

# Penn Township

[www.penntownship.us](http://www.penntownship.us)

## ELVIS LIVES at the Seventh Annual Community Picnic and Health and Wellness Fair



Volume 2, Issue 1  
Fall, 2011

There's going to be an Elvis sighting right here in Penn Township.

On Saturday, September 24, 2011 the township will hosts its Seventh Annual Penn Community Picnic and Health and Wellness Fair from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the township park at 260 Lewis Road in West Grove. The rain date is Sunday, September 25, 2011.

This year's picnic will be full of entertainment with a LIVE Elvis tribute show by Jesse Garron ([www.jessegarron.com](http://www.jessegarron.com)) Herr's Chipper, the return of Jungle John's LIVE Reptile Show, Jungle John's Balloon Art, the Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleaders, The Juggling Hoffmans, face painting clown, Adrenaline Rush

obstacle course, trackless fire truck amusement ride, West Grove Fire Company, and Health and Wellness Screenings provided by the Jennersville Regional Hospital. The Philadelphia Eagles mascot, SWOOP, will be making an appearance once again this year. He was a huge hit at last year's event.

Also on hand will be the Chester County Sheriff's Department, the Pennsylvania State Police, Medic 94, the medical helicopter, the U.S. Army, The Chester County Department of Emergency Services, representatives of U.S. Congressman Joe Pitts, State Senator Dominic Pileggi, and State Representative John Lawrence, and more.

This picnic has become a re-



gional favorite event which provides the community at large to enjoy a day, free of charge, in our beautiful park with good food, good company, good information and lots of fun. Once again, we will have

See PICNIC p. 5

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### Penn Notes

- Penn Township has a population of 5,364 as of the 2010 U.S. Census. There are 2,533 households.
- The median age in Penn is 42.3.
- Penn Township was once home to one of country music's premier venues — Sunset Park. Started in 1940, it was located where the Villages of Rose View now stand.
- Penn Township's average household income is \$75,910 while the average household income nationally is \$51,660.
- Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at the Township Building. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for voting. The township building at 260 Lewis Road in West Grove is the only polling place for Penn Township residents.

### Event Schedule

11 – Picnic Opens	1-2 – Jungle John Reptile Show	<u>ALL DAY</u>
11:15 — Welcoming Remarks Convocation and Boy Scouts present the colors	1:30-2:30 – Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleaders	Trackless Fire Truck and Adrenaline Rush
11-1 – Herr's Chipper	2-3 – SWOOP, The Juggling Hoffmans and Jungle John Balloon Art	Clown and Face Painting
12 – 4 FREE Barbeque while it lasts	3-4 – ELVIS Show	Vendors
12-1 – ELVIS Show		Health and Wellness Screenings



Curtis A. Mason, Sr.  
Board Chair

The Penn Township Park is open daily from dawn to dusk. Dogs, bicycles and skateboards are not permitted in the park. Pavilions, gazebos and the community room are all available for rental. Please contact the office for details or to reserve your date today at 610-869-9620.

**Green Initiative:**  
Save a tree—  
Please sign up for  
email updates and  
electronic  
newsletters at  
[www.penntownship.us](http://www.penntownship.us)

## A letter from the Chairman

Dear Neighbors,

Each year as I prepare to write to you, I look back on my letters of the past and reflect on the power of the vision we have created here in our beautiful township. A vision which began when I was elected to this Board of Supervisors some 16 years ago. A vision of a sustainable community which could provide for our township and our school district. It is amazing what the power of vision can do in the hands of a committed Board of Supervisors.

In the last several years, our nation and our region have faced difficult economic times. I cannot help but reflect that despite it all, our township has been well prepared to face the challenge.

First and foremost we enjoy a tremendous sense of community – the hallmark of America. This year our park has been the venue for more benefit events than ever before as our neighbors join together to support other through devastating illness, injury and unimaginable challenges with hope, high spirits and heart. Speaking for our township, we are proud to play a part in supporting such good works.

