

Springfield Neighbors

SCENIC



HOME IS WHERE THE DOGS ARE:

The VanGorden Family

pages 10-11

Cover photo by
Terrence Casey

POWERED BY
BVM
BEST VERSION MEDIA

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Scenic Hills Opens a Time Capsule 50 Years in the Making, page 2
- A Strong Roof Starts Beneath the Shingles, page 5
- Celebrating Over 20 Years of Illuminating Homes with a Focus on Family and Service, page 6
- Ed Crandley's Hall of Fame Honor Comes Full Circle, page 12
- Bill Smeck Named Grand Marshal of Canceled July 4th Parade, page 15
- Springfield Township Honors 11 Volunteers, page 15

A MESSAGE FROM 1976

SCENIC HILLS OPENS A TIME CAPSULE 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING



Photos courtesy of Danielle Meyer

By Terrence Casey

In the spring of 2026, students at Scenic Hills Elementary School got a rare glimpse into the past -- and a chance to send a message to the future.

A time capsule sealed in 1976 by fifth-grade teacher Ms. Adrienne Smith was opened this June, nearly 50 years after it was buried. Though the exact origins of the project aren't fully documented, the timing offers a strong clue. "While we are not certain, it is likely that they started the time capsule as a way to celebrate the Bicentennial," said Danielle Meyer, one of the teachers who led this year's opening event.

The reveal was a full community moment. In the weeks leading up to the opening, fifth-grade student leaders designed posters and organized a 1970s-themed spirit day to build anticipation. Teachers shared a presentation explaining the history of time capsules, what life looked like in 1976, and invited students and staff to predict what might be inside. Guesses ranged from pet rocks to cassette tapes.

When the capsule was finally opened, the contents didn't disappoint. Students were especially drawn to Flyers memorabilia included because of the team's playoff run that year -- a connection that felt surprisingly current given the Flyers' own playoff push in 2026. But perhaps the most unexpected item was a simple measuring cup. "Students in 1976 had been told that the United States would soon switch to the metric system," said Julia Havertine, who co-organized the event with Meyer. "They included it assuming customary measurements might be obsolete by the time anyone opened the capsule."

One of the most moving discoveries was an audio cassette from the school's Bicentennial Assembly, containing recordings of students singing and teachers



(From left to right) Danielle Meyer (co-organizer), the daughter of the teacher, several students from the class, the husband of the teacher, and Julia Havertine (co-organizer)



speaking. The audio had degraded over the decades, but the Scenic Hills team was able to restore it enough to make out voices and songs. "Hearing those students speak across generations was a powerful and meaningful experience for everyone involved," Meyer said.

The community evening that followed brought the moment full circle. Several members of the original fifth-grade class returned to the school to share memories and explain why certain items had been chosen, giving current students a living connection to the classmates who had packed that capsule half a century earlier. Michael Brown, a lifelong Springfield resident who was in that fifth-grade class, was among those who came back. "It was great to see old friends, some I haven't seen since high school," he said, "and reminisce about our days in fifth grade at Scenic Hills."

Now, Scenic Hills is looking ahead. A new time capsule, assembled with help from the current fifth-grade class, has been sealed and is set to be opened in April 2076. "We believe keeping the contents secret will make the opening even more exciting," Havertine said. "We look forward to future generations discovering this special snapshot of life in 2026."

The capsule was completed by Meyer and Havertine, who are pictured holding it ahead of its sealing.



SPRINGFIELD

VETERINARY HOSPITAL & DENTAL CLINIC



TRADITIONAL



HOLISTIC



ADVANCED

610-543-5555

Book Your Appointment and Come Meet the Staff at

Springfield Veterinary Hospital and Dental Clinic

450 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, PA

springfieldvetpa.com 

IMPORTANCE OF WALKING YOUR DOG EVERYDAY

-  **Walking provides exercise and mental stimulation**
-  **Good for dog's health**
-  **Helps with your dog's socialization**
-  **Walking is a training opportunity**
-  **Promotes the human/animal bond!**

TOWNSHIP TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police 610-544-1100
Fire Call 911
Ambulance Call 911
Administration 610-544-1300
Parks 610-543-3860
Public Works 610-543-2837
Library 610-543-2113
Board of Health 610-544-1300
Springfield Country Club
Golf Shop 610-543-9860
Clubhouse 610-690-7600
Pool and Ice Rink 610-544-6670
Springfield YMCA 610-557-YMCA (6922)

POWERED BY



PUBLICATION TEAM

PUBLISHER - Brian G. Kenyon
CONTENT COORDINATOR - Brian G. Kenyon
DESIGNER - Deborah Sweezey

ADVERTISING

Contact: Brian G. Kenyon
Phone: 267-207-9714
Email: briankenyon@bestversionmedia.com

COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

Have feedback or questions about how to submit story ideas, submissions, event listings or photos? We are happy to hear from you and will do our best to include as much community information as space allows. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "submit content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to terrencecasey@bestversionmedia.com.

CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Content due the 1st of every month.

Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and advertorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowners associations, businesses or organizations that this publication serves. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any content submitted, inclusive of materials generated or composed through artificial intelligence (AI). All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party.
© 2026 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.

Hello Neighbors!

Wow, it's August already! I always feel like August is a sign that summer is coming to an end. While I hope most of you are still enjoying vacation time, beach time, pool time, or backyard barbecues, we all know that the days are numbered until new obligations, responsibilities, and routines take over. As many prepare for the new school year and sports seasons, try to find your balance between these final weeks of summer fun and back-to-school checklists, sports registrations, and adjustments to family schedules. Squeeze in those last-minute beach trips, ice cream treats after dinner, or late nights relaxing outside to create those core memories that will last a lifetime.

