax based revenue generation on two primary principles.

Number 1: as opposed to millage-based taxation of real estate, electric consumption and therefore the amount you pay to the Borough is ultimately in the hands of you, the property owner. In essence, through using the conservation measures discussed in previous articles, you as an electric customer, can, to a certain degree control the amount of operating money provided to the Borough through your electric bill.

Number 2: as opposed to real estate tax revenue; the Borough's operating cash flow can change greatly with changes in local economic conditions. The growth or decline of large electric customers can and does reduce the monetary flow for the general operating budgets. When industry and commercial activity slows down within the Borough, the operating funds suffer.

Therefore, the support of community based improvements and local economic development to keep viable business within Mifflinburg is another way to offset the need for electric rate increases or a reduction in community services for individual residents. ■

Street and Right-of-Way Tree Trimming

As soon as conditions become right... frozen ground with minimal snow cover, it will be time for the Borough electric crew to begin trimming back tree growth that is infringing upon our electric transmission lines, street lights, street signs, and general traffic flow (truck clearances) along municipal streets. We will also be working in rights-of-way located behind businesses and homes. Certainly, our primary goal in this project is to eliminate potential problems before they occur.

If you desire to have this necessary work performed at your expense by a professional tree service, please notify the Borough office at your earliest convenience. You will then be required to complete the trimming by April 30, 2010. Additionally, Borough shade trees are governed under the laws and authority of the Borough Shade Tree Commission. If you have any questions or wish to obtain a permit, please call Juergen Seefeldt, Shade Tree Commission Chairman (966-0483). ■

Important Words from Chief Bickhart

511 PA HAS LAUNCHED

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) rolled out 511PA, the round-the-clock traveler information service designed specifically for motorists and commuters. Users can access the system by dialing "511" from cellular phones or typing www.511pa.com on the Internet. 511PA provides free, automated, on-demand access to pertinent traveler information, including traffic conditions, roadway incident reports, traffic delay warnings, construction updates, weather forecasts, winter road conditions, tourism and special events data and transit and rideshare information. Near real-time traffic speed information is available on interstate highways and other roads in key urban areas.

The 511PA network covers more than 2,500 linear miles of roads across the commonwealth, including the interstate system, the Pennsylvania turnpike, and major non-interstate roadways in Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Users may also set up free personalized travelers alerts in order to receive customized traffic information and alerts based on their personal preferences. Registration is simple. To register go to www.511pa.com and select the "Personalized Alerts".

You don't have to be on the road to dial 511! Many users choose to access 511PA before they head out the door. If you're at home or in the office check www.511pa.com before you leave.

Always travel safely. Never use a hand-held cell phone while driving. Instead have a passenger dial 511, or use a hands-free accessory so that you can keep both hands on the wheel. Better yet, call when you are stopped at a safety rest area. Always remember, **SAFETY FIRST.** ■

Senior Center Happenings

Mifflinburg's Club 39 made donations at Christmas time to the Mifflinburg Food Bank (\$200), Toys for Tots (\$100), the Herr Memorial Library (\$100) and the Daily Item Christmas Fund (\$200).

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. Building. Scheduled Wednesday programs are: Business Meeting and a program on Mountain Climbing (1/6), Bingo (1/13), Program: Angela Haines (1/20), Fun & Games & Birthdays (1/28). Also in January is Breakfast at the Turnpike Restaurant (Thurs. 1/14, 8:30am), Book Club, (Thurs.1/21,11am Herr Library), and early bird dinner at Carriage Corner (Thurs. 1/22, 2pm). If you are a senior, come enjoy the fun, you will be glad you did. For more information call president Glen Zimmerman, 966-0197 or Gen Dreese 966-2745. ■

Mifflinburg Ambulance Makes Changes

The Mifflinburg Community Ambulance will be making changes to their staffing starting on January 1. At this time the Mifflinburg Ambulance is staffed 24 hours a day with a two person EMT crew that is contracted through Evangelical Community Hospital. Beginning January 1, the staffing through ECH will change to one EMT and one paramedic. This will enable a more advanced level of care to be provided to the community. A paramedic is able to provide advanced life support such as cardiac monitoring, IV medications, etc. Those residents in the Mifflinburg Ambulance's current coverage area should have received their annual fund drive donation in the mail at the end of November. This membership will cover both basic life support and advanced life support services. Community members will no longer need to purchase a separate membership through Evangelical Community Hospital Paramedics Department. Mifflinburg Ambulance will continue to have a second ambulance available that will be staffed by volunteers and EMTs. Due to these changes the area that the ambulance is covering will expand to include West End, New Berlin, and a small portion of Snyder County. This will mean an increase in calls. Volunteers are always needed to help provide coverage for the second ambulance. Volunteers are needed who are willing to complete either driver training or an EMT class. There is an upcoming EMT class in Lewisburg beginning in mid January. Interested volunteers can contact Stacy Mast at 966-6880. ■

Around Town...

Another new business for Mifflinburg. **Mellie's Chicken Shack** will open in mid- January. It is located in the video store complex. All home-cooked food, centered around fried chicken prepared from a secret family recipe, passed down to Melanie. Side dishes will include real mashed potatoes, home-made macaroni and cheese, and more. Wings and chicken sandwiches will also be available. Hours will be M-Th. 10:30am – 7pm, Fri.& Sat. 10am-8pm and Sun. 11:30am – 6pm. Pictured above are (l to r) Bill Newcomer, Melanie Deppen and her husband James.



