



**Get to Know Your Parks**  
*Veterans & Sunrise Parks!*  
See Page 6



**Blast from the Past**  
*1942 Flood*  
See Page 9

## LEARN CPR \* SAVE LIVES

**"KEEP YOUR LOVED ONE ALIVE UNTIL EMS ARRIVES"**

**AMERICAN SAFTY & HEALTH INSTITUTE APPROVED TRAINING CENTER**

### 2024 CPR Classes

March 19 and 26  
April 16 and 23  
May 14 and 21  
June 18 and 25  
September 10 and 17  
October 8 and 15  
November 5 and 12

### 2024 First Aid Classes

June 4 and 11  
November 19 and 26



Where: 1611 Route 590, Hawley

Times: 6:30 PM—10:30 PM

Call 570-685-4022 for more details

Register Online:  
[www.LackawaxenEMS.com](http://www.LackawaxenEMS.com)

***We also offer group training at our station or your location.***

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@ lackawaxenpa

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169 Urban Road  
Hawley, PA 18428

**Main Office: 570-685-7288**

**Road Dept.: 570-685-3200**

**After Hours: 570-685-7825**

**Building: 570-685-2900**

**Zoning: 570-685-2990**

**Sewage: 570-685-2990**

## MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

### Supervisors Workshops

are held on the  
third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.  
at the Township Building,  
169 Urban Road, Hawley, PA

### Supervisors Meetings

follow at 7:00 p.m.

*Both meetings are open to the public.*

## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

are held on the first Wednesday of  
each month at 6:00 p.m.

We approve minutes from the previous month at our regular meetings. Our Supervisor meetings are where the regular business of the township are conducted. Comments from the public are of value and often influence public policy and our laws.

We encourage residents to attend regular meetings, hearings, and workshops. Meeting agendas are posted the Friday before on our website: [lackawaxentownshipa.gov](http://lackawaxentownshipa.gov)

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Lackawaxen Township does not endorse or support any specific political candidate.

## Stop and Smell the Roses

At least slow down enough to get a hint of their fragrance.

Where are we going in such a rush? We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth and we don't appreciate it.

Recently, I was speeding on the Westcolang road at 35mph, and I got passed on what I felt was a very dangerous area. I thought to myself, I'm not going to get mad. I'll write an article about it instead.

Just one week before this, I was with some friends at The New Inn at Lackawaxen when a lifelong friend of mine came in (we'll call her Brenda, to protect her identity) and said you wouldn't believe what just happened to us on 590!

You see they were returning from dinner in Honesdale when they approached the intersection of 590 and the Towpath near the Forest Volunteer Fire Department. It was raining (no surprise) and Brenda has a habit of always being a slow driver no matter the weather and she is always ridiculed for it.

Suddenly, a car came from the opposite direction completely in their lane of travel. The other driver, to correct this, oversteered and barrel rolled into the woods. After, they stopped and determined no one was seriously hurt.

Brenda and her family continued on their way. Thankfully, she does drive slowly or there may have been a completely different ending to this little rant of mine.

I guess, what I'm trying to say here is, What's the Hurry!!!

If you were ever to do the math, you would realize that driving like an idiot, especially on our narrow, windy roads with the abundance of deer saves nothing. Not to mention the added wear and tear on your tires and brakes.

It is fractions of a minute of time



that you may save, we're talking seconds per trip. If you are running a little late, don't sweat it. It's better to arrive late than not at all.

And to that driver of the car on Westcolang Road, I apologize to you. Next time I will use all my fingers to wave to you as you pass me by.

Sincerely,  
Your supervisor, Jeffrey Shook

## Hand in Hand...Linking Lives



## GOT — GROWING OLDER TOGETHER

Have you been in a situation where you think "If I only had a second set of hands to help me move this table"? Or maybe a second set of eyes when you can't find the remote control? Or maybe, it's as simple as wanting to share of mid-afternoon cup of tea and conversation with someone for an hour.

These are common needs, especially as we grow older in the homes we've built for ourselves and our families, who may have grown up and moved on to build their own lives elsewhere.

