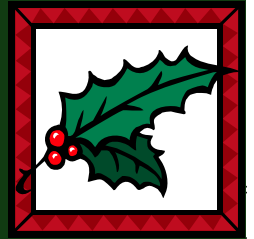


Chesco News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008



County generosity abounds

Dress Down Day charities...The United Way...Toys for Tots...Cares Network...Pocopson Home holiday gifts... Throughout the year, County employees contribute an immense amount of time, gifts and money to help those less fortunate. You would think, that with current economic conditions, the rate of giving among County employees would go down.

But not so. This year, more than 550 presents have been bought and wrapped for 270 Pocopson Home residents. Terri Clark and Tacie Himelright, from the Controller's Office (right) thank you all for your kindness.



Thanks to County employees, more than 150 children in Chester County will have a happier holiday season, because of your donations to Toys for Tots. Dina Rudman



and her team of elves appreciate your generosity.

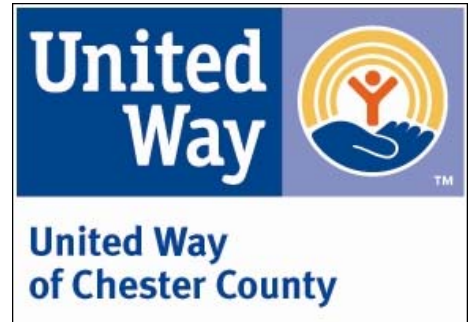
Since January, we have supported 11 Chester County charities, donating an average of \$800 per month for Dress Down Days. In September, we raised \$832.00 for the Leukemia &

Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Appeal, and pictured right, receiving a check from the Commissioner Carol Aichele (left), Commissioner Terence Farrell and Commissioner Kathi Cozzone (third from right) are representatives from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, along with Sue Scott from the Treasurer's Office (far right).

United Way pledges surpass 2007

Throughout 2009, the United Way will truly benefit from the kindness of County employees—to the tune of more than \$73,000!

During a year when United Way staff have been concerned that the level of giving will be going down, Chester County employees **pledged nearly \$10,000 more than last year.**



Our donations will help many community programs—providing emergency food and shelter for local families; health screenings; a safe place for victims of domestic violence; breakfast, lunch and snack costs for children; financial literacy instructions for homeless individuals; scholarships for infant care, so a new mother can return to work; and enrichment materials for youth participating in after school tutoring programs.

For 2009, the United Way asked everyone to **Give. Advocate. Volunteer. and Live United.** Your pledges have shown that Chester County employees really know how to share.

Thank you for all your contributions



May I see your license, Fido?

Wondering what to buy for your favorite pooch this year? Do him, and you, a favor and get a 2009 dog license.

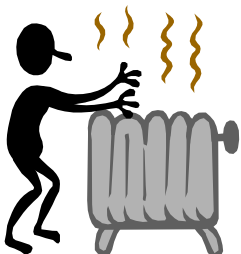
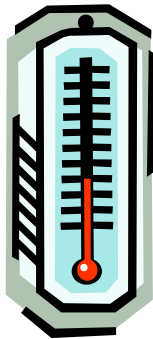


License applications are now available from the Treasurer's Office, but can also be purchased from outside agents. Details of the agents, application forms and Pennsylvania dog laws can be found on the County website, under "services".

If your dog is ever lost, a license tag is one of the best ways Fido can make his way back to you. Why not make it a bonus gift this year, and buy him a lifetime license?...

County offers heating assistance programs

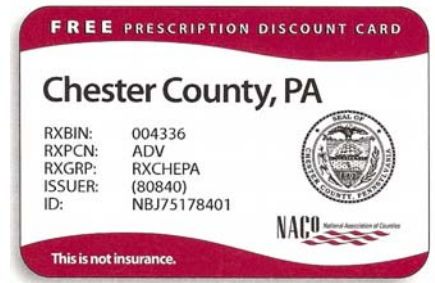
Chester County may be one of the most affluent counties in the country, but there are many local families that will face a heating crisis this winter. Our Department of Community Development (DCD) and Human Services Department have come together to provide guidance on how to access heating assistance programs for county residents and weatherization grants for qualified persons.



Full details of all the programs can be found by clicking the "Heating Assistant Programs" prompt on the home page of WebCC. If you know of anyone who may be struggling to meet the high costs of heating this winter, let them know that there may be help, or put them in touch with the DCD.

County introduces prescription drug discount card

Earlier this month, the Chester County Commissioners launched a prescription drug discount card, free to all Chester County residents to help cope with the high price of prescription drugs.



The card, available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured, and can be used for drugs not covered by health plans. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee, no restrictions on how often it can be used, and no cost to county taxpayers.

The card can also be used for prescribed pet medication that is purchased at pharmacies. If you'd like a card, or would like to pass cards and information to others who you believe will benefit from the program, contact Joanne Jones in the Health Department on extension 6225 or email cchd@chesco.org.

Drive-Thru flu clinic in Chester County

When the flu-season arrived this fall, so did the many offers of flu vaccines. But the Chester County Health



Department took it one step further, offering a drive-thru flu clinic in the Oxford area. The exercise served two purposes—to provide free flu immunizations to the residents of Oxford in a new, convenient

way, and to help Health Department staff prepare for an emergency immunization situation.

Each year, 250,000 people across the nation are hospitalized as a result of contracting the flu, and a flu vaccine is the best way of preventing it. If you haven't had your flu shot this year, call the Health Department at extension 6252, for information on times for walk-in (not drive-thru!) clinics, or to make an appointment.

Why so many employees will be "losing it" in 2009

Losing what? Losing weight.

Of the many programs, courses and activities offered by the County's Wellness Program, this seems to have generated the most interest. And it hasn't even started yet.

