

Plumstead Township

BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP PRESENTS

Annual Tree Lighting

Celebrate The Holidays With Us!

- Ugly Sweater Contest
- Dance Performance
- Choir Singing
- Santa Arriving by Fire Truck
- Crafts & Refreshments

Friday, December 1
Festivities begin at 6pm
(Rain Date 12/2)

Hanusey Park
4757 Gordon Rd, Doylestown, PA

Collecting donations of unwrapped items: hats, scarves, mittens, pj's, toys, books and non-perishable food

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Plumstead Township Information

Contact Information

Township Office
 5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 Telephone: 215-766-8914 • Fax: 215-766-9831
 www.plumstead.org
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Police Department
 5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 Office: 215-766-8741 • Dispatch: 215-766-8740
 Fax: 215-766-8509
 For EMERGENCY Dial 911
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM or by appointment

Public Works Department
 Floyd S. Bryan Public Works Center
 5119 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 Office: 215-766-0189 • Fax: 215-766-1439
 Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Water Department
 Billing Questions: 215-766-0189
 Repairs & Maintenance: 215-766-0189
 For after hours service disruption or non-emergency issues of concern, please contact Police Dispatch at 215-766-8740. Identify yourself as a Plumstead Township Water Department customer.

Tax Collector - Sherry Labs
 6162 German Road, P.O. Box 433, Plumstead, PA 18949
 Telephone: 215-766-3785
 Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

State Senator Steven Santarsiero:
 Senate District 10
 Building 100, Suite 121
 2003 Lower State Road, Doylestown, PA 18901
 (215) 489-5000 • Fax: (215) 345-1361

State Representative - Shelby Labs
 Silo Hill Professional Building, 1032 N. Easton Road, Doylestown, PA
 Telephone: 215-489-2126
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Board of Supervisors:

Chairman Jim McComb
Vice Chairman Dan Hilferty
Asst. Secretary Ken Lichtenstein
Asst. Treasurer Greg Bankos
Member Pete Busillo

Administrative Staff

Township Manager: Angela P. Benner
Assistant to Township Manager & AP: Debbie DiAngelo
Accounts Receivable: Virginia Bowling
Municipal Administrator: Michelle Storti
Planning & Land Use Administrator: Steve Hicks
Director of Public Works: Alan Bleam
PW Administrative Assistant & Water Billing: Pam Gravel
Chief of Police: David Mettin
Police Dept. Administrative Assistant: Sarah Ferri
Police Clerk: Jennifer Bodder
Code Enforcement: Keystone Municipal Services - Phil Neas
Zoning Officer: Keystone Municipal Services
Fire Marshal: Jeff Gouldey

Meetings:

The Board of Supervisors meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month at 7PM (except where otherwise noted) and the Work Sessions will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month (as necessary).
The Planning Commission meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM.
The Zoning Hearing Board meets at the call of the Chairman.
The Environmental Advisory Council meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM.
 All meetings are held at the Township Building unless otherwise noted on the Township calendar.

Save the Date

Giving Tree (<i>Donations to the Township</i>).....	11/1 - 12/8
Annual Tree Lighting at Hanusey Park (<i>inclement weather 12/2</i>)	12/1
Santa Ride by PVFC	12/16
Santa Ride by PPVFC	12/17
Blood Drive	12/18
Annual Egg Hunt	Spring/TBD
Concerts in the Park	Summer/TBD
Movie Night	Summer/TBD
Summer Camps	Summer/TBD

Thank you

THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES

This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



Detective William Mooney

On September 17th, 2023 Detective William Mooney ended his long career with the Plumstead Township Police Department and began his career working with the Bucks County District Attorney's Office as a Bucks County Detective.

Bill began his law enforcement career in 1999, working with the Bucks County Park Rangers. From there, Bill was hired by the Amtrak Police Department and worked there until the end of 2005. In January 2006, was hired by the Tinicum Township Police Department, where he was a proactive patrol officer and became a budding investigator. Bill remained with Tinicum Township for 3 years.

In August of 2009, Bill was hired by the Plumstead Township Police Department. In his time here, Bill spent time as a patrol officer and in 2016, moved to the

position of Detective. In addition to his regular duties investigating crimes, Bill was a Team Leader for the Central Bucks Special Response Team Crime Scene Unit where he was involved in many major cases throughout the area. He was also a sworn Bucks County Narcotics Officer, where he partnered with other local and County officers to investigate narcotics dealings throughout the County.

Our Department has been very fortunate to have Bill's wisdom, skills and service over the past 14 years and we wish Bill the best in his new position.