We are very excited about this issue. We were able to publish many community articles that celebrate the diversity of our township and truly bring us together. We spotlight Bill Smeck, Grand Marshal of the 4th of July Parade, which unfortunately didn't take place this year due to the weather. I've personally interacted with Bill over the years and know he works tirelessly to preserve our history and honor the service men and women from our area. We should be proud he's a member of our community. We highlight the volunteers, firefighters, athletes, and local organizations. There are some great articles from expert contributors you'll definitely want to check out, and we revisit JDV Electric to get an update on their current business.

I would like to welcome **My Independence at Home** to our list of local sponsors. The owner, Lisa Robinson, recently opened a new location on Springfield Road, next to O'Leary's. They provide an alternative to nursing or medical facilities by offering quality, trustworthy, compassionate, and professional home care to the elderly and adults with physical and intellectual developmental disabilities, fostering a greater sense of independence and improved quality of life. We can look forward to their future articles.

As summer winds down, remember that this time of year can be a little slower for many local businesses. Whenever you can, think local, shop local, dine local, and support the businesses, organizations, and neighbors who make our community such a special place. Wishing all of our students, teachers, and school staff a successful start to the new academic year, and hoping everyone enjoys every last sunset, cookout, and adventure that summer has to offer.

Have a safe, happy, and memorable August!

Stay sandy, Springfield!

Brian G. Kenyon

Publisher



TELL US
WHY YOU LOVE
THIS MAGAZINE!



www.bestversionmedia.com/feedback



Celebrating 110 Years of
Serving the Community

C.J. **KELSO** LLC.
Plumbing & Heating
Family Owned Since 1916

610-545-3999
www.cjkelso.com

- ✓ Flat Rate Pricing
- ✓ One Year Money Back Guarantee
- ✓ Senior, Military, and First Responders Discounts
- ✓ Locally Owned and Operated
- ✓ Licensed and Insured

4TH GENERATION MASTER PLUMBER

Expert Contributors Needed!

To learn more about becoming an expert contributor, contact Brian at briankenyon@bestversionmedia.com.



Automotive

Steve Colella
Secane Auto and Truck Works
619 South Ave, Secane
610-328-9183 - Steve@secaneauto.com
secaneauto.com



Electrical

Joe Voci
JDV Electric, LLC
484-218-1195 - joe@jdvelectric.com
jdvelectric.com



Home Health Care

Lisa Robinson
My Independence at Home
652 East Springfield Rd, Springfield
215-921-2277 - info@myiah.org
myiah.org



HVAC

David Oliver - Owner
Oliver Heating & Cooling
Springfield
877-712-1482
oliverheatcool.com



Insurance

Tom Foran
Cellucci Foran Insurance
640 W. Woodland Ave, Springfield
610-544-1908 - tom@cfinsureme.com
cellucciforaninsurance.com



Roofing & Siding

Mikey Shaw
Mikey Shaw Roofing
267-460-3784
mshawroofingrequest@gmail.com
mikeyshawroofing.com



Running Apparel and Footwear

Dave Winter
Fleet Feet Springfield
133 S State Rd, Springfield Shopping Center
610-585-1990
fleetfeet.com/springfieldpa



Veterinary

Dr. Timothy Mann
Springfield Veterinary Hospital & Dental Clinic
450 Baltimore Pike, Springfield
610-543-5555 - timothy.vet@gmail.com
springfieldvetpa.com

FIRST SCOOP FREE!

POOP 911
We Scoop Dog Poop

Is your grass dying?
If you're seeing yellow spots on your lawn, your pet's poop is probably the cause. Dog and cat waste is not fertilizer — in fact, it's often the reason your yard starts to die.

Save your lawn with POOP 911.

100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Springfield Pooper Scooper Services
1-877-POOP-911 • www.poop911.com

Over 170 5-star reviews on Google ★★★★★

NATURAL BORN KLIPPERS
SHARP FADES & CLEAN SHAVES

DISCOVER YOUR PERFECT LOOK!

Old school barbershop specializing in haircuts, beard trimming, hot lather shaves.

761 West Sproul Rd | 484-471-3994
NATURALBORNKLIPPERS.COM
Call or go online to book your next appointment.

VERA'S WATER ICE & ICE CREAM

Come Celebrate Summer at Vera's

Ask us about our full service event and catering options

Summer Hours 12-10pm
162 Saxer Ave • 610-543-2030
veraswaterice@gmail.com

A STRONG ROOF STARTS BENEATH THE SHINGLES

By Michael Shaw,
Mikey Shaw Roofing



Homes throughout our area tell the story of many different eras. Some properties date back well over a century, while others were completed just months ago. Even with decades of advancements in construction methods and materials, roofing remains one of the toughest and most hazardous trades in the industry. Although modern products have evolved, the core installation process has stayed surprisingly consistent over time.

What appears to be a simple layer of shingles on the outside often hides years — and sometimes generations — of previous roofing systems underneath. Many homes in our area contain multiple roofing layers that may include asphalt shingles, cedar shake, plywood, asbestos materials or even original slate roofing.

While asphalt shingles are commonly marketed with warranties ranging from 20 to 50 years, the average roof nationwide lasts closer to 12 years. In many cases, poor workmanship is to blame. Even the highest-quality materials cannot perform properly if they're installed over failing roof layers or deteriorated decking. We frequently inspect roofs that are less than five years old but already experiencing major issues because they were installed on compromised plywood or aging wood decking.

Although the cost of a roof replacement can feel overwhelming, cutting corners often leads to much more expensive problems later. A properly installed roofing system is one of the best ways to protect your home and long-term investment.

Several factors can influence the overall cost of a roofing project, including:

- The number of existing roofing layers
- The quality of attic ventilation
- Roof pitch, height and overall difficulty
- The condition of the roof decking or plywood

Homeowners can often learn a lot simply by taking a look inside the attic. The type and condition of the decking are usually easy to identify, though determining the number of roof layers from inside can be more difficult. Homes with cedar shake roofs, for example, typically require entirely new plywood before asphalt shingles can be installed.

