

# newsletter for North Coventry Township

## Coventry Woods Bonfire



Saturday November 7th, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Fernbrook Access of Coventry Woods

1954 Saint Peter's Road

Sponsored by North Coventry Parks and Recreations

Parking donation of \$5 per car



## Leaf Collection and Tree Trimming

Leaf collection will begin on concrete curbed Township roadways on October 19 in the East end of the Township.

The East end collection will consist of roads east of and including Laurelwood Road.

West end collection will begin on October 26 and consist of roads west of Laurelwood Road.

Beginning in November, East end collections will be on the first and third weeks of the month and West end collections will be on the second and fourth weeks of the month. Collections will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays. Collection for East and West Main Street will be on October 28, November 18, and December 9.

Leaf collection will conclude on December 22. If weather is inclement leaves will be collected on the next suitable day.

Here are a few reminders for leaf collection:

- ◇ Do not pile leaves near storm drains.

- ◇ Do not pile leaves too far in advance of collection.
- ◇ Do not pile leaves when inclement weather is expected.
- ◇ Keep large piles off roadways.

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Fall 2015

## North Coventry Police Department

The North Coventry Police Department is a full-service police department comprised of twelve full-time officers, three part-time officers, a part-time fire marshal, and a full-time police office manager. Part-time officers receive the same training and certifications as the full time officers.

One part-time officer, Tom Barton, retired from the Pennsylvania State Police at the rank of Corporal before joining the North Coventry Police Department.

During his tenure with the State Police, Officer Barton was assigned to numerous units including the State Police Fire Marshals Unit, the Criminal investigative Unit, and patrol where he supervised twenty troopers. Officer Barton also served on the State Police Emergency Response Team where he was a trained hostage negotiator. Officer Barton is a United States Marine Corps veteran.

Currently, he supplements patrol and our Detective Unit and played a vital role in the investigation of several high profile North Coventry cases, specifically the 2013 homicide at

Hanover Garden Apartments, the shooting of a juvenile on West Main Street in 2014, and most recently the July 15, 2015, homicide at Highland Manor Apartments.

Detective Timothy Prouty handles all in-depth and complex criminal investigations, including child abuse cases. Detective Prouty is also adept at crime scene processing and has received advanced training in evidence collection and crime scene processing.

Our patrol unit is the backbone of the agency. In a single year, patrol officers respond to over 6,000 calls for service in North Coventry Township. The calls range from barking dogs, to medical calls and motor vehicle crashes, domestic violence calls, burglaries, and death scenes.

Our three part-time officers supplement staffing at critical times such as the Norco Fire Company Fair, as well as emergency events and natural disasters such as the flooding that our township has experienced along the Schuylkill River over the past decade. Part-time officers also

supplement our staffing to cover for vacations and schedule shortages which reduces overtime for shift coverage.

The police department is staffed by highly trained, well-educated, and professional police officers who cover the township 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The police office is staffed by our full-time police Office Manager, Ann Gery, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. After hours and on weekends non-emergency phone lines are forwarded to our dispatch center at the Montgomery County Department of Emergency Services in Eagleville.

On September 25, the police department received a donation from the Pottstown Quoit Club for the purchase of eight in-car printers. The printers will allow officers to print paperwork directly from the police cars, which will result in reducing time handwriting forms.

As always the police department reminds all motorists to please wear your seatbelt.

### Guidelines for Recycling at the Curb

Recyclables are commodities. Dirty or contaminated, they are worthless. Clean and properly prepared recyclables have value and may be turned into new products.

#### Items Accepted in One Container

The following single-stream items are typically collected in one container at your curb:

- ◇ Aluminum cans, foil, and pie plates
- ◇ Corrugated cardboard and boxboard
- ◇ Glass bottles and jars
- ◇ Metal cans
- ◇ Mixed paper
- ◇ Newspapers
- ◇ Plastic #1-5 and #7 containers

#### Items Not Allowed

- ◇ Caps / lids
- ◇ Ceramic cups / plates
- ◇ Crystal
- ◇ Drinking glasses
- ◇ Flower pots
- ◇ Light bulbs
- ◇ Metallic wrapping paper
- ◇ Mirrors
- ◇ Oil cans / bottles
- ◇ Ovenware
- ◇ Paint cans
- ◇ Plate glass
- ◇ Window glass

### How to File a Complaint or Concern

All non-emergency complaints or concerns for the Township Manager, Road Master, and Codes Officer must be submitted in writing.

The "Complaint Form and Request" is located on our website under the FAQ link. If you do not have access to the internet you may stop by the township office to pick up a form. This form must be completed, and include your signature. Incomplete or anonymous concerns will not be investigated.

Examples for the use of this form include reports of high grass, trash, potholes, abandoned vehicles, etc.