Growing Older Together (G.O.T.) is a non profit organization founded in Honesdale, formed to address these, and other needs of people 60 years and older, in Wayne and Pike Counties in Pennsylvania and Sullivan County in New York. G.O.T.'s mission consists of enabling seniors to remain independent, and age in place in the home of their choosing.

With a well equipped volunteer brigade, G.O.T. provides a range of services, including personal transportation, household chores, technology troubleshooting, and light gardening. Need a trip to the doctor? Someone to pick up your groceries at the market? G.O.T. can do it. They also offer services in the home for household chores, technology troubleshooting, or light gardening work. Or to share that cup of afternoon tea. Having something to look forward to can be so important for many seniors, so G.O.T. hosts social events throughout the year for its members.

G.O.T. volunteers are fully vetted with complete background checks. Members – those who receive the services - pay a \$150 annual fee for services. Exceptions for sliding scale fees based on income are available and reviewed on a case by case basis.

Could some support from a caring volunteer be what you need to maintain your independence and quality of life? Or maybe you'd like to be a volunteer? Many of our members are also volunteers! Call 570-630-0509 to get more information or to learn how to sign up. Phone lines are open Mon – Fri from 9AM – Noon and 1PM – 5PM. Or visit Growing Older Together's website at: [www.growingoldertogether.com](http://www.growingoldertogether.com)



## Annual Car Show Fundraiser

Held on September 30th and the Movie in the Park, American Graffiti was shown that evening.



### The Winners for the Annual Car Show Fundraiser



- 1. Supervisor's Choice:**  
Kenny Arnoul - 1954 Ford F-100
- 2. Veteran's Choice:**  
J. Bender - 1958 Chevy Impala
- 3. GL President's Choice:**  
Erik Jasper - 1962 Studebaker Champ
- 4. Best of Show:**  
Aaron McCollum - 1929 Ford Model A

*A Great Success!*

**The car show raised \$1100!**

*Proceeds go to the Care Cabin food pantry, for Township residents in need.*



# Local Non-Profits Supporting One Another

## Thank You!

As the Holidays approach we at Growing Lackawaxen would like to take a minute to look back over the past year and give thanks to those of you who were able to join us for our events and activities in 2023. From our 50's Bingo in February to the Township Pumpkin Party in October we had great times and awesome turnouts! Other events included our Litter Sweep, Movie Nights, Succulent Workshop, Car Show and as always the Care Cabin food pantry was in action each month to aid our friends and neighbors in need.

Thank you as well to the many entities and individuals who donated food and or funds throughout the year including:

Fawn Lake Association	VFW Post 5635	Masthope Community
Woodloch	Settler's Hospitality Group	Three Hammers Winery
That Planty Chick	Lackawaxen Volunteer Fire Dept.	Alice's Wonderland
Hawley Lions Club	Lake Region IGA	Pike County Corrections
Lackawaxen River Outfitters	Central Volunteer Fire Dept.	Dimino Inc.

And many others....

Lastly a special thank you goes to the wonderful volunteers who assisted with all of this. We couldn't do it without you and Thank You!

We look forward to another great year in 2024. Keep an eye out for our events calendar and we hope to see you there! [www.GrowingLackawaxen.com](http://www.GrowingLackawaxen.com)

Sincerely,  
Growing Lackawaxen Board of Directors

HOSTED BY  
GROWING LACKAWAXEN

WHERE: LACKAWAXEN FIREHOUSE - 774 RT 590 LACKAWAXEN, PA



# 70'S Bingo

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED (PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED)  
BUT NOT REQUIRED TO PLAY!

**FEBRUARY 3RD, 2024**  
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM  
FIRST GAME CALLED AT 6PM

\$20 ENTRY FEE  
INCLUDES 2 PLAYING CARDS & FOOD AND SOFT DRINKS  
**BYOB**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: @GROWINGLACKAWAXEN  
OR AT GROWINGLACKAWAXEN.COM

## Online Tax Payments are Coming Soon!

Michelle Thompson, your Lackawaxen Township Tax Collector, has been working hard to implement online payments for your taxes. We are happy to announce that come mid-November of this year, she will now be able to make a payment online by visiting our website ([lackawaxentownship.pa.gov](http://lackawaxentownship.pa.gov)).