Officer Matthew C. Sozio

On September 13th, 2023 Officer Matthew C. Sozio was hired as a full-time Plumstead Township Police Officer. Officer Sozio was sworn in by Magisterial District Judge Gary Gambardella at the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting.

Matthew Sozio is a 2016 graduate of the Hun School in Princeton New Jersey and a 2020 graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice and a minor in Sociology. After graduation, Matthew attended the Temple University Police Academy, graduating in April 2021.

Matthew worked for the Tullytown Borough Police Department as a part-time officer from December of 2021 to March of 2023. Matt also worked as a part-time police officer with the Bristol Borough Police Department from December of 2021 until recently.



Plumstead Township Police *Presents* **Shop with a Cop!**



Plumstead Township Police Department is preparing for their **SHOP WITH A COP!**

SHOP WITH A COP is a national program pairing police officers with children to afford them a better Christmas. This program is geared toward Plumstead Township children at the elementary school level. These children are faced with life challenges such as a parent losing a job, homelessness, military deployment, economic shortcomings, and other hardships.

SHOP WITH A COP is funded through generous donations in our community from private sponsors, local businesses, and residents. Each child is allotted a monetary gift card to purchase gifts for themselves and family members to allow for an enjoyable holiday.

Our program has grown from 75 children in 2017, to 150 in 2022 and with the hope to grow even more this year! All this would not be possible without the overwhelming support and generosity of our community.

We hope you'll join us in supporting this cause during the joyous holiday season! Thank you.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT continued

POLICE UPDATE – 2023:

Grant Funding

The Department has strived to be financially prudent, utilizing several sources of grant funding and taking advantage of reimbursements from several sources to offset training, special details and equipment. During the past years, the Plumstead Township Police Department has and will continue to benefit from grant funding to support major projects for the department. Grant funding has offset the cost of major upgrades to equipment and systems used by personnel each day.

- **Department of Justice Body Worn Camera Implementation Grant** **\$16,000**
Provided for Body Worn Camera Funding to Replace Aging System
- **PCCD Local Law Enforcement Grant** **\$144,000**
Provided for In-Car Camera System, In-House Video System and Automated License Plate Recognition Cameras
The department continues to take advantage of on-going multi-jurisdictional grants and initiatives with other local police agencies.
- **Office of Justice Programs Multi-Jurisdictional VSU Grant** **\$269,624**
Provided Funding for Shared Victim Services Unit with
Central Bucks Regional, Plumstead Twp., Doylestown Twp., Buckingham Twp.
- **Federal COPS Grant – Multi-Jurisdictional Grant** **\$159,000**
Provided for Training and Equipment for Nationally Recognized De-Escalation Program with Central Bucks Regional, Plumstead Twp., Doylestown Twp., Buckingham Twp.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Law Enforcement Night

The Plumstead Township Police Department sponsored a Law Enforcement Night for residents to come out and meet local police, see K9 demonstrations, see medical helicopters and fire trucks and speak to other first responders. Held at Hanusey Park, residents enjoyed snacks and drinks donated by our local businesses.

.....
Plumstead Township Police Department Explorer's Post 57-08 was established on November 3, 2013. The Law Enforcement Explorers program is designed to help young adults of the Central Bucks Communities to make a more informed decision about future careers and determine if a career in policing is right for them. Exploring is not about lectures and slides shows; it's about gaining practical experience in a career field. The program has been dedicated in the honor of fallen hero, Officer Joseph E. Hanusey III, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on May 18, 2002, in an auto accident.

Residential Key Box Program

Many times, officers respond to calls for medical assistance, responding to help our local ambulance service and to render aid. Officers have found that it is difficult to help in an emergency because the victim is inside their locked home. Plumstead Township Police Department continues to provide a residential lock program with the support of Wehrungs Lumber and Home Center, supplying key boxes to residents. These boxes hold a key for officers so that they may enter the home quickly to render aid. Only the police officer has the code for the box and, they are only used in the event of an emergency.

.....
Pack the Patrol Car is always a success thanks to the volunteers, officers and our generous community who worked together to make this such a great event! All of the food donations are brought to Bucks County Housing Group; BCHG is a social service agency committed to serving low-income homeless families in Bucks County. We hope the donations received make the winter months a little more bearable for some families.

Shop with a Cop

.....
In December, officers and staff participate in the Shop with a Cop event, coordinated by Cpl. Michael Johnson. Officers from surrounding police departments helped local youth and families shop for the holidays. The event hosted approximately 150 children from the Plumstead area. Santa was on hand and had some help from the officers and volunteers to help shop with the children. We could not have done this without the support and generous donations from our residents and businesses!

