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MOUNTAIN VIEWS

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2013

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Extreme Games by Valerie Haenn



***** **New Date** *****

Friday, May 31
Cambridge Circle



Games begin at 6PM; Please arrive by 5:45PM
Participants need to be between the ages of 3-12
Please wear sneakers!!!!

Teenage Helpers Needed = Receive Community Hours
Food and Refreshments will be served
RSVP: Val & Tom Haenn 215-918-2737

Easter Egg Hunt by Josh Curtis

Thank you to John and Carla Tomlinson for hosting the Egg Hunt for Mountain View again this year. A great time was had by all.



MVRA Board Meeting - May 9, 2013

Attendees: John Palladino, Rhian Huhn, Kathleen Mittura, Josh Curtis, Phylliss McCabe, Carla Tomlinson, Lynn McLaughlin, Bob Talley, Jim Sleicher, Joe Jewusiak, Mike Riotta

— Meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mittura at 8:08PM.—

Welcome: Kathleen thanked the Palladino's for hosting.

Treasurer's Report - approved

- Income = \$245 | Expenses = \$0 | Balance = \$3,503.59
- Entrances costs \$1,376.29
- Money is still being received for memberships and donations.

Newsletter -

- Need graduation announcements - pictures and write ups.
- Looking for delivery people each quarter, usually a local kid, pays \$50
- Deadline is 5/21/13

Membership -

- 2 homes sold – 1 Buckingham & Jericho, possibly a 3rd on Buckingham
- Tara Circle - Rent to Buy

Social -

- Extreme games May 31st
- Crawl is changing dates – fall TBD
- Evening under the star – still sponsoring Jake Daraff
- Board is asking Social to consider supporting a second charity.
- Annual charity support – rotating annually
 - o Gilda Club for 2013?
 - o Social committee takes the lead
 - o Resurrect the garage sale?
- 50/50 for Firehouse – tally is pending

Health and Safety -

- Shopping center – no update
- Swale clogged on Buckingham near sewage drain at Monticello

Old Business -

- Advertising requests sent out
- Great American clean up was successful
- Voting location is moved upstairs, entrance through the main township building

New Business -

- Main Entrance, Almshouse cars are passing left turns and risking safety of our residents who are pulling out
- Sunshine committee
 - o Board and neighbors directly impacted by the event (birth, illness, death)?
 - o Add as a Board meeting agenda item so that communication is created.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM

The next MVRA meeting will be on Thursday, Jun 13th @ 8pm (Porter house, 2330 Inverness Circle).

Welcome New Neighbors

by Terri Porter

Mountain View would like to welcome Kamlesh and Mita Patel to our neighborhood! Kamlesh and Mita moved into 2128 Jericho Drive this past fall with their young adult children, Ronak and Aesha, and their petite white bichon dog, Armani.

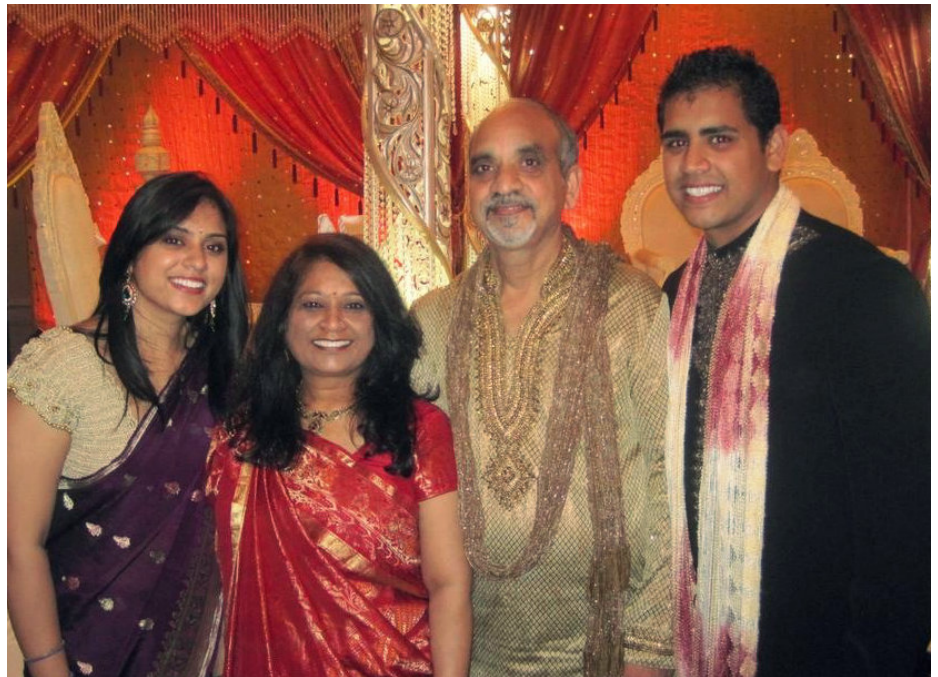
Kamlesh came to America from India in 1985. He lived in Florida before returning to India and marrying his bride. The Patels then moved to the United States and lived in Virginia where their two children were born. They continue to maintain their family home in Gujarat, India, where they often return to visit.

