



**Where Spring 2008 Have All of the Trees Gone?**

**Residents Want 'Clear-Cut' Solution**

MPPOA residents are fed up with the clear cutting practices of some builders. That's what they told the Board of directors at the March 8 meeting. And, at least one wants to start "slamming" them with \$1000 fines if they don't comply with the association's architectural standards.

"We live here — they don't," said Property Owner Hans Hassinger.

Joseph McDevitt, the director of architecture said the board has discussed the problem with some of the builders and he thanked Mr. Hassinger for notifying him of problems in the development.

Another property owner, Dennis Lecessé asked if the builders could be fined for each infraction.

Yet another property owner, Tom Milo said that he is more concerned about campers being parked on lots than the number of trees.

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***We live here—they don't.  
 It's time to start  
 slamming them!***

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Board Member Nona Drakeford added that she has an issue with abandoned foundations left by a builder.

Still other residents expressed displeasure with the condition of the roads which have further deteriorated over the winter.



**'I Think that I shall never see—a thing as lovely as a tree' — residents expressed outrage over the lot clearing practices of some area builders at the last Board of Directors' meeting. This lot on Pawnee Trail resulted in a fine being issued to the builder/owner**

**MPPOA To Host Security Meeting April 9th**

There will be a Multi-Development meeting of Security and Neighborhood Watch volunteers on Wednesday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Pocahontas clubhouse. Volunteers from IML, Towamensing Trails, Jonas Mtn. Estates, Stone Ridge Estates, and Valley View Estates will be in attendance. Our guest speaker will be Sgt. Castner from the Fern Ridge PSP barracks. Residents are invited to attend.

**It's Election Time!**

Hillary, Obama, McCain. The presidential race is heating up, but it's not the only election on the horizon. This year, three MPPOA Board of Directors' seats will be up for grabs in the annual election. Property owners in good standing, who wish to vie for a board seat, must submit a resume to the Mt. Pocahontas office by April 30, 2008. Resumes must include the candidate's statement of nomination.

**Board of Directors**

- John Stoler - Vice President, Acting President
- Linda Brunell—Treasurer
- Kelly Fisher—Secretary
- Nona Drakeford—Security
- John Robinson—Maintenance
- Joseph McDevitt—Architecture
- Wilson Miller
- Anthony Cifone



## Pasó por Aquí Gene Hojnowski

Many years ago, while living in southern Colorado, I became familiar with the phrase, *pasó por aquí*. Literally translated, it means, “he passed by here.” But the term means much more than that. It conjures up feelings of regret and longing and at the same time, a sense of satisfaction for a lesson learned—a feeling that someone has taught us a lesson that has opened our eyes.

Once in a while, if we are lucky, a person enters our lives and we are forever, if only in some small way, changed. I can say this about Gene Hojnowski.

He served the community for many years. As director of architecture, he carefully and thoughtfully implemented regulations to protect the environment as well as the rights of property owners. As president, he was able to put aside any biases and steer the board to the business at hand — fairly, calmly and open-mindedly and He constantly reminded us that our priority is to the benefit of the property owners. He never took that responsibility lightly. Leading by example, he made us all better at our jobs. In late December, he resigned and he and

his wife, Denise moved away from Mt. Pocahontas to begin the next part of their lives. I know that they leave behind many friends and neighbors who have been touched by their short visit here. As board members, we can list a number of accomplishments which we can attribute to his guidance, but I hope that the one lasting impression he made will be our memory of his thoughtfulness and concern for the people in this community.

Paso Por Aquí, Gene Hojnowski,  
Kelly Fisher  
MPPOA Board Secretary

### Letter to the Editor Policy

Smoke Signals will publish letters marked as “Letter to the Editor.” Complaints should be addressed to the Board of Directors and will not be printed as letters to the editor. Letters may be edited for grammar and spelling, but not content. If you wish your letter to be printed without editing, then please state as such. No profanity, please. Smoke Signals reserves the right to not publish any letter deemed unfit for publication. Letters should be addressed to: Editor, Smoke Signals and sent to MPPOA at 386 Old Stage Road, Albrightsville, PA 18210 or may be emailed to: [fisherk@ptd.net](mailto:fisherk@ptd.net) or may be dropped off at the association office.

### Use Caution at Bus Stops

To the Editor:

The “No Parking” sign at the bus stop at Old Stage Road and Hiawatha will be removed, at least temporarily. No car should be parked closer than 1 car length from the stop sign and no driveways should be blocked. Vehicles should be parked on the right side of the roadway and, after the bus has picked up the children, vehicles should be removed as soon as possible. The vehicles should not remain at the bus stop area for the purpose of socializing, which would case an unnecessary safety hazard for vehicular and pedestrian travel along the roadway. Let us help each other in this endeavor to keep our children and our roadways safe and at the same time, show the proper respect for the private property and driveways of our neighbors. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this regard and stay safe.

