

Springfield

NEIGHBORS II



The Konkle Family

**CULTIVATING CREATIVITY
AND COMMUNITY**

Cover Photo By
Maureen Brant Photography

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PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE SANTAS

By Beth Dunphy

These cookies are always everyone's favorite at Christmas time! They look way more difficult than they are. All they really require is patience. Whenever I bake them, I make a *huge batch*. If I'm in the mess of it all, it's just easier to mass produce them. The cookies come in packs of about 30, so I usually do at least 100 at a time. They're perfect for bringing a plate to a holiday party. In our house, they are a must with hot cocoa after playing outside in the snow. And I love them with a hot cup of coffee. Enjoy!

What you need:

- Peanut butter sandwich cookies (like Nutter Butters)
- White almond bark
- Red sugar sprinkles
- Cinnamon red hots or other red candy (for nose)
- Chocolate chips
- Piping bag and tips

What you do:

STEP ONE: Melt the almond bark in the microwave at 50% power in a glass bowl. Dip the sandwich cookies one at a time to make Santa's beard. To give Santa "sideburns," tip the cookie side to side. Set the cookies on parchment or wax paper to cool and harden.

STEP TWO: Holding the beard side, dip the *other end* into the white almond bark, then *immediately* into the red sugar to create Santa's hat. I try to leave a little white to appear as the trim. Let them all sit and harden before moving on to the next step.

STEP THREE: To start adding details, melt some more almond bark. Pour it into a piping bag. You'll need a small tip to pipe the mustache. Next, immediately press down your red candy for the nose. At this point, I like to add a small tassel on the top of the hat with this almond.

STEP FOUR: The final detail is to melt some chocolate and (with a fine tip) pipe on Santa's eyes. You can't really do this part wrong!

Once all the chocolate and almond bark has hardened, these cookies store beautifully in an airtight container all through the holiday season. You can WOW your guests with how amazing these cookies look and (more importantly) how delicious they taste! Ho, ho, ho! Enjoy!



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Hello Neighbors!

As the year winds down and the holidays sparkle to life, I'm reminded of what makes Springfield so special: the way we show up for one another. From a bright red mailbox on North Highland Road delivering letters straight to Santa, to neighbors like Becky Konkle who bring creativity and kindness into every corner of their lives, this season is full of reminders that magic isn't just in the lights; it's in the people around us.

This issue celebrates that spirit. You'll find stories of giving back, like Katelynn Devinney's incredible work with Pockets of Hope, and milestones that make us proud – CCC Shines reaching its 75th production and the Greater Springfield Business Association marking 25 years of community leadership. We've got practical tips too, like how taking time to winterize your home now can help lower energy bills, prevent costly repairs later, and reduce risks like home heating fires.

And don't miss the fun! Our Little Library challenge is back. Can you spot this month's

location? Plus, Gold Pass Academy returns in January with classes that connect generations in meaningful ways.

As you flip through these pages, I hope you feel inspired to embrace the season in your own way. Write that letter to Santa, join a local class, or simply take a stroll down Saxer Avenue to enjoy the lights. Whatever your tradition, share it with us! Send your photos, stories, or favorite holiday recipes. We'd love to feature them in an upcoming issue.

Thank you for making Springfield a place where generosity and joy thrive. Here's to a holiday season filled with warmth and a new year full of possibilities.

Warmly,

Terrence Casey

Content Coordinator



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from our Family to Yours

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CHECKLIST:

HOW TO WINTERIZE YOUR HOME TO SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY

By Tom Foran,
Cellucci Foran Insurance



There's no denying it: winter is on its way.

Taking time to winterize your home now can help lower energy bills, prevent costly repairs later, and reduce risks like home heating fires. (Pro tip: Having the right homeowners insurance adds peace of mind, too.)

Ready to get started? Here's your fall home maintenance checklist.

INDOORS

• Windows and Doors

Stop chilly drafts—and high heating bills—by replacing worn weather stripping and sealing cracks with caulk. For loose-fitting doors, use a draft guard or rolled-up towel. Drapes, curtains, shades, and blinds can also help reduce heat loss, according to energy.gov.

• Fireplace

Clean out soot and ashes, and inspect for cracks that could pose a fire hazard. If you won't use your fireplace this season, consider a chimney balloon to block cold air (just remove it before next winter's first fire). For major fixes, hire a certified chimney sweep.

