



Township of Derry Township News

November, 2012 Volume 19, Issue 4

A municipal community publication for the residents and businesses of Derry Township.

Township Adopts Vision Statement to Guide the Derry Township Comprehensive Plan Update

Smart Growth Experts Provide Valuable Assistance

Over the course of the last year, a Comprehensive Plan Working Committee has been gathering thoughts and opinions from the community through a survey. The responses were compiled and analyzed, and over 20 presentations were made to community groups on the results of the survey to insure that it was representative of the community's goals for the future of Derry Township. A vision statement was then created to define and direct the focus of the plan update. To read the full Vision Statement go to: DerryVision.org

Mission

Our mission is to promote and encourage the development of safe, healthy, and distinctive living environments, amenities and services for our residents and visitors.

Vision

We envision Derry Township as a safe, healthy and active community valuing open space; vibrant cultural, social and business offerings; and welcoming neighborhoods and gathering places. We envision a variety of housing opportunities with shops and services within walking distance and connected by a network of transportation options accessible to all. We envision a prosperous future driven by our dynamic health care, research, educational, entertainment, business and manufacturing economies, while respecting our cultural heritage and scenic beauty.

The vision statement embraces the following Smart Growth principles:

1. Preserve the Township's unique character
2. Focus on the revitalization of downtown with a priority on a mixed-use main street
3. Promote infill and pedestrian connectivity
4. Allow for compact, mixed-use development
5. Create a safe transportation system for all citizens
6. Require environmentally based stormwater management techniques



Residents were invited to an informative and interactive workshop presented by Chris Duerksen, Esq., a national planning expert and Roger Millar, PE,

AICP, the Vice President of the Leadership Institute with Smart Growth America, held on October 11th at the Hershey Public Library. Around 150 residents and all five of the elected Supervisors attended to discuss key issues and techniques to address challenges and methods to achieve the vision for the future.

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New Year's Eve in Hershey

Start the New Year off with a kiss at the 8th annual New Year's Eve in Hershey. The free event runs from 9 p.m. until midnight at the corners of Chocolate and Cocoa Avenues and features top-name entertainment, fireworks and fun for the whole family. Make sure to "like" us on Facebook or visit www.HersheyNewYears.org for the latest details.

600 Clearwater Road, Hershey, PA 17033 p: (717) 533-2057 f: (717) 533-7174
www.derrytownship.org

A Report

from Chris Abruzzo, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors



Recovery

Our thoughts are with the communities along the east coast who were devastated by the effects of Hurricane Sandy. It's been more than one year since Tropical Storm Lee wreaked havoc on

Hershey and we all waited anxiously as the superstorm approached Pennsylvania, hoping that we might be spared more damage to our community. The Township was prepared for this storm event, as much as it could be, devoting significant resources to clearing debris away from stormwater inlets across the community while simultaneously trying to remove as many leaf piles as possible from the road. A bit of luck helped, as the storm passed thru Hershey without causing significant flooding or damage and we emerged from the weather events safe and intact. Our public works department, police department, and volunteer fire department performed admirably in the face of daunting circumstances. Thanks to residents who also pitched in by clearing leaves and debris away from stormwater inlets. No stormwater system is designed to carry away all of the water this superstorm threatened to drop on our community, but keeping our stormwater inlets clear is one way to help mitigate flooding, and every inlet is important to the success of the system.



Monday, October 29th, the Township's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was in full operation to monitor Hurricane Sandy. The entire EOC was under water last year, as well as the first floor of the police department. The



Township's insurance claim for the restoration of all flood damaged buildings and the replacement of contents totaled over \$1,179,888.

The FEMA and PEMA reimbursements received to date for man hours, equip-

ment, debris removal, road repairs and the work on the Bullfrog Valley Pond total \$269,089.

The Federal Highway Administration reimbursed the township \$122,000 for the work performed on state-owned roads.

Contractors have started work on the Jonathan Eshenour Memorial Trail, the streambank stabilization, and the bridge replacement in Bullfrog Valley Park.

The repairs are expected to be completed in December. Funding for these repairs is estimated to be \$76,540 and we have been working with FEMA and PEMA to obtain reimbursement for these projects. It is not safe to use the trail during this construction. We appreciate your patience while this occurs and we can look forward to a full recovery by the end of 2012.

