

# Village Improvement Association meets for annual membership luncheon

Connie Wrzesniewski

The Village Improvement Association (VIA) met for its annual membership luncheon at the Warrington Country Club on June 2. It was a busy time and there was much said and done with scholarships being the main event.

Celebrating its 120th anniversary this past year, the VIA made great strides during this time, which included opening the Della Penna Pediatric Center, reaching out to community events and the introduction of a new logo.

President and CEO of Doylestown Hospital, James Brexler, was in pin bearing the new logo on his lapel at the luncheon meeting. He praised the marketing department for its expertise in the design of the classic updated version.

"We are working towards a seamless service in the new pediatric inpatient program with the opening of the Carol and Louis Della Penna Pediatric Center," said Brexler continuing with the VIA's great strides. "In the past there were 8,000 children a year seen in the emergency room who would then have to be transferred to another hospital. We have come full circle. The new pediatric center allows us to work with families who no longer have to leave the community."

Linda McElhenny, VIA president, announced that winners of various scholarship awards would take place with Education Committee Chairman Mary Ellen Stanton presenting the Hannah Pollock-Laurea



(Back Row): Joan Parlee, Maureen Casey, Karen O'Brien, Chairman, Mary Ellen Stanton; Vice Chairwoman Kathryn Lambert; Barbara Thompson and Grace Mattes. (Front Row): Emily Burton, Pooja Gandhi, Abby Rubin, Michelle Karn. Not pictured: Mary Lou Gehring.

Haddock scholarships.

The first was Abby Rubin, member of the National Honor Society, National French Honor Society, Environmental Club, the Musical Set Design Group, president of the Interact Club (anti-bullying program), and DAA Volleyball Club. She will graduate from CB South and attend Washington University, St. Louis, to study occupational therapy.

The next was presented to musically talented Michelle Karn, CB South, who plays the flute and violin. A member of various music ensembles, the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, Key Club, High School Youth Group, Christian Fellowship Club and Mill Creek Mentors, she was

also the recipient of the Union League Good Citizenship Award. Her choice is premedicine at Franciscan University of Steubenville. She plans to practice pediatrics.

Pooja Gandhi will attend La Salle University to study Communication Sciences and Disorders with a Clinical Competence Certificate in Speech-Language Pathology. Growing up first generation Indian-American, her interest in learning new languages is ongoing. A member of the National Honor Society, and the Central Bucks Community Band, she is also treasurer of the Student Council, veteran of the Reading Olympics, and runs track.

All three received \$2,000 awards and will graduate with scholar's diplomas.

Kathleen Boland presented the 2015 Ruth Boland Memorial Nursing Scholarship to Emily Burton, a Central Bucks East home student. A member of The Key Club and Interact Club, she is also a founding member of Patriot Paws, which is dedicated to animal rights. Her passion is competitive dance. She will attend Penn State University main campus to pursue a BSN and become a nurse practitioner.

HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth) leadership awards were presented by Kathryn McKenna to sophomores Emily Nelson, Central Bucks West, and Alekhyia Gunturi, Central Bucks East. Both participated in a leadership weekend at Villanova University recently. Emily conveyed love through her piano music



Roxy Reading board member Cecile Balizet, RRTD; President of Roxy Reading Therapy Dogs Diane Smith, RRTD; Doylestown Health CEO Jim Brexler, and Roxy the dog.

and despite her fear, connected with her audience. She said small contributions make a difference. Alekhyia said leadership must come from within and passion is an essential element in what you do. Each gained a great sense of confidence from the weekend.

Roxy, the therapy dog made an appearance with Diane Smith president of Roxy Reading Therapy Dogs. Ray Hendricks, the Bird Dog Man, responsible for the blue-houses in Doylestown, also made an appearance. Both were given an award by Louise Woodruff, community recognition chairman.

## Dr. Lori: Art and Antiques

I have been advising people about art yard sales for decades. Here are my top tips for those of you who love yard sales - as buyers and as sellers.

Many of us have spent a week-end driving around favorite neighborhoods to shop on other people's lawns. Finally you end up buying a few things that you really don't need but you just can't leave on a neighbor's lawn without a watering can, vintage poster and bunch of napkins. You spend \$17 and call it a day.

As a well-seasoned art, antiques and collectibles appraiser, I can tell you there are many things that people don't know about yard sales. The first thing that most people don't know about yard sales is that it is a big business. You think that it is just small stuff with neighbors cleaning out the basement of old junk, but in reality, yard sales can be the source of objects that command six figure price tags in other markets ... markets far away from the front yard.

That's right, the high priced auction and Internet markets for art, antiques, and collectibles use yard



DR. LORI VERDERAME

sales as a source for inventory. And, major auction houses and smaller estate auction houses send out people known as pickers to get some of their auction inventory from yard sales. They are sent to neighborhoods where the homes have reached the 50-year mark, assuming that their original owners are ready to move on.

Thinking that yard sale hosts think that they are just offering items to native shoppers and fellow neighbors, well, be warned. You are competing with the pros out there. The buyers know what you've got, what it is really worth, where to sell it for top dollar, and they are not in the game to tell you that you just made a big mistake

putting out that Eastlake table or vintage Guerlain perfume bottle on the front lawn.