• Furnace

Change or clean your furnace filter before turning up the heat. Schedule an annual inspection with an HVAC professional—and if it's been a while, have your ducts checked for leaks and efficiency.

• Thermostat

Upgrade to a smart thermostat to save on heating costs. Many models learn your schedule so you're not paying to heat an empty home.

• Other Heating Sources

Between 2014 and 2023, the U.S. Fire Administration reported more than 350,000 heating fires. Review safety tips for all heating methods, and use space heaters with extra caution.

• Drafts and Cracks

Cold air sneaks in wherever it can. Quick fixes include:

- * **Outlets and Switch Plates:** Install foam-insulating sheets on exterior walls.
- * **Exposed Ducts:** Seal leaks in attics, basements, and crawl spaces.
- * **Floors:** Add thick rugs—floors can account for up to 10% of heat loss.

• Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Test detectors and replace batteries. With winter's increased fire risk, review your family escape plan.

OUTDOORS

• Gutters

Clear debris from gutters and downspouts to

prevent leaks, sagging, and ice dams. Use a sturdy ladder and wear protective gear.

• Roof

Inspect for missing or damaged shingles, cracked caulk, rust spots, or moss. Repair issues before snow adds weight and stress.

• Trees and Landscaping

Trim branches near power lines and remove weak limbs. Heavy snow and strong winds can bring them down, causing damage.

• Lawn Equipment

Drain oil and gas from your mower before storage. Gasoline can spoil in weeks and damage your engine.

• Snow Removal Supplies

Stock up early: check your snowblower, shovel, ice melt, and consider a snow rake. Roof snow exceeding 20 pounds per square foot can be dangerous.

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CALENDAR

Friday, November 21–Sunday, January 11, 2026

A Longwood Christmas

Holiday lights, music, and seasonal displays throughout the gardens @Longwood Gardens
Gardens Open: 10:00 am – 11:00 pm daily
longwoodgardens.org

Friday, November 28–Sunday, January 4, 2026

Broadway Series – Annie

The little orphan who could @The Media Theatre
Times Vary
mediatheatre.org

Wednesday, December 3 & Wednesday, December 17

PAWS for People – Read to Riley!

Practice reading with Riley, a certified pet therapy dog @Springfield Township Library
Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
delcolibraries.libcal.com

Thursday, December 4

Holiday Sounds with DK Duo and special guests Olde Towne Carolers

Festive music performance; registration required @Springfield Township Library
Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
delcolibraries.libcal.com

Thursday, December 4

Delco 50th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Seasonal Music, Food Trucks, Local Vendors, Special Guests @Rose Tree Park – 1671 N Providence Rd, Media
Time: 5:00 pm
delcopa.gov/parks/festival-lights

Thursday, December 4 – Saturday, January 3

Rose Tree Festival of Lights

@Rose Tree Park
Sunday - Thursday 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Friday and Saturday 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Delco Fare and Flair Nights - Food Trucks, Vendors, and Live Music
December 4, 6, 7, 13, and 14

Saturday, December 6

Home for the Holidays

Day-long celebration in Swarthmore Town Center @Swarthmore Town Center
Time: 9:00 am – 9:00 pm
swarthmoretowncenter.com

Saturday, December 6

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour

@Lansdowne Theater
Time: Doors 7:00 pm // Show 8:00 pm
thelansdownetheater.com

Saturday, December 6–Sunday, December 21

Youth Ensemble Series – Peter Pan Jr

"The perfect show for the child in all of us" @The Media Theatre
Times Vary
mediatheatre.org

Sunday, December 7

Springfield Township Christmas Parade

Food, Vendors, Live Show and More @ Saxer Ave
Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 7

Christmas Parade

@Saxer Avenue
Food, vendors, live show, and more!

Monday, December 8

Foods of Ancient Egypt with Dr. Steve

Registration required @Springfield Township Library
Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
delcolibraries.libcal.com

Tuesday, December 9

Mystery Book Club

Discussion of How to Solve Your Own Murder by Kristen Perrin; registration required @Springfield Township Library
Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
delcolibraries.libcal.com

Wednesday, December 10

Astronomy in the South

Learn about southern skies; adults and middle school age+ welcome; registration required @Springfield Township Library
Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
delcolibraries.libcal.com

Thursday, December 11

Deck the Table!