The stormwater project is moving along as well, with a few unexpected challenges along the way. The road work has been difficult in some areas because of the rock encountered beneath the road. Drilling thru the rock has slowed the project down, but stormwater inlets are installed and functional and we are well on the way to completion

The sanitary sewer installation has started on Mill Street from Old West Chocolate Avenue under SR 422.

Beginning in November through February, sanitary sewer will be installed through the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks near Highmeadow Campground.

By the end of 2012, sewer installation work in the village area and SR322 and Cocoa Avenue is expected to be completed. Pipes and inlets have been installed and rough grading of the newly relocated stream channel on the east side of Cocoa Avenue is done. During the remainder of the year, the contractor will be completing the fine grading, restoring the disturbed areas, stabilizing the stream, installing live stakes, repairing the curbs and sidewalks, and beginning the paving operations. The improvements in the area of Cocoa Ave/Village and Mill Street areas are the only ones slated for improvements under the current project. Further improvements to other areas will be planned as funding is available.

Next summer, we will see the completion of the SR0743 project. Cocoa Avenue is nearly completed. The final pavement will be applied in the spring. Roadway work on Chocolate Avenue and the pedestrian tunnel underneath Chocolate Avenue is nearing completion. The final pavement on Chocolate Avenue will also be placed in the spring. As for the new bridge on Park Ave., the subsurface soil compaction is being completed in preparation for the bridge abutments and throughout the winter we will begin to see the dirtpile (unfortunately known as Mt. Hershey) moved to be used for the bridge and retaining wall backfill. When the bridge and retaining walls are finished, the new roadway for Park Avenue will be connected to the new bridge and the old bridge will be removed. None of this construction should effect traffic.

Within the next six months, we will put the chaos of floods and road projects behind us and move forward. We are currently preparing for the 2013 budget hearing. We will have a complete review of the township's finances in the next newsletter in February. The good news is that we will not have to raise taxes. The slight tax increase last year worked as we had hoped, as we have been able to responsibly operate the township while rebuilding our reserve funds. We should be able to begin a new streak of annual budgets without tax increases. Good news for sure!

Police Department Requests Your Feedback

The Derry Township Police Department is seeking input from the community and is requesting that residents complete a Citizen's Survey. The survey can be accessed by [clicking here](#). The survey takes approximately ten minutes to complete and will help the department assess its level of service and response to the needs of the community. Please take a few moments to complete the survey. *Thank you in advance for your time.*

Survey on Service

Comprehensive Plan Update continued

The impressive turnout was one of the best that Duerksen has seen for community participation for this type of meeting; he has worked with communities all over the country.

Chairman of the Supervisors, Chris Abruzzo, thanked everyone for participating and emphasized the need for action. He said, "We've already begun to undertake some of the recommendations in here and I'm proud of the Supervisors that we've gone in that direction, but it's time to have a more solid plan to help guide us for future boards."

The land-use planning experts focused on three goals:

1. Encourage compact, mixed-use development in targeted growth areas such as downtown, Palmdale, and Middletown Road.
2. Enhance mobility options with safe alternative methods of travel.
3. Promote green infrastructure stormwater management.

The next day, Duerksen and Millar collaborated with members of the working committee, staff, and board members to provide tools and options such as removing regulatory barriers, implementing incentives, and identifying regulatory gaps. The following topics were discussed and considered:

Encourage Mixed-Use Development in Targeted Areas

1. Increase allowable density in residential developments in the downtown commercial districts.
2. Permit live/work units in all commercial, office, and industrial areas, the downtown commercial and village core districts.
3. Allow mixed-use residential by right in growth nodes that are zoned commercial.
4. Reduce excessive setback regulations (i.e., how far a building is from the sidewalk, adjacent buildings, and the alley) and increase the maximum floor area ratio standards (to allow more floor space/density) in the downtown commercial district and designated growth nodes.

5. Adopt simple design standards to assure quality developments and neighborhood compatibility.
6. Focus development in growth areas and reduce sprawl in rural parts of the Township.
7. Encourage the use of the cluster subdivision option to preserve open space.

Increase Mobility Options

1. Reduce excessive off-street parking requirements in commercial districts.
2. Require bicycle parking facilities in downtown zoning districts and larger commercial and multi-family projects.
3. Reduce setbacks in the downtown commercial district to encourage walking.
4. Require sidewalks that connect the perimeter streets.
5. Require trails around developments and more pedestrian connections.