Wilson Miller,  
Board Member and Crime Watch

### Put the ‘Neighbor’ in Neighborhood

To the Editor:

We are newcomers to Mount Pocahontas and are enjoying each and every day. We were a bit disappointed that, during the holiday season, there weren’t decorations in the front of the association building. We had thought that this wonderful community would have some sort of celebration for the children in the area, a small gift or perhaps a potluck supper. In this way, the community could come together and get to know each other. Perhaps we can plan something for the next holiday season?

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Patricia Williams for her warm welcome to all of the new comers, which appeared in the fall issue of the smoke signals.

Thank You,  
Terri & Ed Molloy

## What is it?



### Contest Courtesy of Bits N Pieces

*Did you ever come across a strange item in your grandma’s attic or at a local tag sale and wonder, “what the heck is that thing?” You’ll find lots of unusual items at Bits N Pieces on Route 903 — You might even find the item listed above. Take this paper to Bits N Pieces and be the first to tell Ann what it is and receive a free gift! While you’re there, shop for those unique trinkets for your self, a gift or your home!*

Smoke Signals Spring 2008

# -Security Report-



October 2007-January 2008

Whenever citations are given the recipient has the right to appeal the citation before the Arbitration/ Grievance Committee according to the Mt. Pocahontas Rules and Regulations.

In October the Arbitration/ Grievance Committee heard evidence against the Son of a property owner who had received a citation for ATV violations. The Committee decided that the citation should stand and a letter informing the property owner was sent.

A letter was sent to an out-of-state resident regarding architectural standard violations as well as Mt. Pocahontas Health and Sanitation rules violations.

Correspondence was sent to an out-of-state property owner to inform him that there was a large amount of debris on his lot. Rather than have our Maintenance Department clean the lot at a cost of \$300, the property owner opted to clean the lot himself, which he did.

Another letter was sent to a homeowner regarding debris on his property. The letter was returned as "undeliverable" but the office is taking steps to obtain the proper address so the letter can be resent.

Four letters were sent to residents regarding loose dogs.

A letter was sent to a homeowner regarding several ATV infractions committed by a family member.

A warning letter was sent to a renter for unsafe driving practice at the Hiawatha Trail and Old Stage Road bus stop.

A letter was sent to a resident about setting off fireworks and disturbing the peace.

There was an attempted break-in to a home. The State Police were called.

I am constantly in touch with the Security and Neighborhood Watch heads and volunteers at Towamensing Trails, Indian Mtn. Lakes, Valley View Estates, Stone Ridge Estates, and Jonas Mtn. Estates and I've even hosted a meeting here with their Security and Neighborhood Watch volunteers. We have many of the same problems and share the same desire to provide a safe environment for our residents and property owners.

We plan to have monthly meetings and hopefully get guest speakers to appear before our groups.

If you would like to be a Security or Neighborhood Watch volunteer here in Mt. Pocahontas, please contact the office at 570-722-9220 and leave a message for me and I will get back to you or send you information.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth (Nona) Drakeford,  
MPPOA Director of Security

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*With Spring approaching, what do you most look forward to?*

					
<b>Cathy Robinson,</b> Office Manager <i>"sun, warm weather &amp; lots of flowers"</i>	<b>Manda Balliet,</b> Collections <i>"Nice sunny, warm weather"</i>	<b>Bernadette Braun,</b> Office Staff <i>"Sunshine"</i>	<b>John Pasquariello</b> Maint. Supervisor <i>"Getting to work—getting work done"</i>	<b>Buzz Skilton</b> Maintenance <i>"I like the cool weather"</i>	<b>Rob Nazario</b> Maintenance <i>"Riding my bike and fishing"</i>



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION — A new liner is planned for the community pool. Construction will get underway soon.**

## ***-Architectural Report-***

With winter coming to a close, we think of spring and what to do outside. We all have those projects that we thought of as we were watching the snow and ice build up. I know that I need to find a way to keep my lawn green and full this year. The brown spots just don't look appealing at all. If you have a project in mind, remember to look at your Covenants and Architectural Rules and Regulations before you start. There are many things that can be done without getting a permit from MPPOA (i.e. landscaping), but if you plan on building a shed you may need a permit from Penn Forest Township as well as MPPOA. If there is a question, don't hesitate to call the office. If the office staff can't answer the question, they can reach me and will be able to answer it.

There are a few things you need to be aware of if you need to hire a contractor to do work on your property. You always hear from your friends and neighbors the horror stories about contractors. There are contractors out there that do really good work and care about their customers. For every good contractor, there seems to be three that are not looking out for you and your project. You need to do your homework so you don't get the wrong one.

Get references from your prospective contractors. Ask them about some projects that went wrong. Yes, things happen to make a project go awry. If they are honest about their business and want to work with you, they will be as honest as possible.