If mold is present on the decking or plywood, replacing the wood alone may not solve the problem. In many situations, improving the attic ventilation system is strongly recommended to prevent future moisture issues. Darkened plywood can also be a warning sign that the decking is old and may not support a new roofing system for its full lifespan. Watch for cracks, splits, loose knots or other signs of deterioration, especially if your home has traditional wood decking beneath the shingles.

Even though attics aren't the most comfortable places to spend time, becoming familiar with yours can help you spot moisture concerns early and better prepare for future projects like a roof replacement. And if you're unsure about what you're seeing, it's always wise to schedule a professional inspection and estimate.

Meet Mikey Shaw... Springfield's Expert Roofer



- Roof installation and repairs
- Roof replacement or reconditioning
- Siding, gutters and exterior repairs
- Holiday lighting installation & removal
- Veteran & police appreciation discount

**24/7 EMERGENCY
ROOF SERVICES**



*"I personally deliver every
roof repair or replacement quote."*

~ Mikey Shaw, Owner



215.678.7762 • MShawRoofing.com

JDV ELECTRIC

– CELEBRATING OVER 20 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING HOMES WITH A FOCUS ON FAMILY AND SERVICE



"Family owned and operated" is not just a tagline at JDV Electric, it's at the core of its business.

By Patrick Burke

Photos provided by JDV Electric

JDV Electric is a family owned and operated electrical company with locations in Lansdowne and West Chester. They serve Philadelphia and the surrounding area, with a strong customer base in Springfield, Garnet Valley and other Delaware County towns.

In 2005, JDV Electric opened its doors with a simple mission: to provide safe, quality, family-oriented electrical services both in the industry and community. Today, the company proudly celebrates over 20 years in business with the same dedication and passion that sparked its beginning.

Founder and owner Joseph Dominic Voci (JDV) has been dedicated to electrical services for most of his life. He graduated from Orleans Technical Institute in 2001 and spent the next four years working for a large electrical contractor. His journey has always been shaped by family and community. "Family owned and operated" is not just a tag line at JDV Electric, it's at the core of its business. Joe works side by side with his father (Joe Sr.) and his wife Dee who helps with marketing. Even their six-year-old Australian Labradoodle Moose brings energy and joy (and sometimes mischief) to the business. Joe credits his family as his greatest inspiration, fueling his drive to build something meaningful for his customers, his employees, and the community he calls home.

Over two decades, JDV Electric has grown from a small local shop into a renowned residential service company with more than 800 five-star Google reviews and a reputation built on professionalism and trust. Homeowners across Delaware County know they can rely on JDV Electric not just for top-quality workmanship and customer care, but also for the peace of mind that comes with knowing the job will get done right the first time.



As the company has expanded, so has Joe's role. While he once spent most of his days in a truck running service calls, today he focuses more on mentoring his team and guiding the company's future. Helping apprentices develop their skills, encouraging electricians to grow in their careers, and fostering leadership within the team have become some of his proudest achievements. This culture of learning and support has created a strong sense of family, ensuring that every customer interaction reflects JDV's core values.

That same family culture and mentality have helped JDV Electric remain a trusted household name for over 20 years. From troubleshooting and repairs to installations and system upgrades, every project is approached with the same care and commitment. Customers often remark that JDV doesn't just provide service, they provide peace of mind.

As JDV Electric celebrates this milestone achievement, Joe reflects on what has made the journey so rewarding: "It's about more than wiring homes. It's about building relationships, creating opportunities for our team, and making sure families feel safe and comfortable where they live."

With over 20 years of history behind them and an exciting future ahead, JDV Electric remains dedicated to its mission: treating customers and employees like family and providing safe and reliable electrical services to local residents and communities.



Make Business Bloom with eRose Web

SERVICES

- Custom Web Design
- Social Media Management / Marketing (SMM)
- Search Engine Marketing / Optimization (SEO)
- Content Writing / Marketing
- eMail Marketing
- Multi Media Marketing (Logos, Graphic Design)

eRose Web & Business Services, LLC
MakeBusinessBloom.com
 Info@eRoseWeb.com 610-574-5374



YOUR DOG'S BEST SUMMER STARTS HERE!

TAKE YOUR DOG ANYWHERE!

PUPPIES • BEHAVIOR ISSUES • AGGRESSION

54 Conchester Road
 Glen Mills, PA 19342

610-387-5045

PHILLY'S BEST
HOLISTIC K9 Solutions
20 BEST OF 2019



In honor of America - Take \$25.0 OFF every \$100 on all full priced items.
 Code: America250 Expires: 9/30/2026

FLEET FEET

FIND YOUR PERFECT FIT

133 S. State Road, Springfield, PA 19064
 (610)585-1990

FIND TOP BRANDS HERE

BROOKS **NIKE** **HOKA**

➤ And MORE!

3D Scanning Technology




SEE YOUR FEET THE WAY WE DO fit id

Get Your Electrical Work Done Right the First Time, Every Time.



Est. 2005

Family Owned and Operated



Your Trusted Local Electrician for Over 20 Years

484-218-1195

SERVICES

- Switch/Outlet Repair & Replacement
- Breaker Panel Repair & Replacement
- Wiring Repair & Replacement
- Recessed Lighting
- Landscape Lighting
- Ceiling Fans
- Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- Whole House Surge Protection
- Dedicated Circuits

10% OFF YOUR NEXT JOB

Restrictions apply: maximum discount of \$1,000. Cannot be combined with other offers. Is not retroactive.