Use Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management

1. Reduce impervious pavement and encourage shared and off-site parking.
2. Permit street-side infiltration swales to replace curb/gutter in low-traffic areas.
3. Reduce road pavement widths.
4. Strengthen the required tree replacement ratio.
5. Increase wetland buffers in low density zoning districts.

The committee identified the most important and feasible areas to be addressed and will begin to work on a strategy and action plan for the following:

1. Target mixed-use development in priority growth areas and limit retail and mixed-use development in other areas.
2. Update the zoning ordinance to promote suburban-style development that supports smart growth principles.
3. Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity requirements.

Thank You

A special thanks to Luna's, The Chocolate Avenue Grill, Brickers, and Mike Leonard's Plumbing for donating gift certificates for door prizes for the public workshop. The Chocolate Avenue Grill also provided a delicious lunch for the committee workshop participants.

Supervisors Seek Applications for Advisory Board Positions

The Board of Supervisors will accept applications for openings on the Board of Library Directors, Municipal Authority, Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Commission, and the Zoning Hearing Board. Please visit the Township's website at www.derrytownship.org, Boards & Committees, for information on each of the boards. Interested applicants are requested to submit a resume and cover letter to: Township of Derry, Board of Supervisors, 600 Clearwater Road, Hershey, PA 17033. The Board will make appointments at the January 7th meeting.

The 2013 Township News will be available at Township facilities on February 7th, May 2nd, August 8th, and November 7th.

Police Patrols on Two Wheels



This fall, the Derry Township Police Department implemented a new program to augment the services provided in the Traffic and Patrol Division.

The DTPD announced the addition of their new Motorcycle Unit, as they placed two 2013 Harley Davidson Electra Glide Motorcycles into service.

Six officers participated in two weeks of rigorous training prior to being assigned to the unit. Five officers received training instructed by the Pennsylvania State Police Motorcycle Unit and one officer was trained through Northwestern University Center for Public Safety.

The use of motorcycles offers many advantages to the police department. It provides the ability to navigate through heavy traffic conditions and the units are also able to conduct traffic enforcement in areas where traditional patrol vehicles are not able to access for deployment. This enforcement is valuable in areas identified as exhibiting a high volume of traffic accidents and aggressive driving.

The use of motorcycles also provides many cost savings benefits. They ultimately reduce mileage, fuel consumption, and wear and tear on traditional patrol vehicles in the fleet. They also provide for greater fuel efficiency by achieving four times the amount of gas mileage and are able to be maintained in the fleet much longer than the traditional patrol unit.

Motor Officers will primarily patrol during the months of March through November, but may ride outside that time frame, weather permitting.

NOTICE to Trail Users

Repairs to the Jonathan Eshenour Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail are underway along the trail near Shank Park and in the area upstream from Bullfrog Valley Park.



In the coming weeks, the replacement of the pedestrian bridge will take place at Bullfrog Valley Park. We are asking trail users to adhere to closures during the construction period through early December. As the three projects are completed, (the pedestrian bridge at Bullfrog Valley Park, the stream bank restoration between Bullfrog Valley Park and Derry Woods Drive, and the trail and washout repairs between Stoney Run Drive and Shank Park) the trail will be reopened sequentially as soon as it is safe to do so. We are looking forward to having these repairs completed so our residents can get back to enjoying this very popular community treasure. Unfortunately until then, the posted areas of the trail are off limits for public use and are enforceable. Thank you for your cooperation!

Christmas Tree Collection

The Public Works Department will collect trees beginning January 2nd through January 18th, weather permitting, according to the schedule below. Trees should be placed at the curb. Trees will not be picked-up in alleys.

Trees may also be dropped off at the Recycling Center during normal operating hours.