Find out if they have Insurance! If things go wrong that they had no control over, their insurance should cover damages. If you need to, ask what company they are with. Call the company to see if their policy is current. The insurance company cannot give you detailed information, but try to get something to give you a little piece of mind.

Take notes of what happened on what day. This may not be possible if you are not there while they are working, but when you can take notes. If you can, get pictures of the progress. If they have a problem with something that you think is not right, you can look back at the pictures for reference. Digital cameras are one of the great inventions of the last 10, or so, years that makes this easy (and cheap).

If your contractor wants you to sign a contract, don't be afraid to take it to a lawyer for a legal perspective. This can save thousands of dollars if you need to take the contractor to court. The laws are not always there to protect the consumer. They are there to protect the person that is in the wrong. Sometimes it takes a judge to see that the contractor (or consumer) is the one that has to pay restitution.

It comes down to common sense. If the contractor wants the business, they will answer all the questions that you ask of them. If they don't answer your questions to your satisfaction, there are always more companies out there that want your business.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph McDevitt  
Director of Architecture Architectural



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## -Treasurer's Report-

Balance Sheet As of 02/29/2008

Petty Cash	\$150.00	
1st Nat Pal (tenant escrow)	\$510.76	
Operating MCT	128,432.52	
MPPOA activiteis	1,917.33	
Capital Reserves	80,779.43	
ESSA Capital	<u>10,433.64</u>	
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>		222,223.68
Corp. Fed Tax Dep		2,684.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>\$224,907.68</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Property and Equipment	183,766.96	
Accumulated Depreciation	(90,798.06)	
<b>NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>92,968.90</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$317, 876.58</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payroll Taxes payable		4, 719.36
Building Deposits		8,500.00
Tenant Escrow Deposit		8,083.21
Clubhouse security deposit		150.00
Assessments paid in advance		195.00
Total liabilities		21,647.57
Members' equity		135,762.93
Equity Designated for reserve		91,381.00
Net Income		69,085.08
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		<b>\$317,876.58</b>

## -Office Report-

The office sent out 2008 Assessment Notices totalling \$366,675 in operating expenses and \$142,425 in Reserve Assessments. The assessments are due and payable no later than March 31, 2008. Penalties will be applied on April 1, 2008 to all unpaid accounts.

The collection revenue for January and February 2008 was \$4,782,50.

Manda is filing Civil Complaints and liens on property owners who are in arrears as the time frame allows.

Property owners who have paid their 2008 fees may pick up their Membership Cards. Membership Cards are being sent to all owners who include a self-addressed stamped envelope with their payment.

We continue to ask all owners to please submit a copy of their deed so that our records reflect the correct information (I.e. names, and all owners listed on the deed.)

We completed 10 Resale Certificates in January and February for a total of \$925.00 in revenue and \$1822.50 in Transfer Fees.

We are continuing to request that all homeowners who have received their new address from Pocono GIS to please inform the office so that we can update the records.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cathy Robinson, Office Supervisor



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# —House & Home—



By Richard Young

Even the best weekend warriors and DIY'ers may have to deal with contractors at some time.

You may be the neighborhood home improvement "go to" guru who could build a covered wrap-around two tier deck but you just don't have the time or the desire to build it yourself. So, it's time to find a contractor!

We've all read the advice articles that tell us to get eight estimates, ask each contractor for thirty three estimates, run a Secret Service background check and collect DNA from each one, blah, blah, blah. While you are calling and checking those two hundred and sixty four references, I'd like to ask you to keep some other things in mind.

While you meet and greet the contractors as they line up at your front door, ask yourself do I "like" him or her? Do I enjoy interacting with him? Is he pleasant? Will he be willing to change plans half way through the job....with a smile? Do I trust him? The world has definitely changed over the years.

A handshake sealed a deal 50 years ago. Agreements and contracts are absolutely necessary today but the concept behind

looking someone in the eye and telling them what will be done, how it will be done, when and for how much, then shaking his hand has not changed. A written agreement will remind everyone involved what was suppose to be done and give legal recourse if it isn't. That's all great and necessary but the point of all of this was to get a project completed, not win in court! It's the contractors honesty and integrity that drives him to deliver a great job at the agreed price, nothing else. Again....do you trust him?

Do you enjoy interacting with him? Having someone in your home every morning at 8 am for six weeks can be uncomfortable. You're probably busy getting ready for work and the kids off to school. We contractors invade and disturb your personal space. A good contractor is aware and sensitive to this. Will he be a smiling face with reassuring answers to your questions each morning? Will he be a miserable blob that's quick to tell you what a pain your job is going to be today? Will he ignore you as he mutters that he's not a morning person while digging through your

cabinet looking for a larger coffee cup? If your personalities don't click or he doesn't energize you about your project, you may want to keep looking for the contractor that's right for you.