PUBLIC WORKS

PW Projects Completed in 2023:

The Board of Supervisors, as part of the approved 2023 budget, approved over \$1 million dollars in funding, and the for the following road repair projects that were completed in 2023.

Public Works crews performed all necessary preparation work ahead of any contracted work which resulted in significant cost savings.

Projects completed include:

- paving of Bergstrom Road between Landisville Road and Pt. Pleasant Pike
- paving of Poplar Lane at Curly Hill Road
- micro-surface paving of all streets in the Durham Ridge development
 - Preparation work included base repair of failed travel lanes, replacement of 14 storm inlets to ensure proper drainage and connection of sump pump lines to eliminate standing water and icing during the winter months.
- rubberized asphalt crack sealing in Fox Hunt, Summer Hill, Windtree, Country Greene and Estates of Brookside developments
- bituminous sealcoat application on McNeil, Ridgeview, Twin Silo, Covered Bridge, Schlentz Hill, Shad and Rodgers Roads
 - Preparation work included roadside ditch cleaning to promote proper storm run off and base repair of failed travel lanes
- replacement of a failed drainage pipe on Gayman Road

Additionally, Public Works crews did base repair work at the township administration building to prepare for repaving of the parking lot. The original paving was completed in 1994.

Public Works crews also designed and installed a 925-foot walking path along Potters Lane at Jennifer Schweitzer Park. The path connects to the tot lot area at the park and provides an area, off-street, to walk to the park. Crews installed a stone base and then paved the path 6 feet wide. They had to overcome storm drainage obstacles while maintaining the efficiency of the run-off.

Six segments of walking paths were repaved in the Cabin Run development. These paths were installed in the mid-1990's when the homes were built and provide inner-connected access within the community and to the sidewalk on Stump Road in the Plumsteadville village.



CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP AND RECYCLING

Christmas tree pickup and recycling will take place the week of
January 8, 2024 and January 15, 2024

Please place trees curbside, separate from your trash containers. Decorations and lights must be removed, or the tree will not be taken. Crews will travel to all public roads within the township, including HOA maintained development streets.

Each street will be travelled once per week, each week.

Trees must be curbside by 7am each Monday.

Crews will not return to pick up individual trees.

Thank you for your cooperation.



EMS

2023 Honoree

This year's 2023 honoree is Michael Nyari. Mike has been a dedicated member of the Point Pleasant Fire Company #1 for the past 6 years and is proud to serve the local community in which he lives.

Since joining in 2018, Mike has provided strong leadership skills and support to both the fire company and those served in the community. These attributes show through in Mike's willingness to educate and train current and new members of the firehouse. His leadership has encouraged younger members to work towards accomplishing their goals as well as providing the knowledge and experience necessary to become a strong firefighter. Mike leads by example as a member of the company's Dive Rescue team and through his work to train new members for our Swift Water team

Mike was elected by his peers to his current position of Battalion Chief. Prior to this, Mike has held many other positions within the fire company including Captain, Lieutenant, and Communications Officer. Mike is also a dedicated member of several committees within the firehouse. He is the chair of the Future Apparatus Committee and a member of the 100th-Anniversary Committee, Bylaws Committee, and Membership Committee.

Mike's dedication to our community is clear, from high-angle rescues to marine rescues and fires. The Officers and Members of the Point Pleasant Fire Co. # 1 proudly recognize Michael Nyari as their 2023 Firefighter of the Year Recipient. Congratulations Mike and thank you for your ongoing leadership and commitment!



Congratulations Mike!

From the Point Pleasant Fire Company

What Do you do when you see an emergency vehicle.....

Drivers in Pennsylvania are **required to move over or slow down when they see an emergency vehicle** or disabled vehicle or face fines.

- Pennsylvania's "Move Over Law" went into effect in 2021.
- Drivers face fines of \$500 for a first offense up to \$2,000 for a third offense. Driver's license will also be suspended upon a third or subsequent offense.
- The rules of the road in Pennsylvania have changed to protect first responders. Starting in 2021, drivers need to "move over" or slow down when they see flashing lights or face fines.

The "**Move Over Law**" calls for drivers to move into to the left lane when approaching an emergency vehicle with lights flashing -- including police officers, EMS crews and tow truck drivers -- or a disabled vehicle with proper indicators set up. If the driver can't safely move into the outer lane on a highway or multilane road, then the driver needs to slow to 20 mph under the speed limit.