Monday W. Areba Ave., W. Caracas Ave., W. Granada Ave., Beech Ave., Chestnut Ave., Cedar Ave., Swatara Ave., Reese Ave., Half Street, Annscott Manor, Robin Road (area) Stafford Heights, E. Caracas Ave./E. Granada Ave., (IN TOWN), E. Areba Ave., Java Ave., Ceylon Ave., Bahia Ave., Para Ave., Hockersville Road, Fishburn Road, Hilltop Road, Clark Road, Church Road, Valley View (area), McCorkle Road, Old Hershey Road, Gates Road, Jacobs Creek

Tuesday Locust Ave., Maple Ave., Elm Ave., Oak Lane, Briarcrest (area), Cherry Drive, Peach Ave., Somerset Drive, Cambridge Commons, Glenn Acres, Glenn Acres East, Chadds Ford, South Hills (area), Sandhill Road (N. of Roush Road)

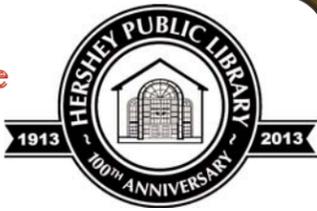
Wednesday Mill Street, Hillcrest Road, Orchard Road, Glen Road, Valley Road (IN TOWN), Cocoa Ave., Cocoa Townes, Laurel Woods, Sandhill Road (S. of Roush Road), Woodridge Manor, Roush Road, Landvater Road, Wellbeckon, The Meadows, Hillcrest (area), Hillchurch Road, Twin Oaks/Sunnyside (area), Village of Innsbruck, Shady Hill Estates, Waltonville Road, Walton Spring Hills, Stoney Run, Bullfrog Valley Road



Thursday Ridge Road, Linden Road, Brook Lane, Governor Road, Clifton Heights Road, Dartmouth Farms, JoAnn Ave., Locust Ave., Southpoint, Southpoint Commons, Middletown Road, Mountain View, Orchard Run, Indian Run, Deer Run, Carol Acres, Carol Acres East, The Oaks, Waltoncroft, Derry Woods, Oakmont, Division Street, Royal Street, Old Quarry Road, East Main Street, Stone Creek

Friday W. Chocolate Ave., E. Chocolate Ave., N. Lingle Ave., Lehman Street, Wexford Road, Brittany Drive, Hotel Road (area), Owls Hills (area), Fairway Drive, Trinidad Ave., Palmdale (area), E. Derry Road, Center Road, Park Ave., Park Place

*Hershey Public
Library to Celebrate*



100 Years

2013 marks the 100th Year Anniversary of the Hershey Public Library's service to residents and surrounding areas. Our history is rich with notable citizens and events that have made HPL one of the best in Pennsylvania.

Everyone is invited to join us on January 27, 2013, for our 100 Year Anniversary kickoff event. There will be games, prizes, and fun for the whole family. The HPL Anniversary Cookbook, containing recipes, library history, and pictures of 100 years at HPL, will be unveiled at the event. A hard-working design/editing/research team has put together a unique book, that is definitely worth having. We hope you will also consider purchasing a commemorative brick during the year to be placed in the Stan Ginder Memorial Garden.

Watch for the HPL 100 Year Anniversary logo on book-marks, banners, flyers and more.

*Thank you for being a friend and supporter of the
Hershey Public Library.*



The Board of Supervisors approved the following during July, August, and September:

Recommended approval of the Vision Statement for the Comprehensive Plan Update Working Committee.

Recommended approval of the Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for Centric Bank, Plat #1214 to construct a 2,960-square-foot bank on the 0.744-acre property addressed as 1201 West Governor Road. The property is currently improved with an office building, which will be demolished.

Recommended approval of adoption of Ordinance No. 625, amending Chapter 225 (Zoning), Article XXIX (Design Review Board; Chocolate Avenue Preservation Overlay District) of the Code of the Township of Derry by adding a member from the Hershey-Derry Township Historical Society; redefining terms of appointment; noticing fees; and requiring a majority vote to issue Certificates of Appropriateness. The ordinance would also amend Chapter 225 (Zoning), Article XXXIV (General Regulations), §225-171 (Fences) regarding height limitations.



21 W. Caracas Avenue 533-2953 www.hersheyfire.org

October....A Busy Month for Firefighters

Over the past few weeks, the Hershey Volunteer Fire Company has participated in many events around the township. Fire Company personnel provided standby crews throughout the four days of the annual Antique Automobile Club of America Fall Meet and during the Hershey Half Marathon. Fire apparatus also participated in the Hershey High Homecoming parade.

More than three hundred people sampled the great variety of soups at the Hershey Partnership's Annual Soup Cook-Off held at the fire station on Saturday, October 6. Proceeds from this popular community event benefit the Fire Company and featured twenty professional and nine non-professional cooks competing for the title of "Soup Champion." The Fire Company was pleased to have one of its own, Firefighter Dennis Thompson, win first place in the non-professional category with his delicious "Roasted Onion Golden Mushroom" creation.