As we finalize plans for our own Seventh Annual Community Picnic and Health and Wellness Fair, an event that began and remains financially supported entirely by our generous community sponsors from whom I personally have collected the money for this event. We are again reminded that this annual event is highly valued by our community and that keeping this event free of charge and without using a penny of taxpayers money is as important to our supporters as it is to us. While many communities are

cutting public events, we are blessed to be able to continue ours and share a day of good fun, good food and good service together, as a community. I strongly urge all of you to attend and bring your family and friends to enjoy this important event. This year, we will have ELVIS in the house, and along with Jungle John and the Philadelphia Eagles cheerleaders, it promises to be a fun-filled event.

A second and most important point, is that this year we again are enjoying the 16th consecutive year without a tax increase. As our municipal neighbors struggle to make ends meet, We have remained debt-free and environmentally cutting edge. We have continued to cut costs, maintain a low overhead choosing to keep our township government small and we strive daily to make smart and sustainable budgeting decisions to continue our commitment to you our residents while fulfilling our township obligations and maintaining our township in the way we are accustomed.

Our all important commercial tax base has enabled us to weather the economic storm of the past years, while real estate taxes are down, our commercial taxes continue to climb supporting not only our township but our Avon Grove School District as well. As home to Dansko's corporate headquarters and the Jennersville Regional Hospital, both clearly growth oriented entities, we continue to attract sustainable, quality businesses and with those come jobs. When other areas have high unemployment rates, we continue to add jobs and small businesses this increasing our commercial tax income.

On a bright note, the first

phase of the Jennersville Regional Hospital's \$14 million expansion nears completion and the Jennersville which will make our hospital a state of the art facility and provide additional jobs and the highest quality health care to our region. The hospital remains the largest employer and the largest tax payer in our township. Additionally, we anticipate adding a 100,000 square foot Jennersville Medical Building on Woodview Road which will add to our medical offerings and again, bring more jobs and tax revenue to the township. This is sustainable development at its finest.

We press ahead with the important upgrades to our sewer plant to keep it running optimally, anticipate the installment of our grant funded traffic light at Pennock Bridge Road to promote traffic safety in our township and continue the work needed to make the replacement of the Sunnyside Road Bridge a reality.

We continue to pledge to support our services such as the West Grove Fire Company & Ambulance, Medic 94, Avon Grove Library and others who make life in our borders safe and qualitative for us all. Please support them and their service to our community.

Our greatest challenges moving forward will be to keep our township living within its means in the way to which we are accustomed despite unfunded governmental mandates which continue to be passed onto our township by county, state and federal agencies, with your help and a strong vision I would be proud to lead this township into 2012 – together we can continue to triumph.

Respectfully submitted,  
Curtis A. Mason, Sr.

## Jennersville Regional Hospital -- Better than Ever

“Better than ever” - that’s what Jennersville Regional Hospital (JRH) CEO, Chuck Davis, wants you to know as they near completion of Phase One of a planned \$14 million expansion which will be completed in Nov. 2012.

“Expect something very different,” said Davis, “when you visit our hospital. The structural changes to the hospital will greatly enhance your healthcare experience.”

In addition to the new entrance and expanding parking area, the expansion will result in a brighter, cheerier interior, gift shop, new lobby and new registration area. More importantly, the expansion will ultimately result in all patient rooms being private rooms.

Working cooperatively with Penn Township, the expansion will result in a more environmentally friendly structure as more attention will be focused on monitoring the hospital’s water quality and

managing the hospital’s runoff. Much of the sidewalk and parking lot will be pervious surface thus protecting the township’s Big Elk watershed.

The expansion has utilized local subcontractors, thus adding to the local economy.

“We have found very, very good quality operators in this area and they have all stepped up to help with this project,” said Davis.



In his four years as CEO, Davis has spearheaded a 27 percent increase in the number of physicians serving patients at JRH, with 24/7 coverage. They have added enhanced surgical procedures and

therapies such as wound care, new medical equipment such as a 64 slice CT scanner, digital mammography and the best eye surgery equipment in Chester County. JRH has joined the Jefferson Neuroscience Network with its cutting edge stroke therapies.