**Below are some key notes that she would like you to be aware of when paying your taxes.**

During tax season, schedule a time to drop your taxes off Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday. You can reach the Tax Collector at 570-685-1177 during the hours of 9AM-3PM, but if she is home during the off hours, she will answer your call. She makes it convenient for taxpayers to email ([taxcollector@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov](mailto:taxcollector@lackawaxentownship.pa.gov)) her with questions as well.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO REMEMBER FOR OUR TAXPAYERS:

- County/Township tax bills are mailed out March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - o Take advantage of a 2% discount if you pay by April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Face value amount is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Payments made after June 30<sup>th</sup> include a 10% penalty fee.
- School tax bills are mailed out August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
  - o Take advantage of a 2% discount if you pay by September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Face value amount is due by November 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Payments made after November 30<sup>th</sup> include a 10% penalty fee.
- The Tax Collector can only collect taxes for the current year, previous years' delinquent taxes need to be paid to the Tax Claim Office. Call 570-296-3407 or visit their website: [www.pikepa.org/government/tax\\_claim/index.php](http://www.pikepa.org/government/tax_claim/index.php)

### SUGGESTED TIPS FOR OUR TAXPAYERS:

- Proofread your checks
  - o The numeric number amount must match the written narrative amount.
  - o Make sure you sign and date the check correctly.
  - o Add your Bill number and/or Control number in the memo of your check.
  - o A phone number is also helpful if there is an error on the check.
  - o DO NOT USE light colored pens, the bank scanner will not read it.
- Make sure you fill out every line completely.
- If you use an online bill pay service, be sure to update the mailing information for the current Tax Collector.
- Checks should be made payable to:  
Lackawaxen Township Tax Collector, Michelle Thompson  
PO Box 32  
Rowland, PA 18457

\* These suggested tips are especially important if you are sending your payment right before the due date.

## SUPPORT OUR NON-PROFITS and VOLUNTEERS!



**THE FOREST VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
PRESENTS THE 2023

**SANTA RUN**  
FEATURING SANTA AND HIS FRIENDS

TOURING YOUR COMMUNITY ON  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9**

BE SURE TO WATCH AND LISTEN  
FOR THE FIRE TRUCKS

**APPROXIMATE TIMES OF STOPS AND ROUTES**  
5:30 PM START AT FIREHOUSE

5:35 PM Enter Woodledge  
Chuck Foster Drive - Cedar Ridge - Pondarosa Pine - Woodledge East Lake Drive  
5:45 PM Stop at Clubhouse Parking Lot

6:35 PM Enter Tink Wig  
Catamount Drive - Muldovan Drive - Tink Wig Drive - Waterview Drive  
6:45 PM Stop at Clubhouse Parking Lot

7:35 PM Enter Woodloch Springs  
Pine Meadow Way - Woodloch Drive  
7:45 PM Stop at Clubhouse Parking Lot

Join us after each tour for a meet and greet with Santa.  
We will remain in each of the clubhouse parking lots for about 40 minutes.  
[FORESTFIRERESCUE.COM](http://FORESTFIRERESCUE.COM)

## Get to Know Your Parks: Veterans Memorial Park and Sunrise Park

Lackawaxen Township has two beautiful parks where you can have lots of outdoor fun. Whether you love sports, nature, or just want a peaceful picnic spot, our parks have something for you. In this article, we'll tell you about two great parks: Veterans Memorial Park and Sunrise Park.

### Veterans Memorial Park: 109 Scenic Drive, Lackawaxen

The first park within the Township, Veterans Memorial Park is the go-to place for both residents and tourists seeking a day filled with outdoor family enjoyment. Additionally, it serves as the preferred venue for all of Growing Lackawaxen's community events throughout the summer months. We regret to inform you that dogs are not permitted at Veterans Memorial Park. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated as we aim to maintain a clean and safe environment for all park visitors. Thank you for helping us keep the park enjoyable for everyone.

Families with children will appreciate the well-equipped children's playground, providing a safe and enjoyable environment for kids to play and socialize. For those with a competitive edge, the park features a newly renovated

basketball court and a tennis court, ideal for friendly games or organized sports.