BOOKING NOW!

www.JDVelectric.com

Summer Carnival

By Mandi Blake

A	K	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	E	C	A	M
Q	H	E	R	N	V	B	D	U	L	F	S	T	M	I
C	O	R	J	E	T	I	H	C	W	R	P	N	J	N
B	P	R	E	C	E	S	U	O	H	N	U	F	X	I
F	L	I	S	T	V	X	R	T	F	O	P	S	G	D
A	I	S	G	Y	S	Q	A	T	N	C	K	I	Z	O
C	M	W	T	F	W	A	E	O	V	R	E	U	D	N
E	E	H	B	D	A	I	O	N	E	Z	L	T	A	U
P	O	E	Z	W	Y	Q	M	C	Y	F	N	O	H	T
A	P	E	X	I	X	U	Y	A	R	J	W	W	G	S
I	S	L	C	G	P	V	K	N	E	E	O	H	Y	D
N	D	R	U	H	R	P	Y	D	O	S	L	Q	I	U
T	O	N	Q	M	I	U	E	Y	L	Z	C	L	X	B
A	J	I	L	M	Z	B	Z	T	W	F	V	G	O	K
S	R	A	C	R	E	P	M	U	B	N	K	O	J	R



Bumper Cars
Clown
Cotton Candy
Face Paint
Ferris Wheel
Fireworks
Funhouse
Mini Donuts
Prize
Roller Coaster

Secane Auto & Truck Works

SPECIALIZING IN CARS, TRUCKS, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, AND MOTORCYCLES



610-328-9183

IT'S A GREAT TIME FOR A TUNE UP

Driving season is upon us!
Stop by to make sure your vehicle
is ready to hit the open road

Routine Maintenance | State Safety and
Emissions Inspections | Tires and Alignment
Braking Systems | Fuel Systems Diagnostics
and Electrical Checks | Suspensions Systems
Cooling and Heating Systems | Engine and
Transmission Service and Repair

619 South Avenue Secane, PA
secaneauto.com



My Independence at HOME™

Quality Home Care with Compassion...



PROVIDING
PASSIONATE HOME
CARE SINCE 2013

WAYS TO CONNECT!

Stop by our NEW Springfield location at 652 East Springfield Rd.

Call 215-921-2277 or visit MYIAH.org
to schedule a FREE consultation.

SERVICES

- Community Healthchoices
- Developmental Services
- Personal Emergency Response Systems



SOLD HOMES FROM JUNE 2026

Address	Sq. Ft.	Beds	Baths	DOM	List Price	Sold Price	Date
418 Colonial Park Dr	1,668	4	2	4	\$475,000	\$565,000	06/01/26
43 Lownes Ln	1,386	3	1/1	7	\$450,000	\$475,000	06/02/26
637 N Bishop Ave	2,402	3	2/1	15	\$499,900	\$485,000	06/02/26
56 N Brookside Rd	1,391	2	1	4	\$415,000	\$454,500	06/03/26
308 Lewis Rd	1,783	3	3/0	4	\$525,000	\$570,000	06/03/26
93 Saxer Ave	1,850	4	2/0	4	\$600,000	\$615,000	06/05/26
251 School Ln	2,460	3	1/1	1	\$525,000	\$580,000	06/05/26
270 Sunnybrook Rd	1,990	4	3	6	\$560,000	\$595,000	06/05/26
89 Worrell	1,436	3	1/1	11	\$500,000	\$470,000	06/05/26
447 Maddock Rd	2,046	3	1/2	5	\$549,999	\$580,000	06/10/26
311 Carolee Cir	4,159	4	3/1	5	\$845,000	\$880,000	06/10/26
217 E Thomson Ave	1,424	3	2	6	\$424,900	\$440,000	06/11/26
320 Prospect Rd	2,468	5	3/1	4	\$620,000	\$620,000	06/15/26
231 E Woodland Ave	1,660	3	2/1	24	\$475,000	\$465,000	06/15/26
961 Westfield Rd	1,422	3	1/1	16	\$420,000	\$420,000	06/16/26
306 Sedgewood Rd	2,063	4	2/0	9	\$519,000	\$535,000	06/16/26
405 E Woodland Ave	1,844	4	3/0	6	\$540,000	\$565,000	06/16/26
224 Wayne Ave	1,718	4	1/1	5	\$499,000	\$560,000	06/17/26
304 Carolee Cir	4,473	4	2/1	4	\$849,900	\$915,000	06/17/26
221 Hemlock Ln	2,300	4	2/1	3	\$739,900	\$830,000	06/17/26
255 Gibbons Rd	1,380	3	1/1	35	\$459,900	\$435,000	06/17/26
649 Andrew Rd	1,806	3	3	4	\$465,000	\$485,000	06/18/26
481 Maplewood Rd	1,924	3	2/1	4	\$449,900	\$525,689	06/18/26
578 Rutherford Dr	2,552	4	2/1	16	\$899,000	\$880,000	06/19/26
524 Wesley Rd	2,167	3	1/1	0	\$540,000	\$540,000	06/22/26
534 Maplewood Rd	1,316	3	1/0	5	\$370,000	\$390,000	06/22/26
212 E Woodland Ave	2,996	4	3	24	\$695,000	\$730,000	06/23/26
141 Cascade Rd	1,269	3	2/0	5	\$476,200	\$515,000	06/24/26
548 Claremont Rd	2,202	4	2/1	6	\$549,900	\$637,000	06/25/26
359 Spring Valley Rd	2,312	4	2/2	60	\$465,000	\$420,000	06/25/26
527 Saxer Ave	1,853	3	1/1	5	\$435,000	\$481,000	06/30/26
465 Briarhill Rd	1,848	4	2	7	\$500,000	\$580,000	06/30/26

Best Version Media does not guarantee the accuracy of the statistical data on this page. The data does not represent the listings of any one agent or agency but represents the activity of the entire real estate community in the area. Any real estate agent's ad appearing in the magazine is separate from the statistical data provided which is in no way a part of the advertisement.