Create festive floral arrangements; in-person floral design class @Longwood Gardens
Time: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Fee: \$169
longwoodgardens.org

Friday, December 12

Merchant Night Market

Evening shopping event in Swarthmore Town Center @Swarthmore Town Center
Time: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
swarthmoretowncenter.com

Sunday, December 14

Holiday Village Workshop: Snow Globe Terrariums

@Longwood Gardens
Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Fee: \$139
longwoodgardens.org

Thursday, December 18

The Culture of Chocolate

In-person culinary arts class exploring chocolate traditions @Longwood Gardens
Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Fee: \$79
longwoodgardens.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Hanukkah

Evening of Sunday, December 14 to Evening of Monday, December 22

Winter Solstice

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

Kwanzaa

Friday, December 26 to Thursday, January 1, 2026

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31

Friday, December 19–Sunday, January 4, 2026

Hello, Dolly!

A musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder's hit play @Players Club of Swarthmore
Times Vary
pcstheater.org

Sunday, December 21

Lights Out: A Very Valli Holiday

A tribute to Frankie Valli, the Four Seasons, and more @The Media Theatre
Time: 7:00 pm
mediatheatre.org

Wednesday, December 31

Ship Bottom Brewery Keg Drop

Celebrate New Year's Eve with a keg drop in Swarthmore Town Center @Swarthmore Town Center
Time: 5:00 pm – 11:55 pm
swarthmoretowncenter.com

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

@Springfield Country Club
springfielddelco.org

Thursday, December 4

Planning Commission

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Monday, December 8

Golf Advisory Board

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 9

Board of Commissioners

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Thursday, December 18

Parks Board

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 18

Zoning Hearing Board

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 18

Library Board

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 23

Conservation Committee

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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SIGNS YOUR FURNACE NEEDS PROFESSIONAL REPAIR



By David Oliver,
Oliver Heating and Cooling

A properly functioning furnace is essential for keeping your home comfortable during the colder months. However, like any mechanical system, furnaces can experience wear and tear over time. Recognizing early signs of trouble can save you from costly repairs or unexpected breakdowns in the middle of winter. Our heating experts at Oliver are here with some of the most common signs your furnace needs professional repair, and how we can help.

FURNACE PROBLEMS YOU SHOULDN'T IGNORE

- Uneven Heating or Cold Spots

If some rooms in your home feel warmer than others, your furnace may be struggling to distribute heat efficiently. Uneven heating can indicate issues such as clogged ducts, a failing blower motor, or problems with the thermostat. Ignoring this issue can cause your system to work harder, increasing energy costs and risk of further damage.

- Unusual Noises

Furnaces are typically quiet, so any strange sounds are a warning sign that your furnace needs professional repair. Rattling, banging, or squealing

noises may indicate loose components, worn belts, or issues with the blower motor. These sounds often signal that parts of your furnace are under stress and need inspection.

- Frequent Cycling

A furnace that turns on and off more frequently than usual, known as short cycling, is not operating efficiently. Short cycling can be caused by a dirty filter, an overheating system, or other mechanical problems. This behavior not only wastes energy but can also shorten the lifespan of your furnace.

- Higher Energy Bills

A sudden increase in heating costs can be a subtle sign that your furnace is working harder than it should. Reduced efficiency can result from clogged filters, failing components, or other internal issues. Monitoring your energy usage and noting any spikes can help you identify potential problems early.

- Poor Air Quality

If your furnace is struggling, you may notice increased dust, lingering odors, or even soot in your home. These signs may indicate that your furnace is not properly filtering or circulating air. Poor indoor air quality can affect your family's health, so it's important to address furnace issues promptly.

- Ignition or Pilot Light Issues

For older furnaces with pilot lights, a yellow or flickering flame is a warning sign. Modern furnaces with electronic ignition can also experience problems starting up. Ignition issues can be dangerous and require immediate professional attention.

- Age Of Your Furnace

Even without noticeable problems, furnaces typically last 15-20 years. If your system is approaching this age, it's smart to have regular inspections to ensure it's still functioning efficiently and safely.

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If you notice any of these signs, it's time to call the professionals. Our experts at Oliver specialize in furnace repair, maintenance, and installation, ensuring your home stays warm and safe throughout the winter. With years of experience and a commitment to customer satisfaction, Oliver provides reliable, timely service for all your furnace needs. Don't wait for a small problem to turn into a major breakdown. Contact Oliver today to schedule a furnace inspection or repair and experience peace of mind knowing your heating system is in capable hands.

Happy Holidays from Oliver!