Currently, Kamlesh is a machine operator for a company in Feasterville. Mita is an electrical technician for Flexible Circuits, Inc. She also works part-time for Federal Express in their Quality Control department. At one time, Mita also managed a Taco Bell.

The Patel's son, Ronak, recently graduated from Temple University with a degree in Management Information Systems. He interned with Comcast in the areas of Business Analysis and Information Technology and is hoping to gain full employment in his field soon.

Aesha has also recently graduated from Philadelphia University with a degree in Business Administration. She currently works as an Assistant Project Manager for a commercial subcontracting company, Hispanic Ventures, Inc., in center city Philadelphia.

The Patels moved into Mountain View from the Warminster area. They were interested in moving to a much larger home so they would have more space to entertain their



rather large extended family that lives in the area! The Patels are very family oriented! Mita loves to cook a variety of ethnicities including Indian, Mexican, and Chinese foods. As a result, their relatives visit often to share in these delicious dishes prepared by Mita. On week-ends in the summer, it is not unusual for the Patels to picnic with family and friends under one of the pavilions at Peace Valley Park. These gatherings may include as many as 100 – 150 people! A good time is had by all!

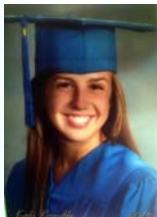
When the Patels are not enjoying time with family and friends, they love to travel. They have visited many countries such as England, Germany, France and Italy, to name a few.

Kamlesh, Mita, Ronak, and Aesha have joined our association and look forward to attending our Mountain View events. Please welcome them by calling them at their residence at 215-957-9892 or e-mail them at patel.aesha1@gmail.com.

Remember to add the Patel family to your Mountain View directory!

CONGRADULATIONS

Mountain View would like to congratulate our neighborhood graduates.



Kali Rundle is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Central Bucks this year and will be attending Penn State (University Park) next year where she will be majoring in Mathematics. While at Central Bucks Kali participated on the district champion field hockey team, President of POPS (Power of the Positive Student) , Stage Crew, NHS & Key Club.



Congratulations to Amanda McCabe who received her "White Coat" in a ceremony at Temple University's - Kornberg School of Denistry as she starts her third year and clinical work.

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PD45151 4/04

Replacing You're Oil Fired Burner by Charles Keener

For those MountainView neighbors that might be in the same situation we were regarding our oil-fired boiler, I wanted to share some information on the research we did and the decision we made regarding its recent replacement. Our boiler system is used for hot water baseboard heat, hot water radiant floor heat and domestic hot water. The old boiler, a New Yorker tank-less system with a domestic hot water coil, was original with the house (approximately 26 years old), and is probably common in many MV homes. It was failing and in serious need of replacement earlier this year.