If you're seeking a more relaxed experience, the walking trail at Veterans Memorial Park is the perfect choice. Enjoy a leisurely stroll amidst the natural beauty of Lackawaxen Township. The trail is ideal for those looking to unwind and take in the serenity of the outdoors. This trail is just under .5 miles.

For baseball enthusiasts, the park is equipped with baseball fields, providing the perfect setting for a friendly game or organized matches.

Additionally, Veterans Memorial Park offers a pavilion that is available for rental. This is the ideal spot for birthday parties, family reunions, or any special event you may have in mind. Reserve the pavilion and create unforgettable memories in a picturesque setting. Find our rental fees online at [www.lackawaxentownship.pa.gov](http://www.lackawaxentownship.pa.gov). Renting the pavilion allows you full access with no interruptions, include the concession that includes a refrigerator and sink.

### Sunrise Park: 169 Urban Road, Hawley

Sunrise Park, located behind the Township building, is a true

retreat for those who seek peace and tranquility. This park offers a different ambiance from Veterans Memorial Park, focusing on the beauty of nature and relaxation. We're pleased to welcome dogs at Sunrise Park; however, we kindly request that all canine companions be kept on a leash and that their owners diligently clean up after them. Your responsible pet ownership ensures a pleasant experience for all park-goers. Thank you for helping us create a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone at Sunrise Park.

Sunrise Park lives up to its name, as it is open from sunrise to sunset. This ensures visitors can enjoy the park during daylight hours, providing a serene and peaceful environment.

The park features a delightful pavilion and playground, making it an ideal spot for picnics and family gatherings. Picnic tables and BBQs are available for your convenience, making it easy to prepare and enjoy a meal with loved ones. The playground offers a safe and enjoyable space for children to have fun.

For those who appreciate the great outdoors, Sunrise Park provides a nature trail that meanders through the property.

Take a hike and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Lackawaxen Township. And here's an exciting update: Sunrise Park is now part of Pike County's Geocaching locations! Geocaching enthusiasts can embark on a thrilling treasure hunt, adding an extra layer of excitement to their visit.

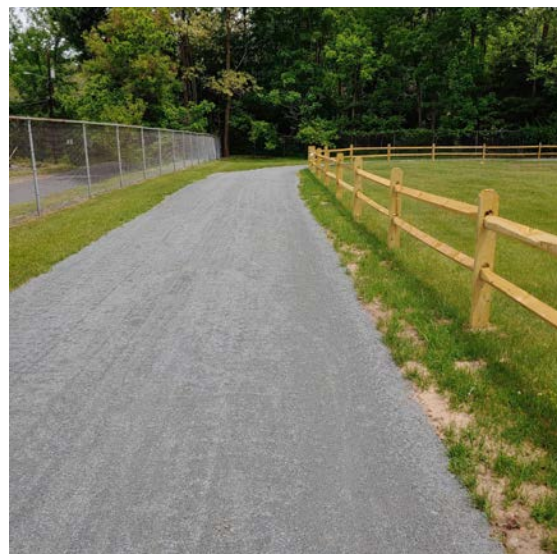
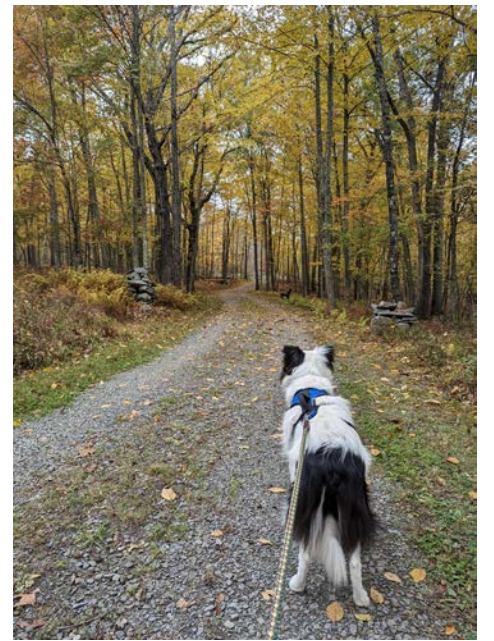
While parking is available at Sunrise Park, it's important to note that there is no running water available at the park. However, a portable restroom (port-a-potty) is provided for your convenience. The only way to access the pavilion and playground is by foot, which adds to the sense of seclusion and tranquility within the park.