**Local Family Owned
for over 60 years**

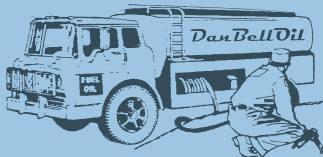
610-543-0652

205 Walnut Street, Morton
billsautobodymorton@gmail.com

- Call or stop in for an estimate
- All work Guaranteed
- We work with all insurance companies

Dan Bell Oil

Home Heating Oil Is About Price & Prompt Service
WE HAVE BOTH !!!



- ✓ Lowest Prices
- ✓ 24/7 Delivery
- ✓ Quality Fuel
- ✓ Friendly Service

SAME DAY DELIVERY - 7 days a week!

(610) 534-8800

BE CONFIDENT IN YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE



Michael Cellucci
mike@cfinsureme.com



CELLUCCI FORAN
INSURANCE, INC.

610-544-1908

www.cellucciforaninsurance.com

640 W Woodland Ave Springfield, PA 19064



Home



Auto



Renters



Motorcycle



RV



Business



Tom Foran
tom@cfinsureme.com



Erie
Insurance®

Get insurance with honest, reliable customer service from start to finish.



HOME IS WHERE THE DOGS ARE: *The VanGorden Family*

By Terrence Casey

Photos by Terrence Casey and courtesy of Cat VanGorden

Marcus VanGorden has lived an unconventional life — teaching English in China, cycling through Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand, studying permaculture in Oregon — but somehow, Springfield is where everything came together.

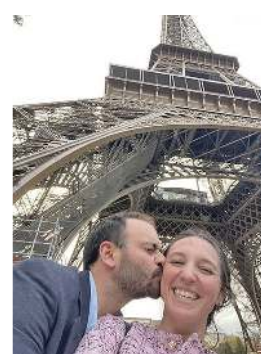
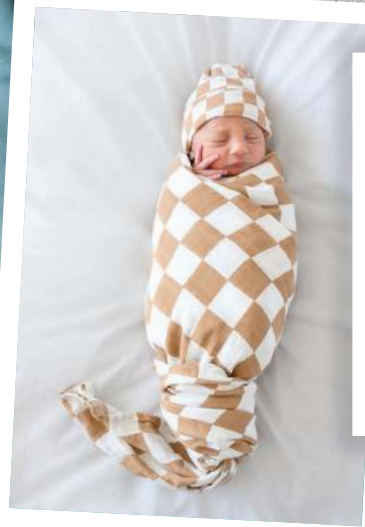
He grew up in Wallingford, and his wife Cat was born and raised right here in town. The two of them now share a home in the Scenic Hills neighborhood with their son Giovanni, born this past February, and four dogs who seem to run the place.

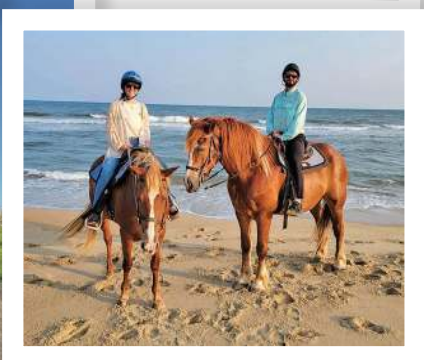
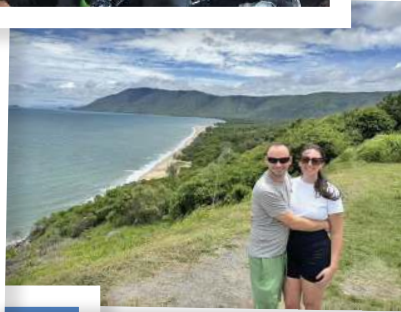
The story of how Marcus and Cat met is the kind you don't forget. Cat brought her Afghan Hound, Luigi, to Holistic K9 Solutions, Marcus's dog training business, for help with behavioral issues. When Marcus showed up at the address for the lesson, he realized he'd already worked with a client at that same house. A new owner had moved in — Cat had bought the place — and when she opened the door, a new chapter started too. "Same address, new dog, new owner — and the rest is history," Marcus said. The two were married at St. Dorothy's in 2024. Their honeymoon took them to Australia, where they dived the Great Barrier Reef, and they've been chasing adventures together ever since.

Marcus founded Holistic K9 Solutions, which has been voted Best of Delco four years running. The business is built around a simple but powerful

idea he calls "both sides of the leash." "Most dog training focuses entirely on the dog," he said. "But the owner is half the equation. If you train the dog perfectly but the owner doesn't understand how to maintain that work, the training collapses the moment they get home." So Holistic K9 trains both — teaching dogs the skills and teaching owners how to communicate clearly, read body language, and be consistent. Marcus's industrial design degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design turns out to be more relevant than people might expect. "Design thinking taught me to observe, prototype, and refine," he said. "That's exactly how I build a training program."

Cat brings her own athletic discipline to the family. She's an alumna of Sacred Heart Academy and played volleyball at Bryn Athyn College. Now she coaches the varsity team back at Sacred Heart, channeling her experience into the next generation of players. "Volleyball has been such a big part of my life, so being able to give back through coaching is incredibly rewarding," she said. "Of course I want my players to improve their skills and compete at a high level, but even more than that, what means the most to me is helping shape them into confident, resilient young women." On summer evenings, you might find her at Springfield's local sand volleyball courts, a spot she's come to love as one more reminder of what this community has to offer.