We considered several options, including a straight replacement, a high-efficiency oil burning boiler and an LPG (propane) burning boiler. We decided on a high-efficiency oil burning boiler, and in particular a manufacturer and model that is unique in design, and a notch above others in performance (Energy Kinetics - System 2000; energykinetics.com). The oil savings with this unit over the standard replacement boiler we considered is about 30 - 35%, and about 10 – 12% above other high-efficiency boilers on the market. As with other high-efficiency systems, this unit incorporates a separate, insulated hydronic tank for the storage of hot water, so it's nearly impossible to run out. The projected oil consumption for domestic hot water for a family of four during the non-heating season is ¼-gallon per day.

With regard to LPG, even with the high price of oil, the cost to heat with LPG is really not any cheaper when you consider the \$/BTU. LPG also requires the lease of storage tanks from your provider, or the purchase and installation of tanks, and the installation of a supply line to your



boiler. There are arguments that high efficiency “condensing” LPG boilers can operate at 97% efficiency. This is true, but only to a point. When temperatures fall below freezing, the boiler water return temperature required to maintain a comfortable living space forces the boiler out of the condensing mode, and the efficiency drops back close to non-condensing boilers. Natural gas is another story. If we are ever able to get natural gas distributed through our neighborhood, there is a significant incentive to switch to it. At current prices, natural gas heating is about 30% of the cost of oil or LPG. One of the reasons we chose the

(continued on page 15)

Schedule of Events

- } May 31 - MVRA Extreme Games
Time: 5:45pm
Where: Cambridge Circle
- } Jun 3 - Warwick Board of Supervisors Meeting
Time: 7pm-8pm
Where: Main Meeting Room
- } Jun 10 - Warwick Planning Commission Meeting
Time: 7:30pm-8:30pm
Where: Main Meeting Room
- } Jun 13 - MVRA Meeting
Time: 8pm
Where: Porter's
2330 Inverness Circle
- } Jun 17 - MVRA Meeting
Supervisors Meeting
Time: 7pm-8pm
Where: Main Meeting Room

JUNE 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					31 Extreme Games	1
2	3 Warwick Board	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Warwick Planning	11	12	13 MVRA Meeting	14	15
16	17 Warwick Board	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Schedule of Events

- } Jul 1 - Warwick Board of Supervisors Meeting
Time: 7pm-8pm
Where: Main Meeting Room
- } Jul 8 - Warwick Planning Commission Meeting
Time: 7:30pm-8:30pm
Where: Main Meeting Room
- } Jul 15 - Warwick Board of Supervisors Meeting
Time: 7pm-8pm
Where: Main Meeting Room

JULY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Warwick Board	2	3	4 July 4th	5	6
7	8 Warwick Planning	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Warwick Board	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Schedule of Events

- } Aug 5 - Warwick Board of Supervisors Meeting
Time: 7pm-8pm
Where: Main Meeting Room
- } Aug 12 - Warwick Planning Commission Meeting
Time: 7:30pm-8:30pm
Where: Main Meeting Room
- } Aug 19 - Warwick Board of Supervisors Meeting
Time: 7pm-8pm
Where: Main Meeting Room

AUGUST 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Warwick Board	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Warwick Planning	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Warwick Board	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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"Why I Won't Let My Son Take the PSSA" Goes Viral

Recently we saw two Philadelphia principals surrender their administrative licenses for cheating on the PSSAs. We also saw 35 educators, including the superintendent, indicted for a massive cheating scandal that spread across 58 schools in Atlanta. Amongst the scandals I came across the article below, from here in PA (Pittsburgh)...very interesting.

Why I Won't Let My Son Take the PSSA

The opt-out movement is growing because high-stakes tests are wrecking our schools

By Kathy M. Newman | March 31, 2013 | Read more: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/>

I am an English professor. So you can imagine how my pride was hurt when my 9-year-old son Jacob started bringing home low scores on his practice reading tests for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.

My husband and I have been helping Jacob with his test-prep reading homework every weeknight this year, and it has been a grim slog. At times I have found myself getting angry when Jacob has fidgeted, or when he has had trouble focusing. Sometimes I have gotten angry when he simply hasn't been able to answer the questions.