"Many drivers seem to think that moving over is just an optional courtesy when they see law enforcement or emergency vehicles pulled over on the side of the road," Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Jessica Tobin said. "Emergency personnel can only do so much to keep themselves safe when they pull over on the side of the road. The rest of the responsibility falls on other motorists."

Drivers who don't give space or slow down face fines of \$500 for a first offense up to \$2,000 for a third or subsequent offense. A driver will have his or her license suspended for 90 days upon a third offense. A driver faces a fine up to \$10,000 for a crash that hurts or injures a person.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



Half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.



More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.



Christmas is the peak day for candle fires.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



A dry Christmas tree can burn very hot and very fast.



More than 1 in every 5 Christmas tree fires were caused by a heat source too close to the tree.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html and nfpa.org/winter.

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EMS continued

FIRE SAFETY TIP – DISCARD FIREPLACE ASHES PROPERLY

Every year fire departments in the Bucks County area have responded to house fires caused by improperly discarded fireplace ashes. Our personnel have responded to multiple fires over the past few winters caused by improperly discarded fireplace ashes.

FACT: Many people don't realize the length of time required for ashes to cool enough for disposal. Coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to reignite and start a fire for many days after the fire is out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc.

BE SAFE: Treat ALL ashes and coals as HOT ashes, even when you think they had time enough to cool. Take care to dispose of them wisely. Your house, deck or garage are unsafe locations for storing ashes while they cool and have been the site of many recent and devastating fires both locally and nationally. Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it outside and at least 10 feet from your home or nearby buildings.

Follow these simple fire safety tips:

- Clean and inspect your chimney at least once a year and again after every cord of wood burned.
- Do not discard your ashes into any combustible container such as a paper or plastic bag, a cardboard box, or a plastic trash can.
- Do not place ash containers on decks, porches or in garages.
- Put ashes into a non-combustible metal container with a lid.
- Pour water into the container to make sure the ashes are cool.
- Keep your can OUTSIDE the home, away from your fireplace or stove and anything combustible.
- Teach all family members to be safe with ashes from your fireplace or wood stove.



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PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP



2023
SANTA-RIDE

Santa is coming to Plumstead..
Both of our Fire Companies will be
giving Santa a ride through the
Township....Listen for the sirens...

12/16 - PVFC &

12/17 - PPVFC (EAST OF RT 413)

Thanks to ALL the volunteers,
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PLUMSTEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Speaker Series: 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm
November: 1 Room Schoolhouses
December 16th: Holiday Open House!
January: Bring a historic "Show-n-Tell"
All are welcome, membership not required!

Trivia Question:
In which of our township's historic villages can Hinkle's Tinsmith Shop still be found today?



Did you know that for over 125 years, local groups have gathered at the Danboro Chapel? 70 years before the PHS acquired the building, the Danboro Community Assoc. welcomed the community with all types of events & gatherings! With so many bake sales underway, favorite recipes were published in their "Cooking with Friends" cookbook. Just in time for the holiday season, try Pat Heidler's recipe for **Holiday Breakfast Bread**:

Mix 3 c. Flour, 2 c. Sugar, 1 tsp. Soda, 1 tsp. Salt, and 1 tsp Cinnamon. Blend 3 eggs, 1.5 tsp Vanilla and 1.5 cups Oil, before adding to the mixture. Combine 1 c. chopped Pecans, 1 c. Coconut, 2 c. dried Bananas, and 1 large can of crushed (and drained) Pineapple, then fold into the batter. Makes 2 loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hr - 1 hr and 20 minutes.

Too busy to bake? Join us as we celebrate another year of successful stewardship of the historic Danboro Chapel - Stop in to our **2nd Annual Holiday Open House!** All are welcome to sample some Holiday Breakfast Bread, look around & enjoy free snacks, beverages & holiday cheer - See you at the Chapel - **Saturday, Dec. 16th, between 2-5pm** - 4808 Old Easton Road.

Trivia Answer: Originally constructed as the Plumstead Rural Telephone Co. the frame building stands next to Plumsteadville Inn's entrance off Easton Rd. Most associated with local craftsman Frank Hinkle, the charming shop later served the village as "Farmer John's Foods" where purveyors, John & Ruth Bollinger, also operated a Cannery out back. No longer standing, the cannery barn was situated nearest to where Chubby's Ice Cream shop is today.