Their household is lively by any measure. Alongside baby Gio, the family shares their home with four dogs: Simba, a 13-year-old who serves as the company mascot and Marcus's service dog; Luigi, the 7-year-old Afghan Hound who inadvertently introduced his owners to each other; Luke, a 3-year-old tripawd Poodle rescued early in their relationship who lost a leg to a serious medical condition but, as Marcus puts it, "he's not missing a leg, it's just not there"; and Jynx, a Greyhound recently rescued from a facility that used dogs as captive blood donors.

The first few months of parenthood have been, in Marcus's words, "fun chaos." Working professionally with animals, he says, gave them the confidence and patience to handle the unpredictability. "There are some things that happen that you couldn't have prepared for," he said, "but it's just about dealing with all the things you didn't know you didn't know." The dogs, for their part, have taken to Gio immediately. Beyond their own four, the VanGordens also foster high-needs dogs through Greyhound Friends of New Jersey, bringing them into the board-and-train program, home-testing them alongside the baby and the rest of the pack, and helping place them with permanent families. "The single most rewarding part is when a dog goes from being our foster to someone's best friend," Marcus said.

Cat grew up a few streets away from where they live now, and her parents are still just down the road — her sister lives up the street from them as well. "Growing up in Springfield gave me such a strong sense of community," she said. "I love that Giovanni is surrounded by family, familiar faces, and the same values that shaped me." For Marcus, years of travel taught him to recognize that kind of place when he found it. Springfield, he says, had it.

Giovanni is only a few months old, already surrounded by dogs, community, and two parents who have seen enough of the world to know exactly where they want to be.

Your Peace of Mind has always been Our First Priority



You'll Feel the Difference.

View our website to schedule an appointment, read our blog, or see our seasonal specials.

OliverHeatCool.com



HEATING



COOLING



PLUMBING



ELECTRICAL



SEWER

WHAT THE PLAYERS REMEMBER

ED CRANDLEY'S HALL OF FAME HONOR COMES FULL CIRCLE

By Terrence Casey

When Steve Crowe heard that his longtime friend and coaching partner Ed Crandley was being inducted into the Delco Athletes Hall of Fame, he knew exactly what to do. He reached out to former players and asked them to write letters.

What came back was something neither of them could have fully anticipated.

Crandley, 73, has spent more than six decades involved in Delaware County sports — as a player, coach, umpire, and organizer. He was recently honored with the Andrew W. MacMurtrie Sportsman of the Year Award, given annually to someone who has volunteered their time to youth sports without compensation. The recognition is well-documented: his name appears on the Springfield Athletic Association's Wall of Fame and on the Springfield Volunteer Memorial Wall at Old Central Field, where he was added in 2008.

But the letters from his former players tell a different kind of story.



One writer said his legacy reaches far beyond wins and losses, and that she hopes her own children will one day be coached by someone just like him. Another thanked him for four years of teaching discipline, confidence, and the value of hard work — lessons, she wrote, that extended far beyond the softball field. A third said that some of her fondest memories are of playing for him, that her family recently had old home videos digitized, and that she loves showing her kids those captured moments. She added that she may start coaching herself, and that if she turns out to be half the coach he was, her players will be lucky.

One letter called him one of the only coaches she'd had who pushed for greatness while also genuinely caring about his players as people. Another simply said: "You are forever 'Coach' to me."



The throughline in every letter was the same — that what happened on the softball field didn't stay there. The lessons followed these women into adulthood, into their own families, and in some cases onto the sidelines of their own kids' games.

Crandley has said that coaching youth softball taught him as much about himself as any other chapter of his career. The transition from coaching grown men to ten-year-old girls was, in his words, an adjustment — "There's no crying in baseball, right?" — but one that shaped him deeply.

Crowe, who has been by his side for much of that journey, has his own name on the Springfield Volunteer Memorial Wall, added in 2003. The two men met when their daughters played together, have coached multiple teams side by side, and organized charity softball events to support Springfield-area families facing hardship. The Hall of Fame honor belongs to Crandley, but the letters that arrived in his mailbox this winter were, in a way, a tribute to both of them.

"Your legacy reaches far beyond wins and losses," one former player wrote.

She wasn't wrong.



RE/MAX
PREFERRED

Theresa O'Donnell
Realtor

**RENT.
BUY.
SELL.**



17 Campus Blvd. Suite 155
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Office: 610.325.4100
Cell: 610.952.7409

4200 Landis Avenue
Sea Isle City, NJ 08243

Office: 609.263.3600
Cell: 610.952.7409

TheresaLODonnell@aol.com

OUTSTANDING AGENTS. OUTSTANDING RESULTS.

 Each Office independently Owned and Operated

A CHAMPIONSHIP SUMMER FOR BALL PLAYERS

Photos provided by Springfield Athletic Association

Compiled by Terrence Casey

It has been a remarkable summer for Springfield youth sports, with at least five teams bringing home championships across baseball and softball.

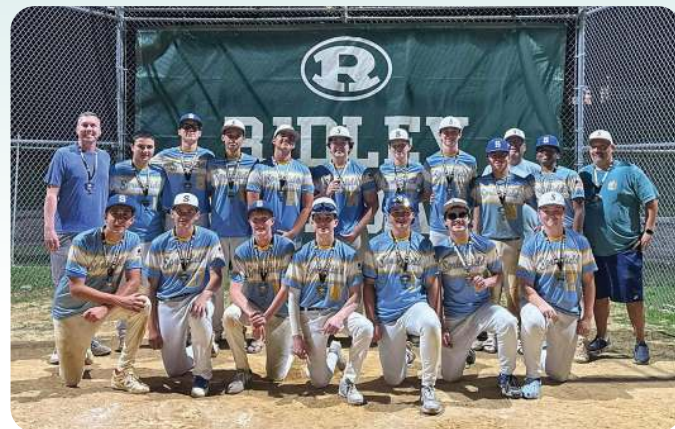
On the softball side, Springfield's 8U and 10U Babe Ruth teams both claimed the 2026 PA District 1 League titles and 2026 PA State League titles, a remarkable double for the program and its young players.