During the yearly observance of National Fire Prevention Week in October, Fire Company personnel visited elementary schools and day care centers located in the Township. Some students visited the fire station for a tour and fire safety lesson. Utilizing a wide variety of different programs depending on the age level of the students, firefighters pre-

sented their fire prevention message to over 3,000 students.

Families are encouraged to plan and practice a home fire drill. Twice a year, when you change the clocks for daylight savings time, replace your smoke detector battery. When your smoke detector chirps or beeps, it's time to change the battery immediately. Residents can obtain fire prevention literature and information by visiting the Fire Station.

The arrival of colder temperatures brings the beginning of the home heating season. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible odorless gas that comes from burning any fossil fuel. Heating appliances are a common source of carbon monoxide. Chimneys and furnaces should be inspected and cleaned annually by a certified specialist. Additionally, CO detectors should be installed in homes to provide an important level of protection for families.

Santa will visit Derry Township again this year riding on a fire truck. As the Holiday Season approaches check local newspapers, or visit the Fire Company website at hersheyfire.org, for the schedule of days and times when he will be in your neighborhood.



Waste Matters in Derry Township



The Environmental Action Committee encourages residents to take reusable bags to the store.

Derry Township is one of the premier recycling townships in the state of PA, but no matter how good we are, recycling is always changing and new and innovative programs are always surfacing. We must continue to challenge ourselves to do more.

"When we buy only one or two things, we try not to get a bag. Usually we like to bring our own reusable bags but sometimes we get regular plastic bags. So then we save them up until we go back to the store. Then we can just pop them into the bin."
Ashlynn Searer
(now age 12)

We can encourage businesses to phase out plastic bags as other states have. Businesses could start by asking customers if they really want a plastic bag if they only bought one or two items. This is a small step with a major impact.

Customers can also make an effort by bringing a reusable bag - either recycled from home or ones intentionally bought for the purpose of reuse. Recycling provides us all with

uncounted ways to reduce additional pollution, save money and resources, and our planet.

Township officials are already sold on recycling and the Township is realizing considerable revenue from recycled materials. This revenue is used by the Township to offset costs of our diverse recycling program.

By increasing our recycle efforts, we save valuable materials from going to the incinerator and the ash being hauled to the landfill. This helps to lower "tipping fees" at the incinerator. We also give a second life to the materials and save our natural resources. As more and more people take recycling seriously, the residents, the township, the economy, and the environment all win.

Waste Management's program of single streaming recycling allows residents to use their 64-gallon tote - the one with an attached yellow lid - to separate and recycle an unlimited amount of acceptable materials. Recyclables should all be placed in the tote together and include: aluminum (food and beverage containers); steel cans; brown, clear, and green glass food and beverage containers; paper (including newspaper, magazines, catalogs, cereal boxes, telephone books, printer paper, copier paper, junk mail, and corrugated cardboard); plastic containers (with symbols #1-7).

Plastic caps and lids can be left on the bottles or jars, or caps and lids may be placed in the tote separately. The lids and caps are equally valuable as recyclables. Food containers should be rinsed of remaining food for sanitary reasons. While used plastic bags and plastic wrap are not collected curbside, they are collected for recycling at Karns, Giant, and Walmart.

Meeting Your Municipal Needs

Board of Supervisors

Chairman E. Christopher Abruzzo
Kelly C. Fedeli
Marc A. Moyer
Sandra A. Ballard
John W. Foley



James Negley, Township Manager 533-2057, opt. 5
Jill Henry, Assistant Township Manager 533-2057, opt. 5
Charles Emerick, Director of Comm. Dev. 533-2057, opt. 2
Patrick O'Rourke, Chief of Police 534-2202
Thomas Clark, Director of Public Works 533-2057, opt. 4
Matthew Mandia, Director of Parks & Rec. 533-7138
Barbara Ellis, Director of Library Services 533-6555
Jennifer Johns, Granada Gym Manager 533-7757
Diane Leitner, Recycling Coordinator 533-2057, opt. 4

Board Contact Information

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sandyballard@derrytownship.org
johnfoley@derrytownship.org



RECYCLING CENTER HOURS (Effective October 31st through March 11th)



Mon.	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fri.	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sat.	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Center will be closed on Friday, November 23rd, Monday, December 24th, and Monday December 31st..