We want to wish you all a safe and comfortable holiday season

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THE MAGIC OF THE NORTH POLE MAILBOX

By Terrence Casey

Every year, right after Thanksgiving, something magical appears at the corner of North Highland Road and Summit Road: a bright red mailbox marked for the North Pole. For Springfield kids, it's not just a mailbox; it's a direct line to Santa Claus. Drop in a letter, and before long, a reply arrives from the big guy himself.

The mailbox looks like it came straight from Santa's workshop. Painted a glossy red, it's stamped with "North

Pole Air Mail Express" in bold white letters and sprinkled with snowflakes. A candy-cane-striped beacon tops it off, making it impossible to miss. It's the kind of detail that lets everyone believe in the magic of Christmas.

So what sparked this tradition? No one really knows the true story about how the mailbox tradition began but according to sources closest to Santa, the mailbox was sent to keep the spirit of the holiday season alive in the hearts of everyone right here in the wonderful town of Springfield.

What started out as a hidden gem for the kids in the local neighborhood has become a full-blown holiday tradition across the town. According to Santa's helpers, "The mailbox is everything we could have hoped for!" Children are full of excitement when sending out their wish lists. The mailbox brightens the smiles of those who might not be in the holiday spirit and brings happiness to both young and old.

And yes, those letters get answered. Each and every response from Santa is beautifully written; highlighting present wishes along with reminders to leave out milk and cookies. "Seeing the joy when kids get a response is the best part," the head elves said.

The letters themselves? Pure holiday gold. "We've seen everything from toy lists to drawings of reindeer to sweet notes asking Santa to help others. Those moments remind us what the season is really about."

There are countless heartwarming moments, but the one that stands out for most neighbors is watching kids jump out of the car to put their letters in the box while parents snap photos to keep forever. A core memory is made and cherished.

Over the years, the mailbox has brought families and neighbors closer together. "All ages drop letters or donations. Grownups write thank-you notes to Santa and add extra postage to help the elves. Over the years, Santa and his elves have watched kids grow up through their letters. Even those who might be close to losing their holiday spirit will drop a letter in the box just in case. The elves work around the clock to make sure every child gets a response. It's been said that some letters have magically appeared in mailboxes at the 11th hour before the big day.

So what's the hope for the future? "That the Santa mailbox inspires the next generation to believe in the magic of Christmas, the importance of giving to others, and to share kindness wherever you go. The hope is that the beautiful red box that sits on the street corner for a few weeks each December encourages everyone to always appreciate the magic of the season."



Tips for Writing the Perfect Letter to Santa

The North Pole mailbox at North Highland Road and Summit Road is ready to deliver holiday wishes! Here are a few fun tips to make your child's letter extra special:

1. Start with a warm greeting.

"Dear Santa" is always a classic way to begin.

2. Share something positive.

Encourage kids to tell Santa about something kind they did this year—he loves hearing good news!

3. Be specific with wishes.

Instead of "toys," suggest writing down one or two favorite items. Santa appreciates clear requests.

4. Add a personal touch.

Draw a picture, include a joke, or write about a favorite holiday tradition. It makes the letter unique!

5. Ask Santa a question.

Kids can ask about the reindeer, the elves, or what Santa likes to eat—this makes the reply even more magical.

6. Sign your name clearly.

Santa needs to know who wrote the letter so he can respond.

7. Drop it in the mailbox early!

The sooner the letter arrives at the North Pole mailbox, the better chance Santa has to reply before Christmas.

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DELAWARE COUNTY LAUNCHES ONLINE HUB FOR EXPANDING TRAIL NETWORK

By Terrence Casey

Delaware County Council and the Planning Department have launched the Primary Trail Network (PTN) Information Hub, a new online resource designed to make the county's growing trail system more accessible to residents, planners, and advocates.

The PTN Information Hub serves as a one-stop destination for interactive maps, real-time trail status updates, and detailed project information. Residents can use the hub to explore existing trails and learn about upcoming connections, while municipalities and planners gain tools to track progress and align with the county's long-term vision for a connected, multimodal transportation network.

The PTN reflects Delaware County's commitment to safe, ADA-compliant, hard-surface trails that link neighborhoods, parks, downtowns, and natural resources. These corridors also connect to The Circuit Trails, a regional initiative aiming to build more than 750 miles of multi-use trails across Greater Philadelphia.

The hub was developed by the county's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team, led by Julie DeMuto, under the direction of Planning Department Director Gina Burrirt. Regional partners, including the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and the William Penn Foundation, provided support. "This project is the result of true collaboration," Burrirt said. "The hub makes it easy for everyone to see where we've been, where we are today, and where we're headed."