“Because of the proximity of the 55-plus communities in our area, we have directed our attention toward seniors,” said Davis.

JRH is uniquely situated to support the community as more than just a hospital.

JRH is a rarity in the healthcare industry as it is a “for profit” hospital. As part of the healthcare corporation Community Health Systems, JRH is uniquely situated to provide cutting edge therapies, equipment and care while also financially enhancing the community in which it is located. It is one of the largest employers in the region and contributes substantially to the township’s commercial tax base.

The expansion will bring a 15 percent increase in patient volume to the hospital, as well as more employees, and more vendors to the community including more medical professionals.

An Open House for the community to showcase the new expansion is planned for early Nov.



Penn Township is unarguably West Grove Fire Company’s (WGFC) busiest municipality. With two stations now serving Penn, both West Grove and New London, Fire Chief Robert Weer’s firefighters and EMTs are busier than ever and rising up to the challenge. Adding a new pumper, shown right, is just a part of the huge effort put forth for Penn Township and the community at large each day.

WGFC was awarded Third Place in their division for their Fire Prevention Program

which is lead by Fire-fighter/EMT Lisa Glass.

Sponsored by the Fireman’s Association of Pennsylvania, West Grove’s program was honored for its quality of preparation and presentation.

Glass is a longtime member and is often the face of WGFC for many of the region’s students.



Three new EMTs have been added to WGFCs arsenal having recently graduated from the County EMS Academy including

high school student, Danielle Hughes, wife, mother and firefighter, Nicole Kloss and Penn Township resident, Gayle Miller.

WGFC will be using its Fire Training Trailer at the New London Station on Route 896 in New London Township on Monday evenings during the month of September. Community members are welcome to stop by and see the firefighters at work.

REMINDER – Smoke detectors, including hard wired detectors, need their batteries changed regularly. Please check yours.

WGFC remains committed to its service to its Penn Township neighbors. For more information or to donate or volunteer visit their website at [www.wgfc.org](http://www.wgfc.org).

## Red Rose Inn - An Architectural History by Erinn Wenrich, RA

The Red Rose Inn is located in the village of Jennersville at Route 796 and Old Baltimore Pike in the heart of the Jennersville Historic District. The Jennersville Historic District is one of three historically significant crossroads villages recognized in Chester County. The Oxford and Kennett Historic Districts are both on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jennersville and the Red Rose Inn property were once part of property holdings of a descendant of William Penn., William IV. Samuel Cross, who was one of the first to settle in Jennersville (c. 1740) and came to own 53 acres including what is now Jennersville, constructed a log house along Jennersville Road and offered lodging to those who were passing through. It was known as the Red Rose Inn. Cross ran the Inn until the late 1700's (c. 1797) until George Clymer (a signer of the Declaration of Independence) purchased the property at a sheriff's sale. Clymer hired John Durat to operate the Inn and Durat eventually purchased the property himself in 1808. In 1828 Durat built the 2 ½ story, five-bay Federal Style building that now stands along Old Baltimore Pike. Sometime after the construction of the Federal Building, the one-and-a-half story, two-bay Addition (closest to Jennersville Road) was built. It is not clear whether any portion of the original log house remains, but it appears that it was demolished in order to make way for the new Federal Building. The Carriage House to the west was constructed in the early twenti-

eth century but appears to have been constructed using timbers and framing from a much earlier building or barn.

Despite being vacant and neglected for the last few years, both the Federal Building and the Addition have retained most if not all of their historic integrity and character. The mid-twentieth century additions to the side and rear of the historic buildings have essentially preserved the period fabric by allowing the modern amenities needed to run a restaurant to exist while keeping the history intact. One will find a Flemish bond brick pattern, original window sashes and paneled shutters at the exterior. On the inside the original cooking fireplace (photo) remains, as does most of the period woodwork such as door casings, baseboards, fireplace surrounds and some decorative, beaded floor framing. The Addition has a shaped brick water table (photo). Original wood floors and plaster walls are found throughout. Both buildings are structurally sound and full of history. Walking through the buildings today can be a bit distressing, but if you look past the peeling paint and the remnants of a vanished business, you will find an important piece of Jennersville's history that is worth saving.