Both Veterans Memorial Park and Sunrise Park reflect the commitment of Lackawaxen Township to provide residents and visitors with well-maintained and diverse outdoor spaces. These parks offer an array of opportunities for recreational activities, as well as moments of serenity and natural beauty. With Sunrise Park's inclusion in Pike County's Geocaching locations, it's a fantastic destination for adventurers seeking hidden treasures in the great outdoors.

So, whether you're looking for a place to enjoy a game of tennis, go for a leisurely walk, or embark on a geocaching adventure, Lackawaxen Township's parks have something for everyone. Make the most of these splendid parks and create lasting memories with your loved ones in the heart of Lackawaxen's picturesque surroundings.

◀ Veterans Park Photos

Sunrise Park Photos ▶



## Lackawaxen EMS is now a Licensed Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance Service

Over the past few years, we have not been able to get ALS service when needed because they are on another call or not in service. The Board of Directors and management have been working to increase our level of care to our community. The new Advanced EMT level designation offered us a new option to consider, and some of our current EMTs were willing to take the advanced course. In August of this year, we obtained our ALS license.

### ALS AND BLS,

#### What's the difference?

What is the difference between Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS)? Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT's) can provide care that our EMT's currently cannot, this includes IV Access, an advanced placed airway to help you breathe, and they have 10 additional medications to help if you are having an allergic



reaction, diabetic emergency, or in cardiac arrest. For some patients, paramedic care will still be required, however, advanced care will be started earlier, and many procedures will be done by the time the paramedic meets the ambulance.

Training our new Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians is ongoing, and we hope to be sending more of our Emergency Medical Technicians to school for this advanced training. As we build up our program and acquire

additional AEMT's we want to have AEMT's working 24/7. Lackawaxen EMS has the greatest EMT's in Northeast Pennsylvania, and now they are learning more to help serve you better.

### New Management

2023 has been a year of growth for Lackawaxen EMS. With new leadership management, Rich Ulrich, Captain, and Eric White, Lieutenant, our organization is fully staffed, with 11 full-time employees and multiple per diem staff. The Bohemia Station is

covered 24/7/365 and the Greeley Station is staffed 9:00 – 9:00, 6 days a week. Monthly training has been scheduled for our crews to keep their skills up-to-date.

### What did your donations buy?

With your donations, we were able to purchase two 12-lead EKG Monitors, the monitors capture your heart rhythm and rate. All of our EMT's have been trained to use the monitors, and we will continue with ongoing training. The EMT's will be able to send the EKG report directly to the hospital. Early recognition of a cardiac event and the ability to send an EKG report to the hospital allows them to be ready when the ambulance arrives at the Emergency Department; the ER staff can expedite care when every minute counts. Time is muscle when it comes to your heart.

In February of this year, a new 2022 Ford F350 Ambulance was placed into service. It is equipped

with a state-of-the-art liquid suspension system and a power load stretcher system. It also has 4-wheel drive to get EMS to an emergency event during winter road conditions. We have three ambulances and the third one is used when one of the other ambulances needs maintenance, when a third emergency call is dispatched, or for community service events. When the oldest ambulance reaches 9 – 10 years old, it is replaced.

We also purchased a 2014 Ford Interceptor Utility as a Quick Response Vehicle. This vehicle will carry an EMT or AEMT to an emergency so that they can start emergency care while we wait for an ambulance to arrive.

### CPR & FIRST AID Training Center

As a Health and Safety Institute (HSI) approved Training Center

*(continued on Page 10)*

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Save Your Time with IGA Online



[www.lakeregioniga.com](http://www.lakeregioniga.com)

# A Homeschool Journey

By Gillian Buonanno

“Never in a million years” is a phrase I would use when I thought of homeschooling. Sure, I knew families who homeschooled. When I worked as a library director in NJ, I knew several families who homeschooled their children and ran a co-op group on Friday mornings for the parents in town where I was a library director.