Sometimes you'll change your mind in the middle of a project. You'll want a plumbing fixture relocated or change your mind about the paint color. Hey...it's your home and you want it how you want it! Will he cheerfully agree and work up a fair price for the change or complain and try to change your mind?

Remember, it's your home and your life and you deserve to enjoy both! Take the time to find a contractor that will not only deliver a beautiful job, but make it an enjoyable experience too!

**(This is a reprint of an article by Richard Young. Stop by next issue to read his new column written just for "The Smoke Signal"!)**

*Richard Young is a Master Craftsman and has been a General Contractor for 23 years.*

*He now resides in Jim Thorpe. Be sure to visit his website at [www.richardyoungmc.com](http://www.richardyoungmc.com)*



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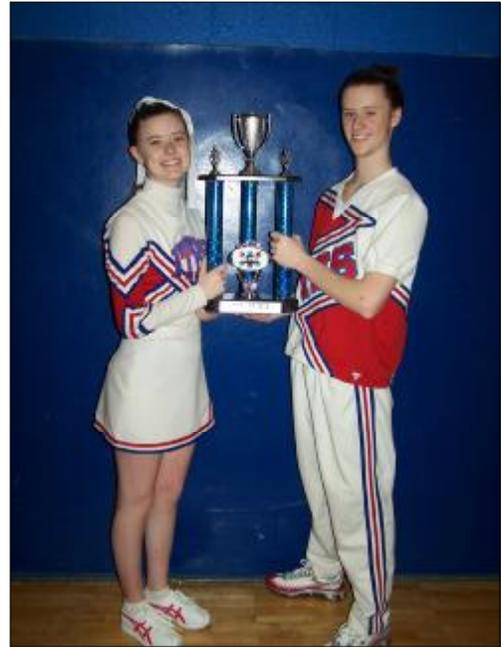
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Nikki McDevitt*



## -Newsletter Report-

If you are reading this article now, it means we did it! We managed to get a newsletter printed. I owe a big "thank you" to all of our advertisers for their financial support, to Patty Jo at TN Printing for all of her help, to Ranger Dustin Drew of Hickory Run State Park for all of his time and information about the park and activities, to my co-worker, Lisa Ivan, who helped in soliciting advertisements, to Ann Martino of Slice of Time Photography, who provided me with her beautiful area photos and historic postcards, to Ann of Bits and Pieces for her contest prize contribution and to Darlene of Hair Patterns and Shelly of Mountain Massage for their donations to our Mothers' Day Contest and to my husband, Greg (the computer nerd) for his technical help.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and will contribute your stories, news, photos and ideas. I will try to provide interesting and informative tidbits for all MPPOA property owners.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and will contribute your stories, news, photos and ideas. I will try to provide interesting and informative tidbits for all MPPOA property owners.

**Kelly Fisher,**  
Newsletter Editor



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# Chaos at bus stops drives need for change

When I became Security Director in mid-July 2007, I wasn't aware of the chaotic situation at the bus stops on the corners of Old Stage Road, Hiawatha and Minnisink Trails.

After receiving complaints from my Security volunteers and other parents at the bus stops, I recently got to witness the morning and afternoon chaos where I saw people making U-turns on Old Stage Road in order to get that first position the line waiting for the bus. I've seen people back down the streets rather than pull forward and turn at the corner. I've even seen parents trespass by using the driveways of others to turn around in to go back the way they came.

And be advised that violators committing these unsafe practices will be cited.

Yes, there are problems at the bus stop, one being a previously posted sign, which forbids parking on certain sides of the street on Hiawatha and Minnisink. I don't know if that was done to make it easier for the children to get out of the cars or what. I do know that once the bus leaves and parents are trying to move over to the right side of the street it does create a safety concern. But until these issues are addressed and possibly corrected, parents are asked to drive with extreme caution to ensure the safety of the children, other vehicles and themselves.

Before I go to the Board with suggestions from Security volunteers, the Maintenance Department and myself, I would like input from the parents who go the bus stops every day. I need suggestions on what can be done to make the bus stops safer for the drivers and children.