In 2008, the Jennersville Historic District was certified as a Chester County Historic Resource, recognizing its significant contribution to the local heritage of the municipality and the County.

In order to be recognized in this manner a district has to meet criteria such as association with historical events and prominent people, distinguishing physical characteristics and style and significant archaeological data. The Historic District certainly meets all of these criteria and the Red Rose Inn as the cornerstone of the District holds the same quality of significance to local and Chester County history. This past July, the Penn Township Board of Supervisors acted to add the Penn Township Historic Resources Map to Section 1405 of the Zoning Ordinance which will work toward preserving the Township's remaining historic structures. Whether one had lived in the Township their entire life, recently relocated to the area or lives four towns to the west, preserving a Township's history including its land and its buildings helps to preserve all of our history as Pennsylvanians and as Americans.

Erinn Wenrich is a registered architect with Happy Living Design.



## Sunnyside Road Bridge by Scott Allen, P.E.



The "Old" Sunnyside Road Bridge will soon be history

Within the next month, bid packets will be going out for the long awaited replacement of the Sunnyside Road Bridge.

While the process has been an arduous one, approval has been received from PennDOT and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) for the design of the Sunnyside

Road Bridge Replacement. The Township Engineer and Solicitor are currently working with the affected homeowners to finalize all necessary easements. The bid package development is nearing completion.

Scott Allen is a Physical Engineer with McCormick Taylor Engineers in Malvern, Pa.

## Picnic (cont'd from p.1)

our now famous barbeque including chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, chips and drinks.

The ELVIS Tribute show is an exciting new addition to this year's event.

"The ELVIS show has mass appeal, everyone loves Elvis. We really wanted to offer something special this year to bring our neighbors of all ages together,"



said Board of Supervisors' Chair Curtis Mason, Sr. "We are grateful to our sponsors who support this event and are

continuing to accept donations. We welcome nonprofits who wish to display at our picnic. Donors are welcome to set up a table or tent at the event," he said.

Mason started the picnic seven years ago and still oversees its planning.

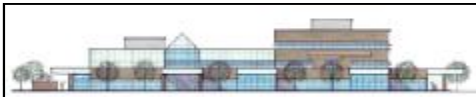
For more information, please call 302-463-5475.

## Jennersville Medical Office Building at Woodview by Wayne Grafton

A new medical office building is being proposed at the northeast corner of US Route 1 and Route 796. The applicant, Jennersville Medical Building LP, is proposing to construct a 100,000 square foot building on the 45 acre

parcel of land which is zoned for the proposed use. Vehicular access to the building will be from Woodview Road and the applicant will be improving the adjoining roads to Township standards. The building is a combination of one, two, and

three story sections and will be situated on the southern portion of the site close to Route 1. The applicant intends to build a



state of the art facility that features modern medical facility design elements including large public spaces, abundant natural light, a community room available to local residents and organizations, and consumer conveniences that will attract

top level doctors to the area and provide a patient friendly experience. It is estimated that the building will create 75 to 100 new jobs in Penn Township, ranging from doctors, medical specialists, nurses, administrative, and maintenance. Although specific types of medical services have not yet been determined, the approval of this project will provide Penn Township with a positive tax base.