When I moved back home to Hawley in 2018, I was still in that same mindset. After all, I knew Wallenpaupack was regarded as a good district and my mom had taught there for a long time. Then 2020, 2021 came and our world and world view changed. Our homeschooling journey began in February 2021. I withdrew my son from school, handed in the appropriate paperwork to the

district and purchased a few books I thought would get us through the rest of the year.

Our start was challenging, to say the least. I did not realize the learning loss in mathematics. There were basics that I thought he knew. When I found how far he was behind, we went back to basics with a 5 minute review that he did on his own before we began Algebra. We switched the books that I had purchased to a different book with a video component so that he had two teachers, Mr Fisher and me. Because he loves history, we took many short day trips to the Roebling Bridge, Minisink Battle Grounds, The Shohola Railroad and Historical Society, The Wayne County Historical Society, The Joel Hill Sawmill, Canal Day and the

list is endless. He took notes on each trip and we turned them into personal writing narratives.

Now, as a junior, we have begun the process of looking at dual enrollment his senior year in a local college (Lackawanna or Sussex Community). For my end, that means ensuring his credits and transcripts are complete. On his end, that looks like taking more responsibility, such as volunteering and his internship.

The requirements that each family must meet as required by Pennsylvania Act 196 are the same for each family, but the method, materials and resources families use are entirely up to them. In a nutshell, the supervisor of the home education program must submit an affidavit or unsworn



declaration with facts about the parent, child, and place where the program will take place, along with educational objectives for the child each year. At the end of the year, each child must have a portfolio for an evaluator to review as the evaluator meets with the child. The evaluation letter is also submitted to the district as the end of the school year.

Here are a few online resources that include the exact language of

the law, as well as more simplified language of the requirements: [www.homeschoolpennsylvania.org](http://www.homeschoolpennsylvania.org), [pahomeschoollaw.com](http://pahomeschoollaw.com) and [chaponline.com](http://chaponline.com) (Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania). I am by no means an expert on homeschooling, but if you are interested or need an end of year evaluator or a tutor, please reach out to me at [gillianam2017@gmail.com](mailto:gillianam2017@gmail.com) or call me at (201) 787-9016.

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to Call Home.

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Central Volunteer Fire Department

2023 Santa Run

Friday, December 8, 2023

Members of CVFD will bring Santa & Mrs. Claus through our local communities.

Please see below for the route and schedule.\*

**5:30pm** – Enter Masthope via Karl Hope Blvd, travel up Karl Hope Blvd. to the Ski Lodge

**5:40pm** – Arrive at the Ski Lodge

**6:20pm** – Depart, travel down Karl Hope Blvd to Westcolang Rd. toward Fawn Lake

**6:30 pm** – Enter Fawn Lake via Firwood Way, turn onto Oak Hill Rd, then to Forest Ridge Dr. toward Clubhouse

**7:00pm** – Arrive at Fawn Lake Clubhouse

**7:40pm** – Depart Clubhouse

\*Please note all times are approximate. Each stop will include approx 40 minutes of meet & greet time with Santa, Mrs. Claus and your local firefighters!







LACKAWAXEN RIVER FLOOD  
Lock House 19 KIMBLE PA. MAY 23, 1942 8:30 AM



LACKAWAXEN RIVER FLOOD  
SUSPENSION BRIDGE BAIBA PA. MAY 23, 1942

# Blast from the Past – May 1942 Flood

Photos courtesy of Randi Wells



LACKAWAXEN RIVER FLOOD  
BRIDGE AT NARROWS OF KIMBLE PA. MAY 23, 1942 10:30 AM



LACKAWAXEN RIVER FLOOD  
TOWPATH AT BAIBA PA. MAY 23, 1942 8:30 AM

# Lackawaxen Outdoors

## Autumn Gold

By Marianna Quartararo

Autumn leaves are the season's most abundant crop. So pretty... until you have to rake them up and then what to do with them?

Leaves are the main ingredient of the dark, rich, humus or organic matter that develops on the forest floor over time. Soil organic matter is one thing you can never have too much of. Organic matter increases the movement of air, water and nutrients through the soil.