The pickers are going to get you down on the asking price and take away something very valuable that was in your house and was once a treasured family heirloom. Know what you've got before you schlep it out to the front lawn.

At my mobile website, DrLoriV.com, you can send a photo of an object from a yard sale and I will tell you its value before you buy it. This is how technology will help you. Cash in.

Here is an example that will have you thinking twice before you have that yard sale. Recently, a \$425,000 floral still life painting that now hangs in the Houston Art Museum was sold at a California yard sale for \$18. Yep, the original owner's family didn't know that they had a priceless piece of fine art, so they unknowingly priced it at a yard sale for \$20. The picker got them down to \$18 and the auction house later sold it to the Texas museum for a whopping \$425,000.

**Tips for buyers**  
OK, so you get my point but you aren't hosting a yard sale. You

## Yard sale tips from an expert

A yard sale table is filled with different kinds of objects.



want to know about buying at yard sales. Here are my tips for buyers. Bring cash as it will help your negotiating power.

Establish a budget and stick to it.

Be polite but always negotiate. This isn't friendship, this is business.

Celebrity items bring big value. If it is in poor condition, leave it on the lawn.

If there is a box of old jewelry that looks like junk, there is probably something overlooked in that box like a piece of 14k gold or sterling silver.

Bring a magnifying glass, lupe, or at least your reading glasses.

Ask the yard sale seller about the item's background. Even if the seller doesn't know a lot about the item, he still probably knows more than you do about it.

Lori Verderame is an antiques appraiser, nationally syndicated columnist and author, and award-winning TV personality with a Ph.D. in the field. She presents antique appraisal events, keynote speeches, and lectures to worldwide audiences. Visit DrLoriV.com, follow her on Facebook or call 888-431-1010.

## Washington Crossing Park plan wins preservation award

Marianna Thomas Architects, Toole Recreation Planning and Viridian Landscape Studio accepted a Preservation Alliance Grand Jury Award this spring for the Sustainable Future of Washington Crossing Historic Park Master Plan.

The park, at the site of General George Washington's daring Christmas 1776 nighttime crossing of the Delaware River, consists of nearly 500 acres of active and passive recreational space, a wildflower preserve and 57 buildings dating from the Colonial period to the present.

Since the last master plan in 1975, the park has suffered severe state budget cuts. The cuts prompted the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission to engage consultants to develop a master plan.

The architects and planners, with input from CHRIS and Stan-



A view of the Upper Park taken from Bowman's Hill Tower, with Thompson-Neely Homestead and Thompson's Mill in the foreground, the canal and campground beyond, and Delaware River in the distance.

tec Inc., delivered a master plan project that included comprehensive site analysis and robust public engagement.

The result was the Sustainable Future of Washington Crossing Historic Park Master Plan. The plan focuses on adaptive reuse of



Proposed mixed use of houses, with a connecting deck along the river.

the Taylorsville village and articulates best practices for land management, educational interpretation and programming partnerships.

The master planners said they were thankful for the insights from PHMC, the Friends of Washington Crossing Historic Park, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and

all the other participants. They said it made the master plan broadly comprehensive and gave them confidence that the park will flourish.

"The Washington Crossing Historic Park Master Plan will help ensure the park thrives and evolve into an ever richer crown jewel of our national heritage," Thomas said.

## Tyler Park center slates art camp sessions

Tyler Park Center for the Arts hosts a number of Summer Art Camp opportunities in 2015.

Art camp is offered five days a week, for ages 5 to 16-plus, with the option for a half day or a full day.

Camp sessions cover pottery, drawing, acrylic painting, Native American crafts, felt, printmaking and collage, tie-dye and more.

Morning sessions start at 9:30 a.m. and end at noon. Afternoon sessions start at 12:30 and end at 3 p.m. Sessions, which begin June 29 and continue through the week of Aug. 17, will be taught by artists.

No previous art experience is necessary for most camp ses-



Tyler Park Center for the Arts hosts summer camp sessions featuring pottery and other artistic mediums.

For information and to register, visit tylerparkarts.org/summercamp.html.

Tyler Park Center for the Arts is at 101 Stable Mill Road, Richboro.

## Firefighter Camp offers hands-on training

A free Firefighter Camp, for those age 14 or older who want to learn about being a firefighter, takes place from 7 to 8 p.m. July 1, 8, 15 and 22, at Harshville Fire Station, 1195 York Road, Warminster.

The program is joint effort by all of the fire stations in Warminster and Warrington townships, to introduce young people to the fire service.

Participants will learn hose rolls, carries and packing; fire hydrant operations; fire extinguisher operations; deluge gun operations; self contained breathing apparatus; pump connections and many other basic

skills.

The hands-on program will teach individual skills, as well as team skills. The final night of the program will feature a simulated fire, with all attendees responding on the fire truck.

For anyone who has ever considered becoming a firefighter, or thought about a career in emergency services, this is a chance to try it out.

For information, call 215-672-9242, or stop by one of the fire stations on Tuesday evenings.

A parent must sign a consent form for all 14- and 15-year-old participants.