Then one day this March it dawned on me. I am getting angry at my son about a test. A test that I do not like. A "high-stakes" test that will put so much pressure on Jacob that it probably will not reflect his true abilities. I also realized something else: Jacob does not love to read.

After doing some research and talking with other parents, my husband and I decided to "opt out" Jacob from the PSSA tests. We are opting him out because we do not like what high-stakes tests are doing to Jacob, to our family, to his teachers, to his school and, ultimately, to our entire education system.

High-stakes tests like the PSSAs are used to evaluate, close and punish public schools, including my son's school, Pittsburgh Linden, a K-5 magnet school in Point Breeze. Linden's Adequate Yearly Progress score is bound to Linden's PSSA test results. According to the

(continued on page 12)

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Neighborhood Website by Josh Curtis

www.mvranews.com

We announced the new web site 3 months ago and I pleased to report it is gaining traffic. In the past couple of months, we've had 2500 unique visitors, each visitor averaging 2 visits, with over 60,000 hits. Please go to www.mvranews.com and check it out.

The website DOES NOT mean the end of emails, newsletters, directories, and all the normal stuff we are used to but rather provides an online forum for those who are interested and just as important, online tools for those who have to manage it. The website does not require a password nor do you have to sign up...it is out there for all to view freely.

There is a lot information on the web site, so I put together a little tutorial to help guide you around.

The screenshot shows the Mountain View Residents Association website. The header features the association's logo and a banner with the text "Welcome to the MOUNTAIN VIEW RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: "About MVRA", "Calendar and Events", "Contact Us", "Forms", "Newsletters", and "Testimonials". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Left Column:** A large banner for the "2013 Membership Drive" with the text "MEMBERSHIP" and "Happy Holidays and Good News! It is time for MVRA's ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. Fortunately, due to careful spending, the Board was". Below this is a "Rotating articles...click on title for full article and pictures" section.
- Center Column:** A list of events and activities, including "Winterfest 2013" (January 31), "2013 Membership Drive" (January 2), "Third Annual Winterfest" (January 2), "Progressive Dinner a Success" (December 29), "Halloween Parade ... Thank You" (December 29), and "Evening Under the Stars Shine" (December 28).
- Right Column:** A "Search" bar, a "MVRA Events" section listing meetings and events (e.g., "Mar 14 8:00 PM - MVRA Meeting", "Mar 24 3:00 PM - Easter Egg Hunt", "Apr 11 8:00 PM - MVRA Meeting", "May 09 8:00 PM - MVRA Meeting", "Jun 13 8:00 PM - MVRA Meeting"), and a "MVRA Advertisers" section featuring "CONCESSIONS BOOKING & TRAVEL" and "JOHN K. CONTESSANO".

Callout boxes provide additional information:

- Top Left:** Click here to see all the MVRA officers, board members and chairpersons. Has email links for each person/group.
- Top Right:** Click here to view and download forms (Membership, Check Request, etc.)
- Bottom Left:** Click here view full calendar of MVRA events.
- Bottom Right:** Click here view electronic copies of previous newsletters.
- Bottom Right:** Click here view and create local contractor reviews (our little Angie's List).
- Bottom Right:** Sponsored ads.

MVRA Sunshine Committee by Josh Curtis

The Sunshine Committee sends cards (get well, sympathy, etc) to our neighbors in need. If you are aware of a situation in the neighborhood please contact Phyllis McCabe (phyllis.mccabe@verizon.net) and let her know what is going. We live in a wonderful community where everyone is more than happy to pitch in to mow a lawn, mend a fence, or make a meal, but we need you to make us aware of these needs first.



Deepest Sympathies by Nancy Walbert

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Pat Bontempo-Meyers on the sudden loss of her father. Condolences can be sent to

1218 Jennifer Road
Philadelphia, PA 19116.

Pat served as the editor and publisher our Mountain View newsletter for many years.