DO NOT rake leaves into waterways (lakes, streams, wetlands, etc.). This will increase the nutrient load in the waterway contributing to algae blooms and vegetation growth.

There are many ways to utilize this valuable resource:

1) Don't rake them up. Run them over with the lawn mower!

Cutting them into smaller pieces and leaving them on the lawn will improve the soil as well as release nutrients back into the soil. If you don't have a mulching mower, you may need to go over them twice to shred them into smaller pieces.

2) Rake them into a pile and shred them with the mower to produce leaf mulch. Or place the leaves in a plastic garbage can and use a string trimmer to shred the leaves. Use this to mulch your flower and vegetable gardens.

3) You can put them aside in a pile to break down into the wonderful stuff we call leaf mold. Use in the spring to improve your soil or as a mulch.

4) Place leaves in large black garbage bags and leave by your compost bin. When you need to

add carbon-rich "brown stuff" to your compost pile, just open the bag and add a layer to the compost bin.

5) Start a new garden bed the easy way. Pile the shredded leaves over the area where you wish to start a new garden bed. You can surround the area with a temporary fence or cover with newspapers or cardboard weighted down with rocks (we have PLENTY of those in Pike County) so nothing blows away over the winter. In a year or two, you can dig planting holes where needed and add a layer of mulch.

6) Set up a worm bin. Add leaves in addition to newspaper to feed the worms. Visit the links below for more information on how to set up and maintain a



simple worm bin in your home. <https://composting.ces.ncsu.edu/vermicomposting-2/earthworms->

[and-worm-bins/https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/worms-can-recycle-your-garbage](https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/and-worm-bins/worms-can-recycle-your-garbage)

## LACKAWAXEN CONNECTION

We are always looking for residents to submit articles for the semi-annual newsletters. Do you like to write, or have a story to tell? They can be about anything that you can think of, from informational to a fun story!

We mail them out directly to all Lackawaxen Township residents in the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter.

If you would like to submit an article, please do so by emailing Heather Clark at: [heather@lackawaxentownshippa.gov](mailto:heather@lackawaxentownshippa.gov)



245 PA-590, GREELEY, PA 18425



## EVENTS:

- Breakfast with Santa: 12/16/23
- Pancake Breakfast: 3/3/24, 5/5/24
- Corn Beef Dinner: 3/16/24
- Gun Raffle: 4/27/24



For more information, contact any member or reach us on our Facebook page @greeleyfire23

## Lackawaxen EMS, cont.

(continued from page 7)

we trained 5 new CPR/First Aid instructors this year, so we can teach our community and neighbors how to perform CPR and give First Aid to those in need. Our new Slogan is "Keep Your Loved One Alive Until EMS Arrives" The American Heart Association teaches that high-quality CPR is what saves lives. The earlier CPR is started, the better chance for a positive outcome when your loved one's life is on the line.

Our instructors can teach CPR, First Aid, Stop the Bleed, and Bloodborne Pathogens.

Visit our website for scheduled classes at [www.lackawaxenems.com](http://www.lackawaxenems.com) or call the office at 570-685-4022. Group instruction is also available at our station or your location.



## The New Hire

September 21st, 2023 – that was the day I started working at Three Hammers Winery. The day I was thrown into the fire of an industry that takes a phenomenal amount of hard work. The day I learned winemaking’s immense need to be adaptive and knowledgeable and- Okay, it wasn’t that dramatic. In all honesty, it’s been fun. At the time of writing this, I’ve been working at Three Hammers for about a month, and though it’s been a lot to take in, I wouldn’t say it has been overwhelming. Discounting, of course, the parts of any job that are overwhelming in the beginning – learning how everything is run, where everything is, how all the equipment works – but I won’t bore you with that stuff, because I quickly found out that I joined up at the start of a very interesting time of the year for the winery: Harvest.