On the baseball diamond, Springfield had three champions of its own. The 8U team captured the PA District 1 Cal Ripken League title. The 9U team did the same, finishing an undefeated tournament run with a dramatic 6-5 walk-off win over Del Val in ten innings. And the 16U team claimed the Interboro League championship.

Congratulations to all five teams and their coaches on a summer to remember.

Do you have a youth sports success story to share?

We'd love to hear about it. Send story pitches and photos to terrencecasey@bestversionmedia.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Content Coordinator's Note: Springfield Neighbors always welcomes community news submissions. Share your school events, neighborhood updates, and standout moments by emailing terrencecasey@bestversionmedia.com.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS LITTLE LIBRARY?

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!

Take a close look at this month's photo, which is a bit different from other little libraries we've shared in the past. 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 \$75), packed with goodies from local sponsors. Special thanks to Rich from Moonshine Philly for a \$50 gift card.

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

Photo by Terrence Casey



AUGUST

August 2

Merion Concert Band

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 4

National Night Out

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

@Springfield Country Club, 400 W. Sproul Road

Details: Facebook

August 5

Group Run

Time: 6:30 p.m.

@Fleet Feet Springfield, 133 S. State Road

Details: Facebook

Happy Together Tour 2026

Time: 7 p.m.

@Lansdowne Theater

Details: thelansdownetheater.com

PAWS for People: Read to Riley!

Time: 6:30 p.m.

@Springfield Township Library

Details: Registration required. delcolibraries.libcal.com

Reggae Thunder

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 6

Discover & Grow

Time: 11 a.m.

@Springfield Township Library

Details: Registration required. delcolibraries.libcal.com

Bloxxels Video Game Design Club

Time: 3 p.m.

@Springfield Township Library

Details: delcolibraries.libcal.com

Planning Commission Meeting

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Details: springfielddelco.org

Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 7

Camp Show: Musicals That Make 'Em Laugh

Time: 5 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: mediatheatre.org

Matt Santry Band

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 8

The Magic of Motown

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Lansdowne Theater

Details: thelansdownetheater.com

Candlelight: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

Time: 6:45 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: feverup.com

Candlelight: 90s Hip-Hop on Strings

Time: 8:45 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: feverup.com

Barbershop's Best

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 9

Paradise Island Luau Show

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 10

Golf Advisory Board Meeting

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Details: springfielddelco.org

August 11

Board of Commissioners Meeting

Time: 8 p.m.

Details: springfielddelco.org

Mystery Book Club

Time: 6:30 p.m.

@Springfield Township Library

Details: Registration required. Discussing "Camino Island" by John Grisham. delcolibraries.libcal.com

August 12

Quizzo: Virtual Trivia Game

Time: 6 p.m.

@Springfield Township Library (virtual)

Details: delcolibraries.libcal.com

New Orleans Fish Fry

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 13

Discover & Grow

Time: 11 a.m.

@Springfield Township Library

Details: Registration required. delcolibraries.libcal.com

Bloxxels Video Game Design Club

Time: 3 p.m.

@Springfield Township Library

Details: delcolibraries.libcal.com

The U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 14

Kids "Bumblebees Picnic" Canvas

Time: Drop off 6 p.m., pick up 8 p.m.

@Busy Bees Pottery & Arts Studio

Details: Registration required. Facebook

PCS Improv Presents: Huge Soup

Time: 8 p.m.

@PCS Theater

Details: pcstheater.org

Cimarron 615 & Craig Bickhardt

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 14-23

Youth Ensemble Series: Mean Girls

@Media Theatre

Details: Showtimes vary. mediatheatre.org

August 15

The Discoteks

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 16

Sensational Soul Cruisers

Time: 7:30 p.m.

@Rose Tree Park, Media

Details: delcopa.gov/parks/summer-festival

August 18

Park Board Meeting

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Details: springfielddelco.org

August 19

Kids Play Event

Time: 11 a.m. to noon

@Springfield Mall

Details: Free. Lower Level near Macy's. Facebook

PAWS for People: Read to Riley!

Time: 6:30 p.m.

@Springfield Township Library

Details: Registration required. delcolibraries.libcal.com

Library Board Meeting

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Details: springfielddelco.org

August 21-30

A Winter's Tale

@PCS Theater

Details: Showtimes vary. pcstheater.org

August 21

Camp Show: Winnie the Pooh Kids

Time: 5 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: mediatheatre.org

August 22

Earthquake, Kym Whitley, Junior, Guy

Torry & Darren Fleet

Time: 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

@Lansdowne Theater

Details: thelansdownetheater.com

Candlelight: Tribute to Brandy & Monica

Time: 6:45 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: feverup.com

Candlelight: Tribute to Queen and The Beatles

Time: 8:45 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: feverup.com

August 23

Super Sundae

Time: 1 p.m.

@Philadelphia Freedom Chorus, 356

Summit Road

Details: Facebook

August 25

Conservation Committee Meeting

Time: 7 p.m.

Details: springfielddelco.org

August 26

Quizzo: Virtual Trivia Game

Time: 6 p.m.

@Springfield Township Library (virtual)

Details: delcolibraries.libcal.com

August 27

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Details: springfielddelco.org

August 28

Camp Show: Movie Musical Mashup

@Media Theatre

Details: Showtimes vary. mediatheatre.org

August 29

The Mavericks & Friends: The Music Lives On

Time: 8 p.m.

@Lansdowne Theater

Details: thelansdownetheater.com

Candlelight: Tribute to Juan Gabriel on Strings

Time: 6:45 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: feverup.com

Candlelight: Tribute to Taylor Swift

Time: 8:45 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: feverup.com

August 30

The Jury Experience: The Killer AI

Time: 4:30 and 7 p.m.