Currently, the PTN includes 135 miles of identified corridors, with 45 miles open, 12 miles in design, and 40 miles under feasibility studies. Each trail segment features its own "StoryMap," offering detailed planning documents and progress updates.

Trails deliver significant benefits beyond recreation. Delaware County's Return on Environment study found that open space, including trails, generates \$52 million annually in economic impact, supports 590 jobs, and adds nearly \$689 million in property value. Trails also help avoid more than \$153 million in medical costs by promoting healthier lifestyles and provide environmental benefits such as reducing pollution and mitigating flooding.

The PTN connects to major regional routes like the East Coast Greenway, Chester Creek Trail, and Darby Creek Trail, strengthening Delaware County's role in a larger network of sustainable transportation options.

The PTN Information Hub is now live at [DelcoPA.Link/PTN-Hub](https://delcopa.link/ptn-hub). "Whether you're a cyclist, walker, or simply curious, this tool is for you," Burrirt said. "It empowers residents and ensures our trails reflect community priorities."



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The Konkle Family

CULTIVATING CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY

By Terrence Casey | Professional photos by Maureen Brant Photography

When Becky Konkle moved to Springfield in May 2024, she was looking for more than just a new home, she wanted a community where her son, Charlie, could thrive.

"As a teacher, education is one of our most important family values," Becky said. "Springfield is a great school district in a walkable, safe community that still puts me within commuting distance to Garnet Valley. I'm excited that Charlie will have access to good schools, and he'll be able to walk to middle school, high school, and all of his activities."

Becky and Charlie live just off Saxer Avenue, right in the heart of Springfield. Their days are filled with neighborhood strolls, library visits, and plenty of playground time. "We have loved the walkability of our neighborhood! We're able to go around the corner to Vera's, Thunderbird's, Saxer's...all of our favorites," Becky said. "We are frequent flyers to the Springfield Library for storytime. Our proximity to the fire station means that we can easily get to all the community events held there, and Charlie loves checking out the fire trucks."

Becky's roots in education run deep. Growing up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, she moved to the area for college and earned a Bachelor of Science

in Elementary and Special Education from Saint Joseph's University in 2000.

"I was hired as an elementary special education teacher in Garnet Valley School District just before graduation and have happily spent the last 25 years there," she said. Along the way, Becky earned a Master's Degree in Curriculum, Instruction and Technology from Temple University and completed an Autism Endorsement from the University of Kansas in 2016.

"I knew I wanted to teach for as long as I can remember," Becky said. "While it can be challenging in the day to day, I love what I do, the people I work with and the families I've connected with along the way."

Her commitment to service extends beyond the classroom. At age 25, Becky spent a year as a full-time volunteer in Sacramento, California, through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. "I served as the Youth Corps Director in a transitional living program for homeless, parenting teens and their children," she recalled. "The experiences I had that year have shaped the way I try to live and how I raise Charlie."

That spirit of giving continues today. Becky and Charlie regularly donate food to local food banks,

sort and share toys they no longer use, and help neighbors in simple ways. "I am trying to raise him with the understanding that we are all bound in responsibility to one another," Becky said. "LGBTQ issues, education, and access to healthcare are all things that we value in our family, and we try to support organizations that are doing the important work of advocacy."

Currently, Becky and a friend are planning an organization to help families in transition — whether through emergency fostering, guardianship, or sudden loss of work — by providing essentials like clothing, books, car seats, and high chairs.

When Becky isn't teaching or volunteering, she taps into her creative side through her small business. "Be Love Banners started as a small summer job, a way to earn a little extra money without sacrificing time with Charlie or needing a babysitter," Becky said. "I wanted something that was my own, something creative, meaningful, and community-focused. It's become all of that and more."

What began as a simple idea has turned into a fulfilling part of her life.

"I've met so many wonderful people, created banners to help families celebrate special milestones, and even had the chance to give back, like donating \$5 from every coloring banner sold in November to our local food bank," Becky said. "It's been so much fun watching Be Love Banners grow, and I'm incredibly grateful for the friends and clients who have supported me along the way."

Charlie, who will turn four in January, started preschool this year and is already diving into activities.

"He loves learning and playing," Becky said. "He plays soccer, takes swim lessons and runs through the Healthy Kids Running Series."