Losing it at Chester County is a collaborative project with ACAC Fitness and the Wellness Center of West Chester, and is open to all Chester County employees.

The Wellness Committee is challenging County employees to lose 1,000 lbs. during the program, which will run for 12 weeks beginning January 6, 2009. At a cost of just \$12 (that breaks down to just a \$1 per week), you receive a starter pack that includes more than \$120 worth of goods and services to support your effort. But the great news is that your \$12 goes into a "prize fund", for even greater incentive to lose it.



Registration is in teams of three—and as of the date of publication, more than 50 teams have entered. Throughout the 12 weeks, education sessions and weigh-ins will take place every two weeks at the Government Services Center, the Courthouse area, Chester County Library and the Pocopson/Youth Center/Prison campus.

For more information, including registration details, click on the Wellness "apple" on the home page of WebCC or contact your department's Wellness Committee representative. It's time to get committed to losing it at Chester County!

Watch for the Chesco News "Year in Review" issue out next Friday. Can you remember all that happened during 2008?

More Wellness news in brief



Massage was a big hit in November! Massage Therapists from IBX gave five-minute chair massages to staff at the GSC and Exton Library. Look for seated chair massages to be offered at other County locations in 2009...



Fiscally Fit Friday—December 19, 2008 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in room 171 at the GSC. Understand the risks of investing and the risks of NOT investing...



What the Edamame... The sweep was a success and many employees enjoyed sampling EDAMAME in October. More than 55 boxes were distributed. Why not provide this nutritious, delicious alternative at County meetings, conferences and special events?

**Don't forget December's Dress Down Day:
Friday, December 19th
benefiting the Chester County SPCA.**



Chester County maintains Aaa bond rating

Moody's Investor Service, one of the world's leading credit rating services, has bestowed its highest bond rating, Aaa, to Chester County government for the second straight year.

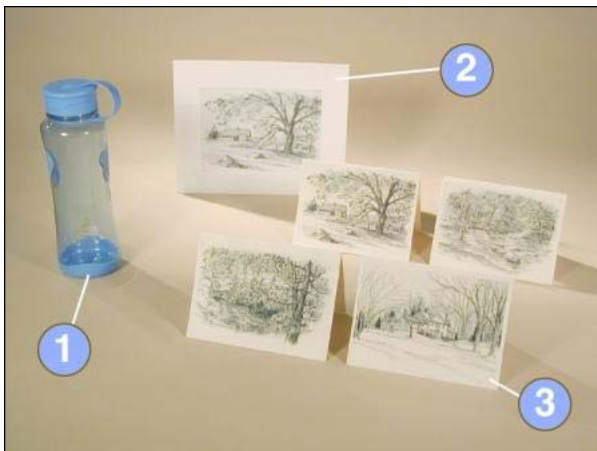
Moody's reported that "the Aaa rating reflects the county's solid financial management, sizeable and diverse tax base, strong socioeconomic profile, and manageable debt position. The stable outlook reflects Moody's expectation of continued sound financial performance driven by conservative budgeting practices and timely tax rate increases."

With the Moody's Aaa rating, Chester County will receive the best interest rate possible when borrowing money, saving county taxpayers' money. Chester County is one of just two counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to have achieved this top rating.

County Parks marks 50 years

Chester County Department of Parks and Recreation officially marked its 50th anniversary in late October at a banquet held at Wagontown Fire Hall. More than 100 guests helped celebrate the event, including the County Commissioners, State and US legislators and municipal supervisors.

Special recognition was given to individuals and organizations who helped the county in their volunteer efforts, park development, education programs and special events. Richard Sprenkle, director of the department from 1979 to 1991, was presented with the *Conservator Award*.



To commemorate half a century of conservation and recreation, the Parks Department is selling souvenir items, which are available at a special price to County employees:

1. **Light blue polycarbonate water bottle** with gold 50th anniversary logo. The 24 oz easy-grip bottle is available at a special price of \$5.
2. **Prints of original pencil sketches** by local artist Anne Bedrick feature each regional park in a different season. 5x7 illustration on 8x10 card stock, suitable for matting and framing. \$9 each or set of four for \$30.
3. **Note cards** featuring Anne Bedrick's pencil illustrations. Set includes a dozen ivory cards with matching envelopes. \$9 per set.

If you would like to purchase any of these items, or would like to find out more, contact Jess Baer in the Parks & Recreation Department on extension 6415.



Chester County Sheriff receives honor

Our very own Sheriff Carolyn (Bunny) Welsh was recently honored with the *2008 Crime Prevention Office of the Sheriff* award by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.



Executive Director of the Commission Michael Kane, presented the award during the 86th Pennsylvania Sheriff's Association Conference in Bucks County.

According to Sheriff Welsh, "This award belongs to the deputies. I'm really appreciative, but the reward belongs to the men and women who every day not only serve the citizens in court, but implement the programs."

Human Services declares Penny War!



This year, the Human Services Vision & Values team devised a creative way to raise funds for a worthy Chester County Cause. A "Penny War" was waged between all Human Services departments, and after a truce was finally declared, the Department of Aging was named victor.

The competitive fund raising for a good cause has been carried out within the department for three years. Because this year's Penny War netted a tremendous number of coins, TD Bank offered to help out by counting the pennies (and nickels, dimes and quarters), then matching the amount raised by all Human Services departments.



When the battle was over, a \$1,000 check was presented to Jim Ford, director of Good Works, Inc—the charity nominated by the Department of Aging.

Pictured above, from left to right: Amy Mietelski and Wanda Stonebraker from the Department of Aging, Good Works director Jim Ford, William Giannetti, VP of TD Bank, Kelly Miehl and Carol Harkins, also from the Department of Aging.