@Media Theatre

Details: feverup.com



Beat the Heat
with our professional Window and Wall unit A/C installs.

Delaware Valley APPLIANCE

ALL MAJOR BRANDS
0% FINANCING AVAILABLE

RANGES, WASHERS/DRYERS
REFRIGERATORS, AND MORE!

DELAWARE VALLEY APPLIANCE
540 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, PA
19064 • 610-543-8936

Your Hometown Appliance
Experts for Over 60 Years!

SPRINGFIELD FIRE COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Springfield Fire Company responds to more than 1,000 calls a year — fires, car accidents, hazmat incidents, rescues, smoke alarms — and every one of them requires a team of volunteers to answer it. Right now, they're looking for new members, and opportunities are open to anyone 14 and older.



Photo provided by Springfield Fire Company

No prior experience is necessary. The department provides all training and gear at no cost, including CPR and first aid certification. Volunteers learn to handle a wide range of emergency situations, from residential and commercial fires to motor vehicle accidents and hazmat calls. Every call presents unique circumstances, and being part of the team means being ready for all of them.

It's a chance to build real skills, serve your neighbors, and make a meaningful difference close to home. To learn more or sign up, visit joinspringfieldfc.org/join-us.

TOWNSHIP HONORS 11 VOLUNTEERS

On the Fourth of July, Springfield Township paused its holiday celebrations to recognize 11 community members at the Springfield Memorial Volunteer Wall — an annual tradition that honors residents who have given a decade or more of service to the township.

Among this year's honorees was John Nolan, a youth basketball coach whose record speaks for itself. According to The Daily Times, Nolan has coached CYO basketball at St. Francis of Assisi for more than 40 years, working with over 300 boys in fifth through eighth grade and recording more than 600 wins, including 10 regional championships. He has also been active with the Springfield Athletic Association and local charities including the Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive and the Chester Food Bank.

Dan Boyd was honored on behalf of the Springfield Ambulance Corps, where Brad Miller, Finance Director, introduced him at the ceremony. Gail Hamson was recognized for her years of dedicated service to the Junior Women's Club and the broader community. Commissioner Ed Kelly inducted Lee Kaminsky on behalf of the township. And the Springfield Youth Club celebrated Steve Talley, recognized by his organization as someone who has devoted years to the club and to multiple other volunteer activities throughout his life.

The full list of honorees also included Neil Dougherty, American Legion Post 227; Russ Dath, Athletic Association; Edward J. Abel Jr., Fire Company; Joseph Macgregor, Lions Club; Anthony Nastasi, School District; and Aimee-Kate Mooney, Community Volunteer.

The ceremony was presided over by Art Gutzler and members of the Springfield Volunteer Memorial Fund's board of directors. The fund was established in 1996 to promote community service through the recognition of exceptional volunteers. The memorial walls are located at Springfield Volunteer Memorial Field, on the former site of Old Central School at Powell Road and Saxer Avenue.



Russ Dath



Steve Talley

BILL SMECK NAMED GRAND MARSHAL OF CANCELED PARADE

Springfield Township had every reason to celebrate Bill Smek this Fourth of July. The longtime Springfield resident — a Delaware County native and a township fixture since 1973 — was named Grand Marshal of this year's July 4th Parade, a fitting honor for a man who has spent decades making sure the community never forgets those who served it.



Photo provided by Springfield Township

Smek is a U.S. Army veteran who served from 1963 to 1966 and serves as vice commander of American Legion Post 227. As Springfield's Memorial Day Chairman, he also founded the township's Hometown Hero Banner program, which displays photos of fallen military veterans and first responders on utility poles throughout the community. The idea came to him during visits to military cemeteries, where rows of white crosses moved him deeply — but left him wishing he could put a face to the names. He decided to start closer to home.

The banners, displayed annually from spring through Veterans Day, honor soldiers, firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel who gave their lives in service. "We need to be reminded that somebody sacrificed their lives to protect us," Smek has said. "Now they have a face to a name."

Unfortunately, forecasted extreme temperatures forced the cancellation of this year's parade before he could lead the march.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE KICKS OFF RESTORATION SEASON



Photo provided by Springfield Township Conservation Committee

The Springfield Township Conservation Committee got its restoration season underway this summer with a volunteer workday at Williams Park, drawing a strong turnout, including Scouts from Troop 503. The project focuses on beautifying and stabilizing the area along the park's stream, with volunteers meeting at the parking lot on Alliston Road.

Williams Park is one of three active restoration projects the committee is running this year. At Rolling Green Park, volunteers are helping protect more than 300 native plants from invasive Japanese knotweed. At Meadow Green Park and the Township Campus, the committee is maintaining rain gardens that help manage stormwater and support local plant life.

No experience is necessary — the committee welcomes volunteers of all skill levels. Additional workdays at Williams Park are scheduled for Aug. 22 and Sept. 12, all from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Registration is required. For upcoming volunteer opportunities and to sign up, visit the committee's Facebook page at facebook.com/springfieldconservation.



THERE IS A REASON WE HAVE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR 31 YEARS



484-412-8246

jimmlerinc.com



August Crystal Chandelier Promotion

Special pricing on selected Crystal Chandeliers



Many styles and designs to match your decor.

First Time Visitors are eligible for a welcome gift!

Visit our Showroom to see
our full lineup of Kitchen
and Bath items!

ELITE
KITCHEN & BATH
SUPPLY

ELITE IS YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR LIGHTING, KITCHEN, AND BATH!

★ **FREE DESIGN AND ESTIMATES** ★

ELITE KITCHEN & BATH SUPPLY SPRINGFIELD
www.elite-kbs.com 484-472-7130

134 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, PA 19064 • 5300 Whitaker Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19124
608 North Warwick Road, Somerdale, NJ 08083