## Many Thanks to our 2011 Picnic Sponsors

### GOLD Sponsors

- ◆ **Dansko**
- ◆ **Jennersville Regional Hospital**
- ◆ **McCormick Orthodontists/Jennersville Professional Center**
- ◆ **Shoppes of Jenner's Village**

### SILVER Sponsors

- ◆ **Allied Waste**
- ◆ **Baker Residential**
- ◆ **Becker Engineering**
- ◆ **Chester County Press**
- ◆ **CCIU**
- ◆ **Fulton Bank**
- ◆ **Hendrix Orthodontics**
- ◆ **Jennersville Medical Office Building at Woodview**
- ◆ **JRH Medical Offices**
- ◆ **McCormick Taylor Engineers**
- ◆ **R. Samuel McMichael**
- ◆ **Sarro Signs**
- ◆ **The Hilltop CrabHouse/Penn Brew Station**

### BRONZE Sponsors

- ◆ **A & M Environmental**
- ◆ **Conard Pyle**
- ◆ **Griffith Pest Control**
- ◆ **Jenner's Pond**
- ◆ **McGovern, Inc.**
- ◆ **National Penn Bank**
- ◆ **RE/MAX of Jennersville**
- ◆ **Ron Woodworth, CPA**
- ◆ **Singh Operational**
- ◆ **Sweet Peas of Jennersville**
- ◆ **W.D. Wells Landscaping**
- ◆ **Yates Produce**

Penn Township  
Chester County  
260 Lewis Road  
West Grove, Pa. 19390

[www.penntownship.us](http://www.penntownship.us)

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### Township Directory

#### Township Staff

Office Manager - Jackie Combs  
Office Assistant - Lorraine Debes  
Sewer Secretary - Josie O'Neill  
Treasurer-- Lorraine Debes  
Parks -- Fred Butler  
Roadmaster - Skip Elvin  
Tax Collector - Bunny Keene  
Building Inspector - Tom Lowry  
Emergency Services Coordinator - Chuck Freese  
Public Information Officer — Karen Gibbons

#### Board of Supervisors

Curtis A. Mason, Sr., Board Chair  
Robin Marcello, Vice Chair  
Bill Finnen, Secretary  
Victor Mantegna, Member  
Tom Barlow, Member

The township office is open daily, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Fridays.

Board of Supervisors Meetings are the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6 p.m.

Planning Commission meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5



## Upcoming Events

Penn Township remains committed to environmental consciousness and responsibility and as such is proud to partner with our printing company, Associates International [www.associatesinternational.com](http://www.associatesinternational.com) in Wilmington, De.

Associates International has assisted us in implementing a means to compile a township database, and provide email blasts which will increase our level of communication with our residents and allow us to better serve you.

Moreover, Associates International is an FSC certified printer. This certification was established in 1993 as a response to global deforestation by the Forestry Stewardship Council.

This certification demonstrates that Associates International embraces socially and environmentally responsible practices in their marketplace. The FSC certification is one of the most important initiatives to promote forest management responsible worldwide.

SYMBOL  
HERE

On Friday, October 28, 2011 Jungle John will present a very special Halloween Show – “The Man Eating Balloon” in the Penn Township Community Park. Visitors are welcome to attend this very special showing in costume.

After the great success of last year's Holiday in the Park event, Penn Township will once again host a Holiday in the Park weekend Dec. 9 and 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. The Penn Township Park will be transformed into a festive wonderland with lights, trees and decorations, entertainment, hot cocoa and s'mores and of

Area musical groups, church choirs, school vocal groups are all invited to reserve a night to provide seasonal entertainment.

Area clubs and sports teams are invited to fundraise during the event by selling hot cocoa and s'mores to park visitors.

Local businesses and organizations will be invited to decorate the trees. Reserve yours early. The most festive tree as voted on by park visitors will win a gift certificate and free pavilion rental. Last year's winner was RE/Max of Jenersville with a holiday tribute to our military.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are actively organizing a Citizens Water Watch Group with the help of Stroud Water Research, training will be provided by Stroud Water Research and this is not a large time commitment but is of importance to the township's commitment to clean water.

School groups, scout groups, seniors all are encouraged to participate.

Additionally, we always have projects and commissions in need of volunteers or students or scouts seeking community service hours or people who have interest in areas such as historical preservation, recreation and open space.

Please contact 610-869-9620 to inquire.

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