Please send your suggestions or ideas to me in care of the office and I will review each one so hopefully this safety issue can be resolved.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth (Nona) Drakeford  
MPPOA Director of Security



## Welcome To The Neighborhood

- Robert Bernabucci
- Yelena Carrington
- Thomas Cronin
- Oliver & Mandi DeVatt
- James Egan
- Joel Gerstenmier
- Joseph Hart
- Monique Jean Paul
- Denom Krall
- Frank Bianco
- Tara Orefice
- Jennifer Cinque
- Veronica & Victor Dacosta
- James & Brenda Dotta
- Edward Girard
- Jason Hersch
- Heather Brent
- John J. Kelly, Jr.
- Christopher & Marie Lloyd
- Christian Bontigao
- Maria Carion
- Perpetual Coffie
- Bahri & Zade Demirovic
- William Draper
- Patrick Hadley
- Angelic Bender
- Shekema & Chambers Oneil
- Michael & Mary Klaski
- Randy & Christina Miller
- Fred Mulbauer
- Russell Phillip
- Paul Romero
- Maria Soto
- Solomon & Lucia Nicholas
- Brad Moyer
- Josue & Miriam Rivera
- Fernando Silva
- Ronald & rebecca Moyer
- Ramon & Marisol Pena
- Luz Rivera
- Frances Sobolak
- Joseph & Patricia Paszek

On behalf of MPPOA,  
Welcome to  
The Neighborhood!

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### It's Back!

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## 4-Wheel Drive Wanted

*Security is looking for a 4-wheel drive vehicle in good running condition, to be either donated or reasonably priced. The vehicle will be kept in the Maintenance area and will only be used by Security personnel. Many of our security volunteers do not have 4-wheel drive and some roads are difficult to travel—especially during the spring thaw because of the mud. We care about our community and want to make sure that all residents can get security coverage. Having a 4-wheel drive vehicle will make this easier.*

*Please contact: Nona Drakeford at 722-0774*

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**April 9**

Multi-development security meeting at MPPOA Clubhouse. 6:30 p.m.

**April 10**

Penn-Kidder Chamber of Commerce Meeting, 7 p.m., Bella Mia Restaurant, Albrightsville.

**April 11**

Adult & child ceramic classes—Mountain Crafters, Albrightsville, 5:00 p.m. (570) 722-5778

Beginner Quilting class—The Quiltery, Weissport. ^00 p.m. (610) 377-5590

Thru 30th—Spring Fling –Pocono Whitewater 1-800-443-RAFT

**April 12**

**Building & Remodeling Expo—** April 12 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.& 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall

Jim Thorpe Second Saturday shops open until 8 p.m. (570) 325-5056

Grace St. Paul's United Methodist Church (267) 872-9238.

Open House—Blocker's Harley-Davidson. Lehighton, 8:00 p.m., (610) 377-0440

Used Book Sale—12:00-4:00 Dimmick Library, Jim Throep., (570) 325-2131

6:30 p.m. Bingo—Albrightsville Fire Department, Rt 534. (570) 722-8325

**April 13**

11:00 Building & Remodeling Expo. Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall.

1:00-3:00 Free Manor Tour—DeFeo's Manor, Jim Thorpe. Meet at Opera House Square.

**April 14**

Blood Drive—1:00-7:00 p.m.,

Albrightsville Fire Department. (570) 722-8235

Game Design Class, Weatherly Robotics, 5:30 p.m., (570) 582-6723

**April 15**

Crochet classes—2 p.m. and Knitting classes—3 p.m., Mountain Crafters, Albrightsville. (570) 722-5778

Creative Dance class—Kenlin Dance Academy, Palmerton, (610) 826-6303

Couples Class— 7:30 p.m., CareNet, Lehighton (610) 379-0411

Bingo—6:45 Trachsville—Towamensing Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. (610) 681-4000

**April 16**

Free Play Day, Imagination Zone, Palmerton. 11:00 (610) 681-6455

Bingo 6:30 p.m., Penn Forest #2 Volunteer Fire Co., Route 534, Albrightsville. Doors open at 5 .m.



One of the Most difficult topics that a veterinarian must discuss with pet owners is the subject of their pet's weight. With more than half of the adult population in the overweight category, a similar sampling of the pet population reveals that obesity is the number one nutrition related disease of our best friends. Studies conducted by the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine show that 24% of all age groups of dogs are overweight. As dogs reach the "middle age" group, that percentage increases to 45%. Although many owners will reluctantly admit that their dog's weight is less than optimal, many owners don't recognize the connection between obesity and decreased mobility and activity. Obesity in dogs is an important risk factor for many health problems including diabetes, musculoskeletal problems, chronic skin problems and heart disease. For an honest appraisal of your pet's body condition, ask a veterinarian. A record of body weight at past office visits, a discussion of diet and treats, and a review of your pet's normal pattern of activity and exercise will help you and your veterinarian develop a plan of weight reduction and weight control for your dog. Diet changes, increased exercise, "treat" control, removal of unhealthy table food and treatment of any associated medical problems will direct your pet toward a more healthy and enjoyable life. As with humans, weight issues are much easier to avoid by proper diet and exercise than to treat once an animal is in the 45% category.