With grandparents and aunts in Harrisburg and State College, and friends in Connecticut, Charlie is no stranger to road trips. "Every year we take our family vacation down the shore to Wildwood Crest," Becky said. "It's the one week we're all together in one place and it's our favorite week of the year!" That week is pure magic for Charlie. "He's absolutely in his glory," Becky said. "All his favorite people are there when he goes to sleep and right there again when he wakes up. He gets to spend every moment surrounded by family, and that togetherness is truly his favorite part."

From tram car rides with grandparents to evenings filled with puzzles and games, the memories are priceless. Becky recalled one sweet moment from this summer: "As my mom and Charlie were walking through the house, he looked up at her and said, 'Gram, I just love holding your hand.' Charlie and my dad – his 'Pap' – are truly best buddies, and seeing them laugh and play together all week fills me with so much gratitude."

As the holidays approach, Becky and Charlie are looking forward to festive traditions.

"The season feels extra magical with a little one, and we plan to soak up every moment," Becky said. They'll celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with family, decorate the house, and enjoy favorites like the Santa Breakfast at Hershey Chocolate World. This year brings new adventures too: the Cape May Christmas Parade and Charlie's very first

preschool holiday pageant. "We're also excited to go to the Springfield Tree Lighting this year," Becky said. (See Calendar on page 6 for all events.)

Becky's message to her neighbors is simple: "We love being part of such a wonderful community! We spend a lot of time outside, and Charlie loves greeting everyone who walks by our house. We're excited to get to know more families and make new friends."



Photos courtesy of Becky Konkle

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Compiled by Terrence Casey

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS LITTLE LIBRARY?

Congratulations to Jacqueline Fitzpatrick, who correctly identified the location of last month's Little Library, at 107 Hillview Drive. Now it's time for a new challenge!

Each month, *Springfield Neighbors* features a photo of a different Little Free Library hidden somewhere in our township. These charming book-sharing boxes are popping up in front yards, near parks, and along quiet streets, and we want you to find them!



Photo by Terrence Casey

Take a close look at this month's photo. Do you recognize the setting? If you think you know where this Little Library lives, email your guess to terrencecasey@bestversionmedia.com. The first correct response will win next month's Springfield Swag Bag (est. value \$20), packed with goodies from local shops and restaurants.

This contest is not sponsored by or endorsed by Best Version Media in any way.

GOLD PASS ACADEMY RETURNS TO SPRINGFIELD HIGH FOR WINTER SESSION

The Springfield School District is delighted to announce the return of Gold Pass Academy, a cherished program created to celebrate and engage the senior citizens of our Springfield community. The winter session will run every Thursday from January 15 through February 19 at Springfield High School from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Participants can choose from a variety of classes, including Learn to Crochet, Baking with the Cougars, American Sign Language, Golden Choral, Golden Pages Book Club, Murder She Wrote (Forensic Science), Chair Yoga, and Decade By Decade: Let's Reminisce and Chat.

An open house and registration event will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Springfield High School, where visitors can learn more about the program and register on-site. Tours will be provided by members of the SHS National Honor Society.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Beth Brady at Beth.Brady@ssdcougars.org or call (610) 938-6004. Additional details are available at www.ssdcougars.org under the Community tab by clicking Gold Pass.

GREATER SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



Courtesy of GSBA

The Greater Springfield Business Association (GSBA) is marking a major milestone: its 25th anniversary.

Founded in October 2000, GSBA has spent the past quarter-century fostering local business growth while championing charitable initiatives and community engagement. With a mission to "act with leadership and integrity in the promotion of business, charity, and social dialogue for the enrichment of the group and the greater community," GSBA brings together business owners and managers who either operate in Springfield or call it home.

The organization's unique structure – allowing only one member per industry – creates a collaborative, non-competitive environment where professionals can build strong relationships and refer business locally. Over the years, GSBA has balanced networking with a commitment to giving back, supporting local causes and encouraging members to invest in the community they serve.

Today, the association continues to welcome new members who share its vision of strengthening Springfield's economic and social fabric. For more information or to request an invitation to attend a meeting, visit businessspringfieldpa.com

CCC SHINES CELEBRATES 75TH PRODUCTION

CCC Shines celebrated a milestone achievement with its 75th production since 2007, featuring four packed audiences of Disney's *Frozen Jr.* Nov. 6 to 9 at Cardinal O'Hara High School. Families from the many years of CCC and community members, as well as sponsors and supporters, gathered to witness the beloved story come to life through vibrant performances, heartfelt music, and the unmistakable energy that fills every CCC stage.



