

Adams Township News

THUNDER OVER ADAMS

September 3, 2011

Gigantic Finish to Community Day

As fireworks shows go on a scale of 1 to 10, the Adams Township Community Day fireworks will set their sights on an "11". The hometown group comprised of Gary McCormick, Greg Norton and Jim Merkel, also known as MNM fireworks, believes the crowd will need seatbelts for this year's Adams Township Community Day celebration on Saturday, September 3rd, 2011.

"It's a show that is always more intense and lasts much longer than any fireworks show you will see in the region this year," says Adams Township resident Jim Merkel. "The only other show that compares will be Pittsburgh's July 4th show, but lacks the uniqueness of Adams Park. It's a magical location, with an outstanding group of people working behind the scenes to make it happen." Jim cites the beauty and topography of the park lends itself to seeing the fireworks from a vantage point that other local communities just can't copy. "Usually local community fireworks are lit by two or three people at random with a presentation that lasts at best around 15 minutes. Our Adams Township show always promises an intense half hour with around 15 certified shooters."

Indeed, the planning for this year's show started the day after last year's show. The news of this show has already spread to people from out of state. "People plan their vacations around the show; especially this year because this year's show will occur on Labor Day weekend. Adams Township residents are proud to show off the beauty of their park and know that the finish will be spectacular. MNM fireworks is ready, with nearly 3,600 shells, at least 750 more than last year, Community Day promises to provide quite a thrill. Although we have no clue as to the surprises in this year's show, we do know that it wouldn't be a successful firework show without them. Greg Norton from Mars adds, "There may be several fireworks shows a family might see during

the course of a year in this area. Our goal is to make ours different than anything you might see elsewhere and to make it the most memorable."

This year's show will also feature many handmade shells made by Albert Knoblach from Little Big Shots in Addison, PA. The Discovery Channel's show "Dirty Job's" featured Albert's handmade shells with host Mike Rowe last year. Local sponsors are a big part of the show as well, with more than 20 local businesses and people donating everything from money to hardware. Gary McCormick from MNM says "There's no doubt about it, this is a hometown show in front of a hometown crowd, and I can't wait to light that first shell."



A shot from one of the larger shells last year

Article submitted by Jim Merkel

Community Day

The Adams Township Community Day will be held on September 3rd this year. The day will begin with the annual Herb Kaufman Memorial 5K. Information and registration can be located at aafd5k.webs.com. There will be plenty of fun and excitement in store for our residents this year, capped off with the fantastic fireworks display, so come help celebrate our community!



Something New is Growing at the Adams Township Community Park

The crack of the bat, the cheers of the parents, all sounds of spring. Even with this rainy, cool spring, baseball and spring soccer teams are out practicing and playing games to the delight of parents and grandparents. Soon, residents of Adams Township will have a new venue to enjoy as a new little league and full-sized soccer field near completion in construction. The next time you drive by the municipal building, notice the level areas north of the Township offices that are slowly turning green.

About three quarters of the park improvements were completed last year. They included excavating the land to make it more level for the two fields, storm utilities, landscaping of the stormwater basins, seeding of the steep slopes around the fields and installation of most of an irrigation system. This year, we expect to pave the road, parking area and paths for the fields, install clay in-field mix, fencing, backstop and batting cage, players' benches and spectator stands for both fields, soccer goals and seeding of the field areas. There are also plans to build a restroom and concessions stand for spectators and players on those hot afternoons.

Our hope is to have both fields ready to play in the spring of 2012, once the seeded areas have had a chance to fully establish. These new fields are the result of several years of planning by the Township Supervisors who identified a shortage in sports fields in the area. So as you enjoy the many wonderful facilities at the Adams Township Community Park this summer, note that a new field for baseball and soccer are being built to begin to help meet the sports needs of residents.





Police Department News

New Hires for Police

Adams Township would like to welcome and introduce three new part time officers to the Adams Township Police Department.

They are Jessica Simons, Brian Novosel and Aaron Zaliponi. Brian is a recent graduate of the Allegheny County Police Academy.