Mifflinburg Massage is introducing its new website www.mifflinburgmassage.weebly.com Mifflinburg Massage is located at 110 Chestnut St. in the ambulance / REMAX complex. Walk-ins are also welcomed. Beyond a standard massage, the business offers specialty massages such as massage using hot stones, a sports massage, massage for pregnant women, reflexology, and Ashiatsu, (means foot pressure). Call 966-3513, a staff member will be happy to explain the offerings for you. Mifflinburg Massage has three licensed therapists— Lisa Harvey, Sharon Brown, and Joanna Beiler, all are graduates of Mt. Nittany Institute of Natural Health.

With the Holiday Events in Mifflinburg some very nice prizes were awarded. **The Christkindl Raffle prize of two round-trip tickets to Germany was won by Earl Bumbaugh of Mount Union.**

The Mifflinburg Garden Club handled the **Decorate the Doors of Mifflinburg for the Holidays Contest. The financial underwriter was the Mifflinburg Heritage & Revitalization Association (MHRA).** The contest took place Sunday evening, Dec. 13 This year's winners were: Traditional- Kevin Shafer, 410 Buggy Lane and the runner up was Eugene Manbeck, 514 Old Orchard Lane; Original – Cara & Bob Brouse, 206 Walnut and the runner up was Tom Raymer, 254 Green Street; Whimsical – Brandon Chappell, 10 Walnut and the runner up was Michael Kainsbauer, 8 Bogar Lane. Noted were neighborhoods: 200 block of Walnut, the 600 block of Walnut and Maple Street. First place winners received \$25 gift certificates to Country Farm and Home. ■

If you did not receive your membership form in the mail or misplaced it, please use this handy form below.

clip & mail
If you do not receive a membership form or misplace yours, use this handy form to send in your membership dues.
**MIFFLINBURG COMMUNITY AMBULANCE
MEMBERSHIP 2010**

HOUSEHOLD \$25.00	INDIVIDUAL \$15.00	DONATION	TOTAL
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Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to:

Mifflinburg Community Ambulance, 104 Chestnut St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844

*Volunteers provide Mifflinburgers with the highest quality of emergency care.
Your ambulance membership makes this possible.*

clip & mail

How does Mifflinburg benefit from the Christkindl Market?

by Becky Hagenbaugh

The annual Christkindl Market was another success the second weekend in December, although the first two days of the Market were bitter cold and windy. Saturday was a beautiful day and more than made up those frigid days. Attendance was estimated at 12,000 visitors. Did you ever stop to wonder just how this event benefits Mifflinburg and in fact our whole area? Huge amounts of money flow into Mifflinburg during this 3-day event, but where does all this money go? As Mifflinburg's main street manager, I did an abbreviated informal survey and I would like to share that information with you.



• **The Mifflinburg non-profit market vendors**, were elated with the amount of money they made. For example, the Kiwanis Club made \$1,300. That money will help to pay for swimming lessons for kids at the community park



next summer. The ladies of Methodist Church baked and sold 890 dozen cookies. Their cookies along with gingerbread items made a nice amount of money for the church.

The other 18 non-profit vendors also did equally well (many said it was one of their best years ever) and will be returning their profits back into the area community for the good of our residents.

• **Christkindl Market for-profit vendors** were also very happy with the amount of money they made at this year's market. Many Christkindl vendors come from a great distance year after year because they do so well at Mifflinburg's Market.

• **Mifflinburg businesses** reap the benefits of having the Christkindl in town. It brings many thousands of dollars to Mifflinburg and Buffalo Valley businesses. Country Farm and Home had another "best ever" day topping even their 08 "best ever day in the business's history" on the Saturday of Christkindl. And restaurants also did well: Old Turnpike Restaurant was busy serving breakfast, lunch and dinner to visitors choosing a nice warm place to eat before or after their Christkindl visit. And the beauty of it all is that many of the visitors to Christkindl had such a wonderful time that they come back to enjoy Mifflinburg at other times during the year – shop our shops, eat in our restaurants and come to our other events. Christkindl is a valuable economic helpmate to the Borough of Mifflinburg.



• **Area Motels, B&B's and Hotels** were filled with out of the area visitors including Christkindl vendors. Some, such as Norman's Mifflinburg Hotel had requests for next year. How do all these people know about the Mifflinburg Christkindl Market? Each year the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau gives Union County Tourism Grants (a portion of the county hotel tax) to non-profit organizations to promote tourism to an area outside of a 50 mile radius. In the last several years MHRA has been a recipient of a tourism grant to promote Christkindl outside of the local area. It is a "win-win" situation with many of those coming from 50+ miles stay overnight at our area hotels, motels and B&B's.

• **Regional visitors** flooded into Mifflinburg for the Christkindl. Many saying things like "I loved the Market and Mifflinburg's friendly hospitality. We will be coming back." Invaluable public relations for Mifflinburg. What got these people to Mifflinburg for Christkindl? \$4,000 of local regional advertising of the Christkindl Market underwritten by Mifflinburg Bank & Trust. ■