Courtesy of CCC Shines

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More than just a show, the production reflected CCC Shines' core mission: to inspire growth, friendship, and joy on and off the stage. From opening night to the final bow, Frozen Jr. was a celebration of creativity, community, and the lasting impact of performing arts. CCC Shines looks forward to the next 75 productions and beyond. For more info on upcoming programs and events, visit www.cccshines.com.

EAGLES MASCOT SWOOP AND CHEERLEADER BRING TEAM SPIRIT TO SCENIC HILLS ELEMENTARY

Scenic Hills Elementary got a special visit on October 24 from Swoop, the Philadelphia Eagles' beloved mascot, and an Eagles cheerleader. The pair spent time with students and faculty, posing for photos and spreading team pride ahead of the Eagles' 38-20 victory over the New York Giants.



Courtesy of Christina Park

SPRINGFIELD HIGH HOSTS SPOOKTACULAR EVENING OF MUSIC AND FUN

Springfield High School hosted its annual Spooktacular on Monday, October 27, at Cougar Stadium, offering a festive evening of music and fun for families, friends, and students of all ages. The evening began with activities along Cougar Way to introduce young students to the school district's music program. The highlight of the night, though, was when the SHS orchestra, choir, and marching band performed a spooky-themed outdoor concert.



Courtesy of Michelle Jeffrey

LOCAL SCOUT COMPLETES EAGLE PROJECT AT WASHINGTON'S MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sophia Carroll, Troop 1766, recently completed an ambitious Eagle Scout project at Washington's Memorial



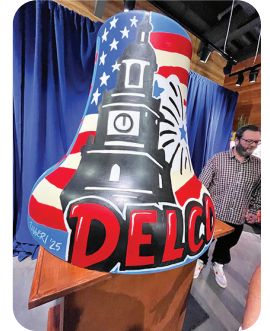
Courtesy of Sophia Carroll

Chapel Heritage. The project began in June 2024 after Sophia accepted a challenge from the Heritage organization to create new bases for the chapel's historic cannons. Over the following months, she developed a detailed plan, secured approvals from her beneficiary and district board, and coordinated with her Eagle coach to determine specifications for the concrete bases.

Sophia sourced 26 eight-foot concrete curbstops and obtained rebar for 22 cannons. After extensive planning and more than 100 hours of preparation, she led five full workdays with volunteers to install the new bases and secure the cannons. As an added safety measure, Sophia also addressed an outdoor electrical outlet issue, which will be completed soon with her coach's assistance.

DELCO SHOWCASES SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE WITH NEW COMMEMORATIVE BELL

Delaware County marked an early tribute to America's upcoming 250th anniversary with the unveiling of a custom bell sculpture at the ShopRite of Drexel line. The piece, part of the statewide Bells Across PA public art initiative, was created by artist Joshua Ruggeri and sponsored by Wakefern Food Corp. and Burns Family Neighborhood Markets.



Courtesy of Sen. Tim Kearney

The fiberglass bell reflects the pride and resilience of the local community, according to America250PA Chair Pat Burns, who also serves as CEO of ShopRite. The initiative aims to install 108 bells across Pennsylvania by 2026 — at least one in every county — celebrating the people, places, and contributions that shaped the nation's history.

FROM TRASH TO TREASURE: RECYCLED BENCHES INSTALLED AT SMEDLEY PARK

By Julia King

Visitors to Smedley Park can now relax on four new benches with an unexpected origin: thousands of pounds of recycled plastic bags, bubble wrap, and film. The benches were installed by Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Delaware County, who spent



(left to right): Delaware County Master Gardeners Pauline Myers, Chris Coulter, Dee Levin, Stephen Hinds, and Julie Helverson



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hundreds of volunteer hours collecting and bundling plastics that most municipal recycling programs won't accept.

The initiative began in 2022 through a partnership with Trex Company, Inc., a Virginia-based manufacturer of composite decking. Trex provides a bench for every 1,000 pounds of plastic collected in a year. After installing two benches in 2023, the group doubled its efforts to meet Trex's updated requirement.

Master Gardeners organized weekly collections at Smedley Park and partnered with local businesses to gather large quantities of plastic. "Plastic is everywhere, and we don't know what to do with it," said project co-leader Karen Murphy of Glen Mills.

The benches now serve as a reminder that with creativity and commitment, waste can become something beautiful. Learn more about Penn State Extension Master Gardeners at extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/delaware.