Jessica and Aaron have experience in police work as Jessica works for the Butler County Sheriffs Department and Aaron works for the Ford City Police Department.

We wish them the best of luck and to be safe.

This will bring the Adams Township Police Department to 6 full time officers and 7 part time officers. The police cover Adams Township 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Also, the police received a new 4-wheel drive Tahoe to be used in bad weather.

If a Police Officer is needed, call 9-1-1 for a Officer to respond to your call. All calls are dispatched thru the 9-1-1 Center (Butler Control). ***

Preventing Accidental Injury

Across this country, **too many children have died** while alone in a vehicle, and summer hasn't even officially begun. Did you know that a child's body heats up 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's? It only takes a few short minutes before a child can become dangerously overheated.

Every year, more than 30 children die because they are alone in a car. In just 10 minutes a car's temperature can increase

by 19 degrees – and it continues to rise. There is no evidence that cracking the windows helps prevent the temperature in vehicle interiors from reaching dangerous levels. In fact, sunlight coming through car windows makes the car work like an oven.

Follow these tips to help prevent child injuries

- Dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a car. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble.
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the window slightly open.
- Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or whatever is to be carried from the car on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. This triggers adults to see children when they open the rear door and reach for their belongings.
- Set your cell phone or Blackberry reminder to be sure you dropped your child off at day care.
- Set your computer calendar program, such as Outlook, to ask, "Did you drop off at daycare today?"
- Have a plan that if your child is late for daycare that you will be called within a few minutes. Be especially careful if you change your routine for dropping off little kids at day care.
- Teach children not to play in any vehicle.
- Lock all vehicle doors and trunk after everyone has exited the vehicle – especially at home. Keep keys out of children's reach. Cars are not playgrounds or babysitters.
- Check vehicles and trunks FIRST if a child goes missing.

Adams - Mars Farmer's Market

The Adams-Mars Farmers' Market is open Saturdays from 9:00 to noon, May through September. The location of the Market in Mars is at the Woodland Valley Church parking lot (across the street from the Mars Post Office).

All items are locally grown or made. Local vendors sell "in season" vegetables, fruits, plants, flowers, shrubs, honey, eggs and handmade crafts.

The Market is sponsored by Adams Township and the Adams Township Agricultural Security Committee.

Take a moment to stop by some Saturday and support your local producers.



Public Works Department

The Adams Township Road Crew will be working to pave several streets/roads this summer. Remember to please use extreme caution when passing these road workers, and as always, obey all traffic laws.

Summer 2011 Paving Locations

Stoup Road, Fetzer Road, Cashdollar Road, Ridge Road, Huch Road, Fox Trot Drive, Cloverdale Drive, Crider Road, Northfields Drive, Northvue Circle, Old Orchard Drive, Old Orchard Circle, Brookshire Drive, Brookhaven Boulevard, Lost Lake Court, Norwegian Spruce and Crestview Court.

Please feel free to contact the Adams Township Road Department at (724) 625-1826 if you have any questions on these projects.



July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Holiday	5 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	6 Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 P.M.	7	8	9
10	11 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	26 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MWAAT 5:45 P.M.	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	3 Planning Commission 7:00 P.M.	4	5	6
7	8 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	23 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MAWAAT 5:45 P.M.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>Community Day</i>
4	5 Holiday	6 Park & Recreation 7:00 P.M.	7 Planning Commission 7:00 P.M.	8	9	10
11	12 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Supervisors 8:00 P.M.	27 BCRA 5:00 P.M. MWAAT 5:45 P.M.	28	29	30	

Adams Township Heros

In an ironic twist, four firefighters with the Adams Area Fire District were recognized for their heroic effort at a fiery crash last May, where they saved the life of a man who spent 20 years designing equipment that keeps firefighters safe.

Chief Al Minjock, lieutenants Talo Capuzzi and Doug Mellinger and firefighter Jeff Leonberg were awarded the 2011 Fireslayer of the Year award, which is given annually by safety equipment manufacturer MSA. The awards ceremony took place Monday in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the annual Fire Department Instructors Conference.