For those unfamiliar with the winery, Three Hammers sources the majority of the grapes used in their wines from Washington State and California (north-eastern Pennsylvania is not the best place for growing the fruit for Bordeaux-style wines, as it turns out) so Harvest Time for us means truckloads of whole bushels of grapes getting dropped off at the metaphorical door, and then they have full control of the process from there. The proprietor’s philosophy is that a finely balanced wine starts in the vineyard. If you start with great quality fruit, you’ll craft a great quality wine.

The first shift I worked, I was already made a part of the production process, albeit a peripheral part. The newest vintage of Cuvée had finished its time in the tanks, and it was time to bottle. I was in charge of closing and stacking all the packed boxes onto pallets towards future labeling. Harder than it sounds considering we had to fit about sixty cases onto each one. I got used to the rhythm after a while though, and only made a mistake where we had to restack one pallet.

The tasting room on my second day, I’ll admit, was a little harder

to get into the rhythm of – mainly because, as I would come to learn, there really isn’t one. Every day is different, and for a creature of habit like me it takes some time for that lack of habit to become one. “Liking wine definitely helps make the process easier and faster,” my coworker Adam attests.

The start of my second week was when I really got to be a part of Harvest season. The first batch of fruit (for me at least) started to come in the last week of September. I had looked up a few videos on the basics of the whole process so I felt like I had some idea of what to expect, and Rob (the owner of the winery along with his wife Christine) worked me through how it would go with their particular equipment. But life is nothing if not unpredictable.

My first task was to clean the eight or ten containers that would hold the eventual grapes and juice

ahead of the delivery. By the time I was done an hour or so later, thinking I had been stupendously slow at it, I learned that I could have taken about six times as long and still had time to spare.

The de-stemming part simply involves cutting open boxes, literally raking the fruit bunches into a hopper and then making sure the grapes nor the separated stems started to clog up the works. Simple, yes, but intensive (the rain didn’t help). And the process of becoming wine begins the moment the grapes warm up from their chilly ride from the west coast, so there was much work to be done.

That part of the day went smoothly, it just went way later than I (or anyone) was expecting. The next day I woke up sore, but not discouraged. I wasn’t a part of the initial crushing and beginning of the fermentation process, but I was told a lot about what goes on in those early steps – taking initial sugar measurements, introducing the yeast etc. – and soon got to have a hand in one of the parts that followed: Punchdowns.

White wines, which have their juices extracted immediately before the beginning of fermentation, don’t need or get a lot of exposure

to their skins to do their jobs. Red wine, however, in order to become red and also gain the majority of its flavor, needs to maintain contact with the skins as it ferments, but all the CO2 created in that process pushes the skins to the top of the containers. The exposure needs to be equal for the whole bin, though, so a few times a day, we come in and physically “punch down” the skins. Traditionally, this was done by stepping into the bin and using one’s feet to mash it all around. These days it’s more metal rods with flat bottoms, but the outcome is the same. Temperatures are also taken, I learned, because they help the wine makers know when a bin is ready to be extracted.

I came into this world a lot more knowledgeable about whiskey than wine, so I was surprised to learn that work was far from done at that point. As one of our wine makers – Dave – can attest, “There’s a whole lot of monitoring that goes into making good wine – a lot of chemistry too – and we’re proud to be able to say we do all of our lab testing in house so we can fine tune every vintage to be the best it can be.”

Hopefully, as I get more accustomed to it all I’ll get to be a

bigger part of that process down the line. But there’s one other part to this time of year that pushed my efforts in a... different direction for much of my first month: the Wine Club’s October pickup event.

I was stunned to find out how many people were a part of the program – currently over 600 wine club members get a box of our selected wines quarterly that can be either picked up at the winery or shipped to them in certain states (for information, visit <https://threehammerswinery.com/join>). This meant a lot of boxes to pack, and wine bottles – as I learned over and over that week – are not light.

That basically became the main focus of the whole team for the first week of October – making sure fulfillment and the pickup event went off without a hitch. And I think we all agree it did. Now, with that done and me entering my second month of employment, I can say that I’ve learned a lot, and know that I have much more to learn on top of that still. But I’m looking forward to all of it, and to sticking around for a long time to come.

*Ryan Garvey, Proud Employee of Three Hammers Winery*



*“In the world of wine, every bottle tells a tale, one grape at a time.”*