RECYCLE HOTLINE 533-8665

Call for questions regarding waste disposal and recycling.

Items may only be dropped at the Center or picked up during operating hours.

Residents may be required to show proof of residency at the Center.

Holiday Trash Collection If the holiday is on your regular collection day, your trash and recyclables will be collected the following day. All other collections that week will be on the regular schedule. If the holiday is on Friday, the trash will be collected on Saturday.

Please store trash and recycling totes in your garage, side or back yard.

People Movers Will Get You There



People Movers provides free transportation for Derry Township senior citizens who are 60+ years old.

Call 717-533-3642 to arrange a ride. www.ThePeopleMovers.org

701 Cocoa Avenue
Hershey, PA 17033
Phone: (717) 533-6555
Fax: (717) 534-1666
www.hersheylibrary.org



Barbara Ellis, Director

Board of Directors

Rosemary Marino
John Abel
Michele Taylor
Marc Moyer
Kelly Fedeli
Anne Reeves
Julie Isaacson

Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friends Family Programs

All performances are free. First come, first seated.
See you at the library!

Faery Tale Theatre with Jonathon Kruk

January 13, 2:00 p.m.



Master storyteller Jonathon Kruk is coming to town carting along a stage with props and masks. He offers a treasure trove of captivating stories. The children -- enchanted into adventures -- listen and learn about the world of Faery Tales. Audience participation is a must! Who will don a dragonhead or become a troll? Spontaneous surprises wait at this grand (Grimm) program!

Bach 2 Rock!

February 3, 2:00 p.m.



Bach 2 Rock begins with acclaimed musician Caryn Lin introducing the audience to the solo acoustic violin. Caryn demonstrates the simplicity and beauty of this centuries-old instrument by performing a simple Bach minuet. She then whisks the audience into the present day using a five string electric violin and sound effects to transform Bach to Rock! Using a technique called looping, Caryn creates 3-dimensional sound magic! It's classic!

Adult Programs

A Visit with Dolley Madison Sunday, November 11, 2:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Michaels, from the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia, will portray Dolley Madison, one of the most sought-after women of her time. Please register online or call 533-6555.

Spanish Class Mondays, November 12, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

This is a series of Spanish classes to learn the essentials and basic structure of the Spanish language. Please register on-line or call 533-6555. Children must be in 6 grade or higher and must be accompanied by an adult. Register by calling 533-6555. There is no fee for this class.

Local Author Panel Monday, November 12, 6:00 p.m.

Four local authors will give a brief overview of their published works and the process they followed to get their books into print. Please register online or call 533-6555. There is no fee for this event.

Fresh Williamsburg Wreath Making Class Saturday, December 1, 10:00 a.m.

Come and learn how to make your own fresh Williamsburg wreath with instructor Andrea Beitzel of Ashcombe Garden Center. The fee is \$35 and must be paid at the time of registration at the circulation desk.

The Magic of Lionel: Joshua Lionel Cowen Thursday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.

Calling all train enthusiasts! Neill Hartley will be here with us again, this time in the role of Joshua Lionel Cowen, in this exciting one-man show about the founding and history of one of the greatest toy companies ever! Please register online or call 533-6555.

Fix-It and Forget-It Tuesday, January 15, 6:00 p.m.

The author of the Fix-It and Forget-It cookbooks will be here to prepare a recipe or two from her ever-popular collection. Her cookbooks have sold more than 8.5 million copies. Please register online or call 533-6555.

Monthly Book Discussion

Come and discuss the book and meet new people.

Wednesday, November 14, 6:30 p.m., "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain
Wednesday, January 2, 6:30 p.m., "Room" by Emma Donoghue
Registration is not required

Toddler time and more.....

Toddler time is a series of 20-30-minute interactive programs for children (24 to 36 months) and their caregivers. One child and one adult register together for songs, stories, rhymes, and a joyful introduction to the library.

Wednesday mornings at 10:00 and 11:00 January 16 - February 20
Resident registration begins January 2; open registration begins January 7.

Wonderful Ones is a four-week series of 20-minute interactive programs for walking children (12 to 24) months and their caregivers. Register together for songs, simple stories, nursery rhymes, and action plays.

Tuesday mornings at 9:45 and 10:45 February 26 - March 19
Resident registration begins February 11; open registration begins February 18.