Now is a good time to become aware of the symptoms of heart disease in pets. Heart disease is a common health problem of dogs, especially in their middle and later years. Signs of heart problems include irregular or rapid breathing, weakness, exercise intolerance, coughing, weight loss, lethargy, episodes of collapse cyanosis (blue tongue and gums), and poor appetite. An examination by your veterinarian may reveal an irregular heartbeat, a heart murmur, abnormal fluid accumulation in the abdomen or extremities, and fluid in the lungs. Further diagnostics to assess heart disease may include chest radiographs, an electrocardiogram, blood tests, a heartworm test and ultrasound. Medication can be used to help cardiac function and control the secondary effects of heart disease.

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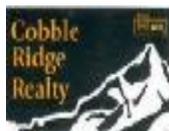
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## Smoke Signals Spring 2008

### Hook, Line & Sinker

My husband has become obsessed with fishing. He watches it on tv, he reads books, magazines, anything he can get his hands on.



The garage now holds more bait, tackle & supplies than Cabella's. Waiting for the season to begin, he spends his days now inventing gadgets for his boat (yes, I said boats with an s because you never know where you'll want to fish). He insisted that I also get a fishing license last year, but, after our one and only fishing excursion, he claims the fish are still laughing at my casting techniques.

If he is the Skipper of the S.S. Minnow, then his youngest son, Matt is Gilligan. I think Matt would prefer spending time doing other things, but he reluctantly fishes with Dad.

Matt has become quite a boatsman and does enjoy the occasional fishing trip, but I wonder if he is still haunted by his first fishing experience.

When Matt was very young, he and his father and two older brothers visited the local fish and pay lake to get initiated into the fishing experience. After a short time, the older boys became bored and wanted to go home, but Matt was determined to give it a shot — that was until he made a fateful error which no one could have predicted.

After a few practice casts, Matt seemed confident enough to try on his own, but— on his very first try, his hook snagged an unwitting Mallard who was cruising the pond on that afternoon. To his surprise, the duck fought back — squawking & flailing. When the other ducks saw what had happened to their pal, they decided to come to the rescue. Before long, the small flock was overhead, dive-bombing the poor boy. There were feathers everywhere! And the noise!

Dad was finally able to free the hook from the startled bird and the fisherman ran for cover!

**April 17**  
9:00 a.m., Yoga, Palmerton Library.  
(610) 826-3424

**April 17 & 18**  
Carbon County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo— 3.p.m to 8 p.m, Penn's Peak, Jim Thorpe.

**April 19-20**  
Earth Day Celebration. Downtown Jim Thorpe—Music, food & vendors

**April 19**  
Earth Day Concert—Opera House, Jim Thorpe 8:30 p... (570) 325-0249

**April 29 & 30**  
The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra – Penn's Peak, 800-386-6779

**April 30**  
Pocketful of Posies—  
Monroe County Environmental Education Center  
570-629-3061



**End of the Season** — The chair lifts at Big Boulder are quiet now. Spring is on the way at last!  
(photo by Ann Martino)

## Who's Your Mama?

Want to show your Mom just how much she's loved and appreciated? Enter the Smoke Signals Mother's Day Essay contest. Just tell us why your mom is special in your own words. Entries should be received no later than May 9th.

We'll print your stories in the next issue and your mom could win a gift certificate to Mountain Massage or Hair Patterns Salon. Send entries to "Smoke Signals Mother's Day Contest" at 386 Old Stage Road, Albrightsville, PA 18210 or drop off at the MPPOA office.



## A Slice of Time



*Anne Martino*  
*Freelance Photographer*  
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# -News You Can Use-

## Township Enforces 9-1-1 Addressing

Penn Forest Township would like to remind all residents that they will begin enforcing the 9-1-1 addressing ordinance. Lot numbers must be removed and the new 9-1-1 address numbers must be posted. Violation of the ordinance can carry up to a \$600.00 fine. Homeowners can receive their 9-1-1 addresses by contacting the zoning office.

## Trash Passes Now in Penalty Period

Township residents who have not yet paid their 2008 trash pass fees are reminded that the fee is now in its penalty phase. The trash fee is now \$125.00.

### Albrightsville Fire Company To Host Blood Drive

The Albrightsville Volunteer Fire Company will host a blood drive Monday, April 15th from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m at the fire house on Route 534. For more information, call 570-722-8325 or email [avfc@ptd.net](mailto:avfc@ptd.net).

### Penn Kidder Seniors Sponsor AARP Driving Course

The Penn Kidder Senior Center will sponsor the AARP Driving Course May 20 & 21 from 10:00—12:00 and 12:30-2:30 both days. Call 570-325-4980 for more information.

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## MPPOA Taking Reservations for Mailboxes

No sooner were the new mailbox cluster boxes in place, when it became obvious that there may not be enough for those Mt. Pocahontas residents who want one. The Board of Directors is trying to determine if there is a need for more boxes by asking residents to sign up at the office for a new box. A deposit will be required upon registering.