KATELYNN DEVINNEY NAMED 2025 BE WELL PHILLY HEALTH HERO

Philadelphia Magazine has announced Katelynn Devinney as its 2025 Be Well Philly Health Hero. Devinney, founder of the nonprofit Pockets of Hope, launched the organization after her mother underwent a mastectomy. The group provides custom zip-up sweatshirts with sewn-in interior pockets to hold post-surgical drainage tubes, offering comfort and dignity to breast cancer patients during recovery.



As this year's Health Hero, Devinney received a \$15,000 donation to Pockets of Hope. On social media, she shared her excitement, writing: "Just an absolute honor and still on cloud 9!"

Pockets of Hope was recently featured in *Springfield Neighbors* for its mission to support patients through one of life's most challenging journeys.

O'HARA CELEBRATES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Cardinal O'Hara High School celebrated its 2025 Hall of Fame ceremony, honoring six distinguished alumni and one championship team for their lasting impact on the school community. This year's inductees include:



Courtesy of Cardinal O'Hara

- Charles "Tom" Keenan '68
- Marguerite Hogan Fritsch '78
- Tom Collins '78
- Michael Louden '85
- Lauren Lonergan Taylor '88 (posthumously)
- The 1993 Girls' Basketball Championship Team

In addition, the **St. James Alumni Association** received the **Mark and Jeanne Cordes '74 Impact Award** for its exceptional contributions.

Cardinal O'Hara praised the honorees for exemplifying the spirit of a "Lion for Life" and thanked them for their dedication and achievements.

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281 West Ave	2558	4	2/0	26	\$599,000	\$580,000	10/06/25
3508 San Rafael Ct	1456	2	2/1	8	\$325,000	\$340,000	10/07/25
1435 Country Club Dr	1404	2	2/1	4	\$499,900	\$535,000	10/08/25
511 Rodney Ln	1418	3	1/1	21	\$450,000	\$440,000	10/09/25
53 N Hillcrest Rd	1372	2	2/1	7	\$405,000	\$430,000	10/10/25
444 Kerr Ln	1632	4	2	9	\$515,000	\$560,000	10/10/25
63 S Hillcrest Rd	1876	3	1/1	6	\$595,000	\$600,000	10/10/25
251 Powell Rd	1618	3	1	3	\$345,000	\$350,000	10/14/25
301 N. Norwinden Dr.	1327	4	2/0	3	\$425,000	\$430,000	10/15/25
1008 Lincoln Ave.	2720	4	2/1	38	\$695,000	\$695,000	10/15/25
38 S. Britton Rd	1800	4	1/1	4	\$524,900	\$595,000	10/16/25
268 Beechwood Rd.	1786	3	1/2	4	\$475,000	\$500,000	10/20/25
449 Hawarden Rd.	2597	5	2/0	8	\$499,999	\$530,000	10/22/25
224 Ballymore Rd.	1336	3	1	5	\$385,000	\$390,000	10/22/25
273 School Ln.	1851	3	2	0	\$540,000	\$565,000	10/29/25
979 Edgewood Dr.	1434	3	1/1	5	\$385,000	\$405,000	10/29/25
243 Rambling Way	1930	3	2/1	8	\$590,000	\$595,000	10/30/25
142 Rambling Way	135	3	1/0	5	\$390,000	\$390,000	10/31/25

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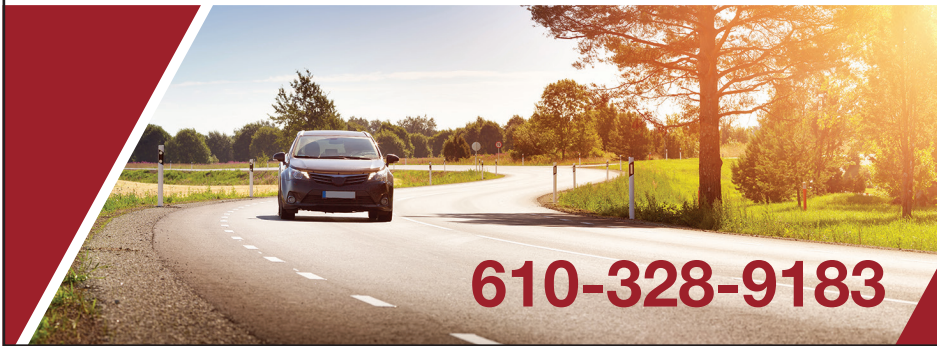
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