Books and Babies is a four-week series of 20 minute interactive programs for pre-walking children (birth to 12 months) and their caregivers. One child and one adult register together for songs, stories, rhymes, and action plays.

Monday mornings at 9:45 and 10:45 February 25 - March 18
Resident registration begins February 11; open registration begins February 18.

Storytime is a six-week series of 30 minute programs designed for children 3 to 5. Storytime provides a structured, literature-based opportunity for children to gain independence. Parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to use Storytime to fill their own library needs.

Storytime for 3's and 4's

Monday mornings at 10:00 January 14 - February 18
Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 January 16 - February 20
Resident registration begins January 2; open registration begins January 7.

Storytime for 4's and 5's

Monday afternoons at 1:30 January 14 - February 18
Tuesday mornings at 10:00 January 15 - February 19
Resident registration begins January 2, open registration begins January 7.

Children's Drop-In Programs

3rd Annual Polar Express Extravaganza Thursday,
December 2, 6:30 p.m.



Winter Break Movies!!! 10 a.m., Wednesday, December 26, *Arthur Christmas*; Thursday, December 27, *The Spiderwick Chronicles*; Friday, December 28, *Hugo*

Wii Game Days Join us one Sunday a month for Wii games played on the big screen! All ages welcome. We will play from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on November 18, and December 16.

HERSHEY COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

Archivist Pamela Cassidy Whitenack

Cocoa Avenue Plaza

Hershey has long prided itself on the breadth and quality of its recreational facilities and programs.

In 1944, Milton Hershey set aside 18.25 acres to be developed as community recreational space with a variety of athletic fields. Christened "Memorial Field", when it was dedicated in 1948, the original plans for the community's recreational hub were extensive and not all could be implemented at first.

Several years later, Sam Hinkle, president of the Hershey Chocolate Corporation, decided to expand the existing Memorial Field with several amenities, some of which had been envisioned in the original plans. A *Hershey News* article announcing plans for the new facility quoted Hinkle saying that the new recreational facility was "being built as a memorial to the late Milton S. Hershey, town founder." The article went on to explain that the Hershey Chocolate Corporation was underwriting the costs of constructing Cocoa Avenue Plaza. The new facility would operate as a division of the Hershey Community Center and would be named "The Outdoor Club" to distinguish it from the existing Community Club which would be known as the "The Indoor Club."

Laurie & Green, a Harrisburg, PA architectural firm, designed the new facility. Inspired by Milton Hershey's love of innovation, plans for Cocoa Avenue Plaza incorporated modern and novel design and engineering. H.B. Alexander and Sons, Inc. of Harrisburg, PA was selected as the general contractor for the project. The new pool was built to then current NCAA standards and could function as an indoor or outdoor facility, thanks to its retractable roof. John Zerbe, who was in charge of Hershey's recreation program, described the unique features of the pool complex in his 1996 oral history:

It was probably the first swimming pool [of its kind] in the country like it, and we had people from all over the country come in to look at that building. . . it was the first pool in the country to use the kind of opening-dome design that we used. The real structural design of that was absolutely phenomenal, and it all basically rotated on a humongous pin at the top.

I thought that design and the corporate resolve here to build that kind of a building was very visionary. I can't imagine too many corporations willing to go after that kind of design and see it through.

The new pool measured 75' x 42' and included six lanes and three diving boards. The pool area also included two wading pools and a playground area.

The main pool was enclosed by a 135 foot diameter, circular structure that was key to the facility's indoor-outdoor design. The circular enclosure was divided into two halves. The pool filled one half and the other half of the circle housed a two level facility: a multi-purpose room that could be used for indoor athletic events and dancing, with locker rooms underneath. On the pool side the walls were designed to be moveable. Connected by a huge pin at the center of the roof, the two moveable sections rested on metal tracks, and were slightly larger (by the thickness of the inside walls). Motor-driven, the outside walls were designed to retract, sliding over the inside walls. Fully opening or closing the walls took approximately five minutes.



Cocoa Avenue Plaza swimming pool, ca. 1965

Initially the innovative design was challenged by the natural setting of a new building. As the building settled it frequently stressed the central pin and caused some engineering challenges that were not fully resolved until the foundations completely settled.

This circular building was attached to a lodge style structure that featured a lounge with fireplace, snack bar, restrooms, and offices. The Plaza's outdoor recreational facilities also included six tennis courts, volleyball, badminton and horseshoe courts, a softball field, green space and a new playground.