### Are You Financially Exposed?



By: Joe Geiser  
State Farm Agent

Many people realize the need for life insurance but keep putting it off until it is too late. You may think that life insurance is confusing, expensive and complicated. You may think you don't know enough to make the right decisions for you and your loved ones. Postponing this decision leaves your family exposed financially.

**Assumption #1:** I'll always be able to buy life insurance.

You could develop a health condition that makes you uninsurable or could make life insurance too costly for you.

**Assumption #2:** I'll get life insurance later when I'm older or have a family.

Life insurance may be needed at all stages of life.

Whether married or single, male or female, with children or without, you may have financial obligations that need to be met. Life insurance provides financial security to you and your loved ones.

**Assumption #3:** My family and I are covered by the group insurance at work.

To meet the future needs of your family, you need to have 7 to 10 times your annual income. Most group term insurance amounts offered by employers won't even meet this need.

And, when you don't work for that employer any longer, you usually lose that coverage.

**Assumption #4:** My husband has life insurance so I don't need it.

Women often live longer than men but not always. There are countless stories of men who had to shoulder the family financial burden along with the emotional burden after their wife passed away.

**Assumption #5:** My family can cover funeral and burial expenses.

Burying a spouse or loved one is the most stressful time in a family's life. Having life insurance can reduce financial concerns for the family.

Take the time now to review your needs and provide adequately for yourself and your family.

For more information or to review your current policy, please contact my office or an insurance professional.

## After a long Winter, We All Have Nature Deficit Disorder

According to Richard Louv, by the 1990s, the radius around the home where children were allowed to roam on their own had shrunk to a ninth of what it had been in 1970. Children can better identify cartoon characters than a native species of plant or animal, and yet most children would say that they prefer to play inside on their video games or computers than to go fishing or swimming or build a tree fort.

In his book, "Last Child in the Woods," Louv argues that

children are prescribed medication for depression at twice the rate of just 5 years ago and childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions.

And it is us—the grown-ups, who did this. One more thing that our children can blame us for later.

Yeah, it's a different world today. The idea of a "safe" place to play usually does not expand outside of our own homes.

Here's a novel idea—go play in the woods with your kids! Nature is good for us all. It's good for our health. It's good for our souls and it's good for our relationship with our kids. After a long winter, don't we all need some fresh air?



**TAKE A HIKE** — After a long winter, we all need to get outside and enjoy the natural beauty of our area. (photo by Anne Martino)

## Orienteering at Hickory Run

*Orienteering is a sport of Sandinavian origin. The game's objective is to locate fairly easy-to-find markers in the woods with the aid of a map and, if you like, a compass. The challenge of orienteering results from participants not knowing ahead of time the marker's locations. The test lies in determining the best routes between these locations and in the sport's competitive form — finding all of the markers in the least amount of time.*

For more information, check out Hickory Run State Park or to join a local club, contact Pocono Orienteering Club at P.O. Box 245, Pocono Lake, PA 18347 570-646-9609

## Free Fishing Days!

Saturday, May 24 & Sunday, June 1 **Fish for Free Days** allow anyone (resident or non-resident) to legally fish for Pennsylvania's most popular fish without a fishing license. Each year the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Executive Director designates 2 **Fish for Free Days**. No fishing license is required to fish on Pennsylvania's waterways on these days. All other fishing regulations still apply.

**Fish for Free Days** are the perfect opportunity to introduce a friend or relative to the lifelong sport of fishing. There's no better way to enjoy Pennsylvania's great outdoors than a day of fishing with the entire family.



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**READY FOR ACTION**—MPPOA Crime Watch Volunteers Wilson & Christine Miller with therapy dog-in-training Smokey-Joe Miller

#### SUMMARY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE LAW REGISTRATION

ATV in Pennsylvania (except those used exclusively as a farm or business vehicle) must be titled and registered with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Snowmobile/ATV Registration Section.

#### General Registration

This registration permits the machine to be operated off the owner or operator's private property. The registration fee is \$20 for two years. The owner is provided with a registration plate, an expiration sticker and a Certificate of Registration wallet card. Applications for registration of ATVs are available from the DCNR's Snowmobile/ATV Registration Section. The ATV registration application form must be completed and sent to the DCNR, Snowmobile/ATV Registration Section, P.O. Box

8553, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8553, along with the required fee and sales tax statement. Registration applications are also available from: ATV dealers, Forest Districts and State Park Offices or download and print from the web at Offices or download and print from the web at

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/snowmobile](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/snowmobile). Exempt from the registration requirements are ATVs owned province or country that honors a Pennsylvania registration. Temporary registrations are available from registered ATV dealers.