Lock Your Car Doors by Josh Curtis

A few cars were left unlocked last week and items were stolen from the cars. One house had their garage door opened with the remote from inside their unlocked car. Please remember to keep your doors locked! There have been police cars in and out of the neighborhood patrolling.

Here are few tips to prevent car theft:

- **Lock your car.** Approximately 50 percent of all vehicles stolen were left unlocked.
- **Take your keys.** Nearly 13 percent of all vehicles stolen had the keys in them.
- **Never hide a second set of keys in your car.** It might seem like a good idea, but thieves know all the hiding places.
- **Completely close car windows when parked.** Don't make it easier for the thief to enter your vehicle.





The 3rd Annual

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MEMORIAL 5K RUN & 1 MILE FUN RUN/WALK

Refreshments, Prizes, Raffle

When: Sat, June 15, 2013 9:00 am (walk at 9:40 AM, held rain or shine) Sign in at 8am

Where: Perkiomen Trail, Spring Mountain 757 Spring Mount Rd. Schwenksville, PA 19473

Cost: \$20 if postmarked by May 25th with guaranteed t-shirt; \$25 after, including day of the race, with shirt - \$18 when shirts are gone.

Proceeds: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital "No Child Should Ever Have Cancer"

Age Groups and Awards: Top Male and Female + top 3 males and females in the following age groups: 0-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39 40-49, 50-59 & 60+ (professionally timed by Pretzel City Sports)

Race or Sponsorship Contact Info: Charlotte Sellers 215-491-9340 CSRNCCharlotte@comcast.net

*Registration forms can also be downloaded on our website – www.sandyswish.org

Make checks payable to: Sandy Sellers Copley Memorial 5K Run; Mail completed form w/ payment to: Sandy Sellers Copley Memorial 5K Run c/o Charlotte Sellers 2297 Jericho Dr. Jamison, PA 18929

Sandy Sellers Copley Memorial 5K Run Registration Form 2013

Name: _____ **Age On Race Day:** _____ **Male** ☐ **Female** ☐

Address: _____ **Email Address:** _____

City/State/Zip: _____ **Phone:** _____

T-Shirt Size: ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL **Event Entered:** ☐ 5K Run ☐ 1M Fun Walk / Run

In consideration of your permitting me to participate in this event, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, I hereby waive and release all rights and claims for damages which I may have against you or your assigns, the municipalities in which the event occurs, or anyone connected with the event, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, for any and all injuries or illnesses which I may suffer as a result of taking part in the event. I grant my permission to use my name or any audio or visual recording for any lawful purpose. I have read & understand the above waiver.

Signature: (parent if under 18) _____ **Date:** _____

Why I Won't Let My Son Take the PSSA (from page 8)

The opt-out movement is growing because high-stakes tests are wrecking our schools

federal No Child Left Behind Act, every public school in the United States must be 100 percent proficient in reading and math (based on test scores) by 2014.

Last year, Linden did not make AYP. In fact, only six Pittsburgh Public Schools did. A neighboring school, Colfax, which is one of the best schools in the East End, has been labeled "low-achieving" and is currently under something called "Corrective Action II." Under this label, a school can be reconstituted, chartered or privatized.

High-stakes tests also warp the educational environment. This March, as Linden was gearing up for the PSSAs, the hallways were stripped bare, though state law requires only that displays pertaining to the tests be taken down. Artwork, motivational slogans, student-made posters, the Women's History display my kids helped to make, my daughter's picture of herself as a "writer" when she grows up, the "dream" statements everyone filled out in January with the large cutout of Martin Luther King -- all of it has been removed. During testing season, access to Linden's new iPads -- for which I helped to write the grant that allowed us to acquire them -- will also be curtailed.

The curriculum at Linden is narrowing, too. As testing has ratcheted up, and as Gov. Tom Corbett's billion-dollar cut to Pennsylvania's K-12 education budget have kicked in, schools across the state are dropping programs that are not measured by tests.