The Plaza's dedication was originally planned for September 13, 1963. However, delays in construction and time needed to troubleshoot the new mechanical systems caused the dedication to be postponed. All construction was finally completed on October 12 and the dedication ceremonies were held on October 20, 1963. For the first several years, use of the new facility was limited to Derry Township residents and Hershey employees. Most of the operating costs were covered by annual contributions from Hershey Estates, Hershey Chocolate Corporation and Hershey Trust Company.

The opening of the Cocoa Avenue Plaza created new opportunities for Hershey to host competitive swim meets. Hershey quickly established its own AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) swim team. In 1965, the Plaza hosted both the Middle Atlantic AAU Championship and the Junior Olympic Short Course Swimming Meet.

While the facility's pools were popular in the summer months, the multi-purpose facility served the community throughout the year. Under John Zerbe's leadership, programming was quickly developed for the new facility. Lessons were offered for swimming, tennis, ballet, modern dance and gymnastics. In addition to the competitive swim team, the Plaza also established a synchronized swim team.

The Cocoa Avenue Plaza pool was soon overwhelmed by community demands. Responding to this need, Hershey Chocolate Corporation built a second larger pool. Opening in summer 1967, the new pool incorporated a modified rectangle design, which ranged in depth from two feet to four feet, three inches. Shallow steps as well as ladders provided access to the water. In addition to the larger outdoor pool, the new addition included a children's shallow water play pool.

On January 1, 1979, the Cocoa Avenue Plaza was donated to Derry Township for management under its Parks and Recreation department.

Community Events



Annual Holiday Train Exhibit Opens November 5th

Fred Travitz grew up loving trains. For Christmas each year, his father surprised him with additions to their model set and they worked and played together with the new parts for hours on end. "The holidays to me are synonymous with trains," reflected Travitz, one of the creators of the Hershey-Derry Township Historical Society's annual Holiday Train Exhibit.



Intended for train enthusiasts of all ages, the exhibit showcases multiple trains and over 25 interactive displays on a large-scale layout. The exhibit features handcrafted historic Hershey landmarks such as the Cocoa Inn, the Derry Church Schoolhouse, the Hershey train depot, and a historic Hershey trolley, and Derry Presbyterian Church Sessions House. Hands-on controls for trains and miniature amusement rides attract the youngest of engineers.

The annual holiday tradition will begin this year on November 5th and remain open through December 31, 2012. The Society will be operating during regular hours, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., through November 21. Starting November 23, the Society will be open daily, except Sundays, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (Note: the train will only operate until 4:00 p.m.). The Society will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

"Our team of volunteers designs a unique exhibit each year and gets it up and running, but we are always in need of folks to help operate the trains. It's a fun job and we'll teach anyone how to do it." Anyone interested in volunteering at the exhibit as a greeter or train operator, please contact the Society at (717) 520-0748 to volunteer. We need your help!

*Hershey-Derry Township Historical Society, 40 Northeast Drive, Hershey, PA 17033
(717) 520-0748*



Get in the Holiday Spirit at Hershey Area Playhouse

Hershey Area Playhouse will brighten your holidays with its musical production of *The Littlest Angel*, November 29-December 2 and December 6-9.

This classic Christmas story of a little angel who is transformed from a celestial pest to the toast of the Heavenly Host is brought magically to life in this humorous, touching, and, above all, inspirational musical. Filled with melody and mirth, the story follows the adventures (and misadventures) of the Littlest Angel, from his reluctant entry through the Pearly Gates to the triumphant conclusion when his gift to the newborn Christ Child is miraculously transformed into the shining Star of Bethlehem.

Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$17 for children 12 and under and are available at www.HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com or by calling the box office at 717.533.8525.



Dr. Sandra Dackow
Music Director

Hershey Symphony Orchestra Rings in the Holidays

The Hershey Symphony Orchestra will usher in the holiday season on Friday, November 30th with the orchestra's annual "Holiday Spectacular." The concert pays tribute to the holiday classics and features a popular carol sing-a-long. The concert begins at 8 p.m. at The Hershey Theatre. For tickets and information, please visit www.HersheyTheatre.com.

You can give the gift of music this holiday with a season ticket package to the Hershey Symphony Orchestra. Visit www.HersheySymphony.org for more information.