MSA, which is in Cranberry Township, created the award in 2000 to honor the heroic actions of firefighters and fire companies across the United States.

The 2011 award had special meaning because the victim of the crash is Michael Rupert, MSA's product group manager for first responder products.

Rupert was traveling west on Route 228 on his daily commute from his Sarver home to work on the morning of May 27, 2010 when a pickup truck traveling east crossed the center line and hit Rupert's Ford truck nearly head-on.

A car then struck his truck from behind and became pinned underneath it, forcing Rupert's legs under the dash and trapping him in the burning truck.

Mellinger discharged two fire extinguishers in and around the cab of the truck in an attempt to free Rupert, but was driven back by flames from the gasoline-fueled blaze.

Once Rupert was out of the burning truck, Mellinger raced over to pull him away from the inferno just as Capuzzi arrived in an Adams Area fire engine. Minjock and Leonberg arrived minutes later and, with Mellinger, took over the firefight with the truck.

The truck's second fuel tank had not yet ignited and was in danger of exploding, which would have further injured Rupert and several bystanders.

Rupert suffered burns over 90 percent of his body, and was barely clinging to life when he was airlifted to UPMC Mercy Trauma and Burn Center in Pittsburgh. He was given a one in 10 chance of surviving the horrific accident and burns.

Nearly one year later, Rupert remains in UPMC Mercy Hospital. Eric Beck, MSA's marketing director, said the plan is for Rupert to eventually return to work.

Beck said Rupert's two decades of work at MSA included the development of breathing apparatus, helmets, thermal imaging cameras and ballistic protection for the firefighting market.

"It's kind of ironic that when the (firefighters) and others

helped Mike, they didn't know at the time who he was," said Beck. "When they found out, it added another dimension to the situation."

Beck said Mellinger was also presented with the Pennsylvania Medal of Honor, which is approved by the state fire marshal. Minjock, Capuzzi and Leonberg also received citations from the state fire marshal.

Those awards were conferred on them in August.

"We are extremely grateful to them for the role they played in saving Mike's life," Beck said.

Minjock also marvels at the irony of the situation, as Rupert worked for so long to provide safety to firefighters.

"And we have to pull him out of a burning vehicle," Minjock said.

He said the second fuel tank in Rupert's truck was right beside Mellinger as he used the fire extinguisher and worked to help free Rupert from the truck.

"Without the benefit of any protective equipment, he did what he had to do," Minjock said.

Five bystanders who assisted in saving Rupert's life were given plaques for their heroism by Adams Township supervisors in June. They are: Oscar Aguilera of Coraopolis, Frank Daniels of Bradford Woods, Joe Josiah of New Sewickley and Carl Latimer of Ellwood City.

A fifth man, Dave Minor, also got a plaque but did not attend the ceremony at the supervisors' meeting. A video detailing each firefighter's account of the events is available at www.youtube.com/msasafety.

Article submitted by Chief of District, Al Minjock.



From left, Lt. Talo Capuzzi, firefighter Jeff Leonberg, Lt. Doug Mellinger and Chief Al Minjock.

**Adams Township
690 Valencia Road
Mars, PA 16046**

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**Adams Township Municipal Building: 724/625-2221
Adams Township Police: 724/625-2040**

**Road Crew Building: 724/625-1826
Adams Township Web Site: www.adamstwp.org**

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Road Crew Foreman

John Hock

Assistant Road Crew Foreman

Rhett Stobert

Receptionist/Parks

Corry Harley

**Scheduled Meetings at Adams
Township Municipal Building**

Board of Supervisors
2nd & 4th Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Park and Recreation Board
1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board
3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (as needed)

Planning Commission Work Session
3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (as needed)

**Scheduled Meetings at Breakneck Creek
Regional Authority Building
1166 Mars-Evans City Road**

Breakneck Creek Regional Authority
4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township
4th Tuesday of each month at 5:45 p.m.

The Adams Township News is published for the residents of Adams Township. All comments/questions should be sent to: The Adams Township News, c/o Adams Township, 690 Valencia Rd., Mars, PA 16046.