Last year at Linden the third-grade band program was cut, dozens of hours of music instruction were cut, our science programming was reduced, and we were slated to lose our art teacher (fortunately we were able to save her). We lost dozens of hours of library instruction, and children are allowed access to the library only once every two weeks. Ironically, the loss of our library hours will hurt the students more when it comes to testing. A recent study found that "[w]ith a full-time librarian, students are more likely to score 'Advanced' and less likely to score 'Below Basic' on reading and writing tests."



Also, there is the stress. Jacob, only a third-grader, has cried, gotten dejected and thrown fits over his test-prep requirements, both at home and at school. Sixth graders in our district will take 23 different tests this year -- up from nine the previous year.

During the tests, students are treated like prisoners, with limited bathroom breaks and constant monitoring. These conditions are especially hard for special-needs children and children with Individual Education Plans.

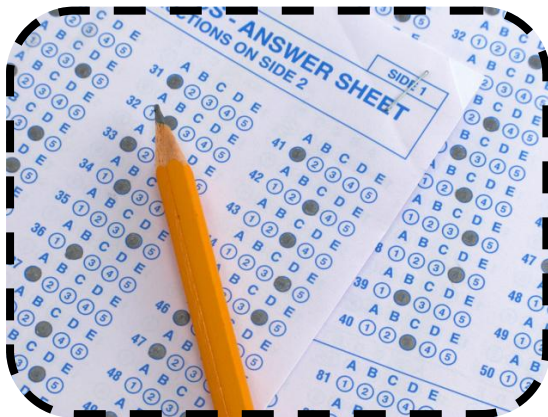
Why I Won't Let My Son Take the PSSA

The opt-out movement is growing because high-stakes tests are wrecking our schools

Teachers are also stressed. My son's third-grade teacher has been working so hard this year that he arrives many days as early as 6 a.m. and stays for hours after school, sometimes as late as 9 p.m. From around the district I am hearing stories about teachers crying in the hall -- devastated by the harm they believe the tests are inflicting.

Let me be clear. I believe in evaluation as a tool -- I use quizzes and other testing techniques in my college classroom. But high-stakes tests, tests used to label schools, teachers and students as failures, are damaging our nation's educational system.

Here in Pittsburgh and across southwestern Pennsylvania, the movement to opt out of standardized testing is taking root. In the Pittsburgh Public Schools there are parents at Colfax, Greenfield, Liberty, Linden, Montessori and Phillips who are opting their children out of the PSSAs. Across the region, some parents in Mt. Lebanon, Somerset County and Westmoreland County are doing so as well.



The opt-out movement is also swelling nationwide. Earlier this year, teachers in several Seattle high schools refused to administer a high-stakes test called the MAP. In Portland, Ore.; Providence, R.I.; and Denver, Colo., students themselves have been leading the charge against the tests. Just last month in Texas, more than 10,000 parents rallied against an increase in testing and decrease in funding for Texas public schools. Some of these actions are coming under the banner of United Opt Out National (unitedoptout.com).

Next month, while Jacob's classmates are nervously sharpening their pencils and getting hushed by their teachers, Jacob is going to be in the Linden library, reading for pleasure -- a pastime I have encouraged and rewarded since I realized that Jacob isn't keen on reading.

With this act of civil disobedience, our family will contribute to the revolt against the standardized testing that is hurting students, schools and the quality of education. I want my children to learn, but also to love to learn. Don't you?

Corrections, posted April 2: This article reflects the following corrections: The state requires schools administering the PSSAs to remove from view posters and other materials that could provide test answers. State law does not require that hallways be stripped bare. Also, the Mt. Lebanon School District did not cut back on recess, extend the school day or reduce such services as nursing and counseling to make room for PSSA or other standardized tests.

Kathy M. Newman is an associate professor of English at Carnegie Mellon University (kn4@andrew.cmu.edu).

First Published March 31, 2013 12:00 am

Shoppes at Jamison Farm – Concept Plan

By Hilary Bentman Correspondent | March 5, 2013 | Read more: <http://www.phillyburbs.com>

A new shopping center could be coming to Warwick.