#### OPERATION

ATVs may be operated:

1. On private property with the consent of the owner;
2. On state-owned property on clearly marked and previously designated ATV trails;
- \* 3. On highways and streets when necessary to cross a bridge or culvert;
- \* 4. On highways and streets during periods of emergency when so declared by a governmental agency having jurisdiction.
- \* 5. On highways and streets for special ATV events of limited duration that are conducted according to a prearranged schedule under permit from the governmental unit having jurisdiction
- \* 6. On streets and highways that have been designated and posted as "ATV Roads" by the governmental agency having jurisdiction.

#### \* MUST BE 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

An ATV may make a direct crossing of a street or two-lane highway \* provided:

- The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the highway, and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;
- The ATV is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or highway; provided: The crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the highway, and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;
- The ATV is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or highway;
- The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard. In crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway.

## ATVs: The Debate Continues

While some residents have complained about the noise and unsafe driving practices of ATV riders, others defend their right to enjoy their machines for both work and pleasure. Currently, 2 separate petitions are available for property owners' signatures at the MPPOA Office. There are few signatures on either petition, but the debate will surely continue.

#### \* MUST BE 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

It is illegal to operate an ATV:

On State Forest Roads open for use by licensed motor vehicles. At the rate of speed that is unreasonable or improper under existing conditions or in excess of the maximum limits posted for vehicular traffic;

In a careless way so as to endanger the person or property of another; while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or drugs.

#### OPERATION OF ATVs BY YOUTH

No one under 8 years of age shall operate an ATV on any state-owned property.

No person from age 8 to their 16th birthday shall operate an ATV except on lands of his parent or guardian, unless he or she has completed a prescribed ATV safety training course and received an ATV safety training certificate. Age 8 and 9 year old operators are restricted to an engine size of 70cc or less. Safety training classes are given by trained volunteer instructors. All youth ages 8-15 who complete the course will receive a safety course certificate. For information on a safety instructor near you contact DCNR's Bureau of Forestry at (717) 783-7941.

#### ACCIDENT REPORTS

The operator of an ATV involved in an accident must stop and give his or her name and address, the name and address of the owner of the ATV and its registration number to the other person(s) involved in the accident or to a police officer. If the accident results in the injury or death of any person or property damages to the estimated amount of \$100 or more, the operator must report the matter in writing within seven days to the DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105. It is a violation of the Snowmobile/ATV Law to not report the accident to the DCNR. Accident forms are available upon request from the Bureau of Forestry and State Park offices and state police stations.

#### LIABILITY INSURANCE

Liability insurance coverage is required for all ATVs that are required to have general registration. Proof of this coverage should be carried by the operator. The law does not specify a minimum dollar amount for this coverage. If you have questions about insurance coverage for ATVs contact the PA Dept of Insurance consumer hotline at 1-877-881-6388.

#### ENFORCEMENT

All law enforcement officers in the state, including local and state police, are authorized to enforce the Snowmobile/ATV Law. Municipal and state police have enforcement authority on private land.

#### FINES

Failure to register your ATV or obtain liability insurance may result in a fine of \$300. A violation of other provisions of the Snowmobile/ATV Law is punishable by a fine of \$50 to \$200 plus the cost of prosecution for a first offense, and a fine of \$100 to \$300 plus the cost of prosecution for a second offense.

#### HELMETS

It is illegal to operate an ATV without a securely fastened helmet on the head of the operator.

#### ATV SAFETY TRAINING COURSE

Safety training classes are given by trained volunteer instructors. All youth ages 8-15 who complete the course will receive a safety course certificate. For information on a safety instructor near you contact DCNR's Bureau of Forestry at (717) 783-7941.

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Complete Rules are available at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

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# Kids'



# Page



**Earth Day  
is April 22!**



## Let's Go Fishing!

Earth Day began on April 22, 1970 and has been an important day ever since. It's a day to reflect on our planet, our environment and what we can do to help keep them healthy. From the beginning, children and schools were approached to support the

formation and continuation of this special day. And this makes sense! Children have the most important stake in keeping our planet healthy. They'll still be the caretakers long after their parents and grandparents have passed away.

There are about 160 different species of fish in Pennsylvania. At the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, our job is to protect and manage these fish. Ichthyology (pronounced ick-thee-o'-lo-gee) is the study of fish biology. Can you list the characteristics all fish have in common? How do they differ from other animals? Can you explain how a fish swims. To find out more, get a free subscription to "Play" (Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth) Newsletter by writing to : PA Fish & Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.

## Earth Day Every Day



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 A W O R L D C L E A N  
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 PRESERVE  
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## How Fish Swim

Fish muscles look like sideways Ws, called myomeres. The muscles contract from side to side and front to back. The fish's body pushes against water and moves the fish.

Fins help fine-tune swimming. The caudal fin, or tail fin increases speed. The pectoral and pelvic fins steer up and down. They also help fish turn and stop. The dorsal fin and anal fin keep the fish upright in the water — as the keel on the bottom of a sailboat keeps it upright.

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