**This form is not intended for Police use. As always, in an emergency dial 911!**

## Revolutionary War Veterans of North Coventry Township

By E. Spencer Claypoole

Being the Chairman of the Township Historical Commission for the last number of years, I have met with many township residents about our history.

When I talked on June 10, 2014, with John Ellwanger in Cedarville about the lumbering business of his father and uncle, he also mentioned that his grandfather, John C. Ellwanger, had served in the Civil War.

John C. was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, on September 29, 1841, and came to the states in the 1850s. He settled in Cedarville and at one time the Ellwanger family owned a few of the houses in this historic village. John was a private in Co. B, 93 Regiment during the Civil War.

In October 2013, descendants of the Zink (or Sink) family inquired about their ancestors' residency in our township. Michael and Mary Zink and sons owned the Swan Tavern at 1138 E. Schuylkill Road in Kenilworth.

Michael Zink was born in Germany and came to America as a child with his father. Settlement was at first in Northampton County. By 1768, Michael was paying taxes to Chester County as a resident of Coventry Township. By 1774, Michael owned the Swan Tavern. Later, his wife and a son, Jacob, owned the same until 1786. Estelle Cremers in her book on the Coventries says of the tavern that it probably is one of the two oldest public buildings in Coventry. The first application for a tavern license for this home was filed in 1744.

Two of the Zink sons, Abraham and Michael, served in the Revolutionary War. Abraham enlisted in 1778 in Reading. He spent two years in the Army under Colonel Smith and in 1832 when he filed a petition for pension benefits, he stated that he was a member of George Washington's Life Guard and a courier for the General at Valley Forge.

Abraham's brother, Michael, was third class in Captain Brumback's Company of Coventry volunteers. Both brothers returned to North Coventry and are given in the 1790 Federal Census. However, soon after they moved to Franklin County, Virginia, where they made their home. Michael Zink is buried in Franklin County.

Pennsylvania Archives lists two Companies (70 men) of Coventry Volunteers for the Revolutionary War. North Coventry residents who served in the Revolutionary War, besides the Zink brothers included John Acre, Jacob Baer, Henry Benner, Jr., James Englis, Christopher Halderman, Jacob Rinehart, and Jacob Shingle (Shenkel).

There are five cemeteries in North Coventry Township. All have township veterans buried in them. As well, the East Coventry Mennonite Cemetery, which is on the eastern border of our township, has a number of township veterans buried there, including Christopher Halderman and Henry Benner, Jr. (1758-1818).

Veteran Jacob Shingle (1762-1835) is buried at Shenkel Cemetery; Jacob is the father of Hannah Shingle of the Battles Axe sect. Jacob Baer and Jacob Rinehart may be buried at Shenkel as well. In the township's oldest cemetery, Urner, is buried Daniel Beary (1732-1798). In the 1974 book of the 'Coventry Church of the Brethren' mention is made of Casper Ingles (probably grandfather to James Engle) as being a preacher of the Church, an assistant to the first Bishop Martin Urner. This was in the years before and after 1755. Casper in 1753 and then other Engle family members paid taxes to Chester County as Coventry residents through 1806. James Englis paid the taxes in 1781 and 1785.

## Stormwater

Throughout the year, the Public Works Department strives to keep stormdrains free of dirt and debris.

Stormdrains are checked before an impending heavy storm and also checked after the storm. They are routinely repaired and replaced as necessary. Outfalls are also inspected each year as required by the DEP.

**One thing that would help immensely is if you would not mow grass or blow leaves into the street, as all the chippings and leaves end up clogging the drains.**

Remember: Stormwater flows to local streams. Pollution prevention is key to keeping these waters clean.

Do your part:

- ❖ Never dump anything in stormdrains or streams.
- ❖ Pick up after your pets.
- ❖ Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it in your driveway and check your car for leaks.
- ❖ Direct your downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- ❖ Have your septic tank pumped and system routinely inspected.
- ❖ Do not blow grass or leaves into the street!
- ❖ Do not litter!

North Coventry Township  
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Pottstown, PA 19465

Phone: 610-323-1694

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Standard Mail  
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Permit No. 137  
Pottstown, PA

## Leaf Collection and Tree Trimming *continued from page 1*



- ◇ Pile leaves weekend before collection
- ◇ Leaves will only be collected on concrete curbed Township roads.

### Tree Trimming

Throughout late fall and winter, several Township roads will have tree trimming performed.

Target trees for trimming will include trees with



branches that are less than 14-foot high and extend past the road edge, as well as dead limbs and trees within the Township right of way. Conflicts within sight triangles will also be addressed at this time.

Tree trimming is done to help create a better line of sight along Township roadways and to also prevent strikes to vehicles by falling limbs when branches are under weight of snow.