On Monday, township supervisors considered a concept plan for the Shops at Jamison Farm, which proposes two large retail stores — a supermarket and another big-box retail space — along with five additional stores constructed in a village center style.

The project would rest on 27 acres off York Road, bordering Meetinghouse Road and adjacent to a proposed Wawa site.

The property is one of the largest, undeveloped pieces of commercial ground in the township, said attorney John VanLuvanee, who represents the developer, Blank Aschkenasy Properties.

The village-style side of the project could feature outdoor seating and gathering areas, streetscape lighting and walking trails. One possibility being considered is to use a farming/agriculture motif in designing the five smaller buildings, complete with silos and gable roofs.

Residents who spoke at Monday's township meeting were generally in favor of the concept, particularly for the tax revenue. The developer estimates the site could generate nearly \$1 million annually, most of which would go to the Central Bucks School District.

"It's a good idea of not letting (the property) go residential. We need a lot more commercial," said resident Greg Mester.

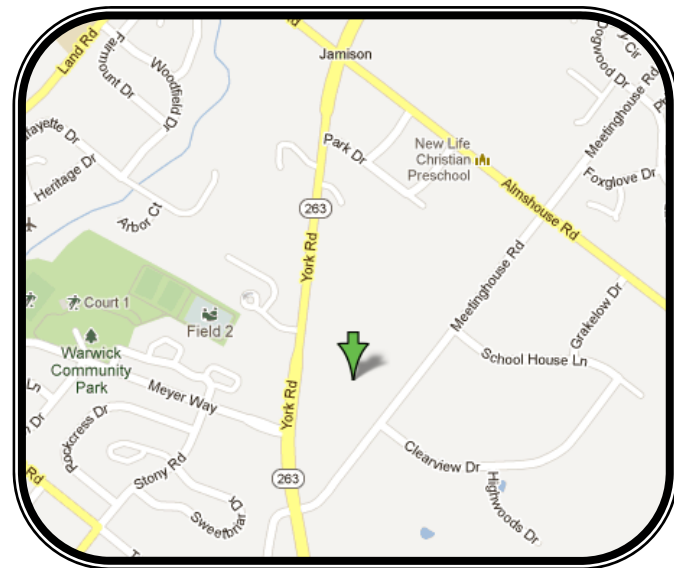
Supervisor Ned Thompson expressed a few concerns about the proposal, including the traffic impact, lighting and finding tenants.

"You drive around and you see a lot of retail empty space," said Thompson, noting the vacant 263 Marketplace building and the soon-to-be shuttered Kmart, both on York Road.

But the developers expressed confidence in finding tenants, especially for the big-box spaces.

The property is home to several structures, including greenhouses and storage tanks. The developer has started a preliminary environmental assessment of the grounds to gauge the extent of the cleanup.

If the Shops at Jamison Farm moves forward, the developer will need some zoning relief and will have to go through the land development process.



Replacing You're Oil Fired Burner by Charles Keener

boiler we did is because it can be converted to natural gas with a swap out of the burner and remain under the manufacturer's warranty. We found no other high-efficiency oil boilers that could make the same claim. Of course, LPG burning boilers can be easily converted as well. *(from page 5)*

As for incentives and financing, oil-burning boilers do not qualify for any tax credits currently. There are some credits available for gas burning systems, but there have been changes to the program recently, so you will need to research this. Pennsylvania does offer low-interest financing through AFC First for EnergyStar compliant equipment for up to 10 years. There is a threshold limit on household income to qualify, but this limit is pretty high on boilers. For us, the monthly oil savings will more than make the payment on the system.

As for suppliers, we got quotes from three companies, one being Moyer Indoor Outdoor, whom we have used for oil and boiler service for many years. However, Harris Comfort of Bristol offered pricing that was significantly lower than the other two, and we chose them to do the work. Their service was timely and professional, and the overall installation was completed on time and with excellent quality.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this information further, or would like to take a look at our system.



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