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LAND PRESERVATION AND EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REDUCING ESTATE TAX WITH A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Did you know that federal estate tax can be substantially reduced by placing a conservation easement on your property? Besides the benefits available by donating a conservation easement during your lifetime (saving up to 50% of your adjusted gross income for as long as 15 years as well as a reduction in local taxes), your heirs can also benefit from the donation of a conservation easement. Federal estate tax law values land under easement at its restricted value. Since conservation easements in the township eliminate development potential in perpetuity this benefit can reduce the amount of estate tax your heirs need to pay—and can sometimes ensure that the value of the estate falls under the taxable threshold.

In addition to the benefit of a reduced land value for estate purposes, up to 40% of the value of the conserved land (capped up to \$500,000) can be **excluded** from the value of the deceased person's estate. This tax advantage is available whether the donation of a conservation easement occurs during your lifetime, by will, or placed by your heirs. Although most estates fall below the exemption threshold (\$12.92 million in 2023), those with large financial and/or multiple property assets can clearly benefit. Like any federal tax program, it is important that the easement conforms with the tax code and that the required reporting process is followed. Discussing with your legal and/or financial advisor(s) is highly recommended to learn how you and your estate can take advantage of these benefits.

Plumstead Township's Land Preservation and Educational Advisory Committee can assist by providing general information about the easement process and the required steps needed to donate a conservation easement. To contact the committee, reach out to the township manager at...

Information in this article was adapted from "Reducing Federal Estate Tax" reprinted courtesy of WEConservePA. A full copy of "Reducing Federal Estate Tax" is available on the township website at

+ PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP +

BLOOD DRIVE

Give the gift of life.

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donor..



EVENT TIME
2 PM - 7PM

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WINTER BLOOD DRIVE
12/18/23

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FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Please remember that there are those in our own community who are still struggling. Please consider donating non-perishable food items to the local food pantry.



All items can be dropped off in the box in the Township lobby (5186 Stump Road) & we will deliver them to the local pantry and other organizations in need.

Thank you!

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VETERANS COMMITTEE

RECOGNIZING A PLUMSTEAD RESIDENT

At the August 9, 2023 meeting, the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors recognized Susan Suber for her outstanding achievements in school, the Young Marines, and various volunteer activities. Resolution 2023-20 delineates the accomplishments of Susan. The resolution can be viewed at: <https://plumstead.org/ordreso/res2023-20.pdf>

Thank you Susan!



BRIDGES DEDICATIONS

Since the last newsletter, the Plumstead Township Veterans Committee has dedicated two more township bridges to Plumstead residents who lost their lives serving our country.

On July 15, 2023 the bridge on Potters Lane, near Downs Run, was dedicated to Private Edward Berger Keller, US Army. Edward was born on October 25, 1925. Private Keller was drafted into the Army on October 10, 1950. After completion of basic training, he was sent to South Korea via Japan. He was killed in action on April 16, 1951 after being in country for about two weeks. Edward's cousin Bob Keller of Plumstead, was present at the dedication.

On September 9, 2023, the bridge on Old Easton Road by Penn Engineering was dedicated to Staff Sergeant Frank Elton Hilde. SSgt Hilde was born on April 10, 1930. He initially joined the Army on July 8, 1948. He served a number of tours in Germany before getting orders for Vietnam in October 1967. During the Tet Offensive of 1968, Frank was serving as an Artillery Forward Observer with a South Vietnamese Army unit when he was mortally wounded by small arms fire in Binh Duong Province. During the battle that day, Frank distinguished himself such that he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with V for Valor, our nation's fourth highest award for bravery. Frank's son Ken flew in from Colorado for the bridge dedication.



There are two more bridge dedications to be done and they will occur in 2024. One for Sergeant Leonard Skoniecki US Marine Corps and the other for Specialist Fourth Class Clifford VanArtsdalen, US Army.

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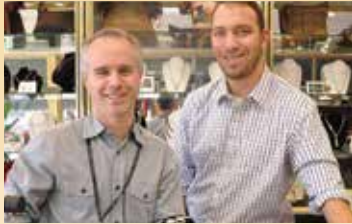
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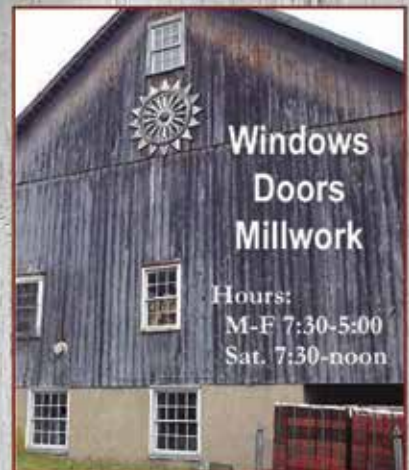
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