Fire prevention: Life-saving lessons

BY KEVIN MERTZ
The Standard-Journal

WATSONTOWN — One-hundred-fifty students in Watsontown are learning potential life-saving lessons this week as part of the activities surrounding the national Fire Prevention Week.

Dressed in his turnout gear, Washingtonville Volunteer Fire Company Assistant Chief Jim Roberts sat in a classroom at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit’s (CSIU) Watsontown Children’s Center Monday morning, and shared with the students the importance of not being alarmed if they encounter a firefighter in an emergency situation.

Roberts’ wife, Jessica Roberts, is a teacher at the center. Throughout the day, she said her husband would

Church celebrating a century

BY KEVIN MERTZ
The Standard-Journal

From left, Delaware Run Wesleyan Church Senior Pastor Mike Reese and Assistant Pastor Jane Johnson stand at the church pulpit. The church is celebrating 100 years.

Celebration planned for Sunday

BY KEVIN MERTZ
The Standard-Journal

WATSONTOWN — The efforts members of Delaware Run Wesleyan Church put forth during a recent renovation of the church sanctuary are a reflection of the spirit which has kept the church growing strong for 100 years.

A 100th anniversary celebration will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday at the church.

Keller calls for transparency in impeachment inquiry

BY KEVIN MERTZ
The Standard-Journal

LEWISBURG — Congressman Fred Keller (R-Pa. 12) believes there’s a lack of transparency in the current impeachment inquiry being carried out surrounding President Donald Trump’s contact with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and allegations Trump had aid to the nation withheld while asking the Ukrainians to investigate Hunter Biden’s business dealings in the country.

Keller was the guest

(by kevin mertz/the standard-journal)

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BY KEVIN MERTZ
The Standard-Journal

Congressman Fred Keller called for a transparent impeachment inquiry during his remarks Monday to the Susquehanna Valley Conservatives.

Geisinger seeking source of bacteria blamed for death of 3 preemies

DANVILLE (AP) — A Pennsylvania hospital is racing to determine the source of a waterborne germ that appears to have infected at least eight infants in the neonatal intensive care unit, three of whom have died.

Keller, Page A6

See page 12.

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Students at the Watsontown Children's Center received fire-safety lessons from Washingtonville Fire Company Assistant Chief Jim Roberts, right.

Prevention

FROM PAGE A1

be speaking to 150 students enrolled in the center's Pre-K Counts. Head Start, Early Intervention and 5-Star programs.

"This is so kids know not to be afraid of firefighters," she said. "They should go to them and not run away from them."

In conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, Jessica said students at the center will be learning various safety lessons throughout the week.

Those lessons will include learning how to escape dangerous situation and lessons on which electronic items are safe to touch.

"We will work with them on who the safe helpers in our community are," Jessica added.

Both she and Jim noted that the students generally enjoy the fire prevention lessons.

"The kids really get excited about it," Jessica said. "We have a couple that are unsure, scared. "Those are the kids we want to target."

"I'm coming in, giving a presentation, letting (the kids) see some of the equipment," Jim said. "Although there's a lot of scary equipment, don't be scared. We are just a normal person on the inside."

In addition to showing the equipment worn by firefighters, he talked to the children about the many things volunteer firefighters do. "Just the other day, I had to help carry a guy out of a car," Jim said, to the children.

He explained that the man was involved in an automobile crash and held other responders to help.

"We come in the big shiny trucks with lights," Jim said, to the children. "That's just to carry all the equipment... Don't try it (firefighters), they're there to help you.

In addition to the lessons being taught this week, Jessica said fire prevention activities will continue throughout the month.

On Oct. 25, volunteers with the Warrior Run Area Fire Department will bring their trucks for the children to check out.

In addition to the fire department, Jessica said other organizations which work in the community will be invited to bring their vehicles for the children to get an up-close look at.

Staff writer Kevin Mertz can be reached at 570-742-9671 or email kevin@standard-journal.com.

Purchase

FROM PAGE A1

Alkey said an announcement will be made "in the next few weeks" regarding the exact plans for the property.

The former Crest Homes site was one of two properties, totaling 13.03 acres, owned by Firevergreen Inc. which received Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) status in beginning in 2018.

Just under 200 acres in Milton, owned by five different entities, received KOZ status. Those sites will not be charged property taxes for a 10-year period.

KOZ status is targeted at undeveloped or underdeveloped properties in order to spur business growth.

"We have been working on the land sale for that particular site for the last few months," Alkey said, of the former Crest Homes site.

"There are a lot of hoops and a lot of things that needed to occur," she continued. "This is going to mean a whole lot more for Milton.

The people currently working under this manufacturer are under a lot of constraints, it's bursting at its seams."

She said the manufacturer will be adding jobs, although she didn't know how many.

During a Milton borough council meeting earlier this summer, borough Manager Jessie Novinger said a local company that may create 30 to 40 new jobs was looking to purchase the property.

Alkey confirmed that the former Crest Homes site isn't the only property granted KOZ status which will be under new ownership.

She said the Milton Area Industrial Development Association's (MAIDA) remaining four parcels of KOZ land — which total 59.43 acres — are under a sales agreement.

She noted that there are some restrictions in place on what can be done with the land. "The individual (purchasers) must be very creative," Alkey said. "There might be some perks on how to use it to their advantage. There are a few existing companies in the region."

Previously, Alkey said some property expansions require a business to have a certain amount of green space. However, she said the space does not have to be next to the property that's being expanded.

Once the land sale is complete, Alkey said MAIDA — which is an arm of the chamber — will no longer have any land available for purchase.

The chamber spearheaded the filing of the application for the property which was granted KOZ status in Milton, beginning this year.

Properties approved were:

- Lower Market Street Holdings LP (Staunton Brothers), 15,603 acres at 200 L. Market St.; Lower Market Street Holdings LP (Staunton Brothers), 10,375 acres on Industrial Park Road; Pointpoint Federal Credit Union, 1.53 acres at 500 Mahoning St.; MAIDA, five different properties totaling 145.734 acres, on North Market St.; and Firevergreen Inc., two properties totaling 13.03 acres on North Industrial Park Road.

After the KOZ status was granted, MAIDA sold 86 acres of its land to Marsh Retail Ed Floor and Essex, a company affiliated with Watsontown Trucking and Patton Warehouse, which announced plans to invest $10 million to build two warehouses on the property.

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Century

Superintendent of the North

east District of the Wesleyan

Church, which will be the key

note speaker. A fellowship lun-

cheon will follow. The event is

billed to service, an ice cream social

will be held at 6 p.m. Satur-

day.

"That's for folks who have had

connections to our church," Senior Pastor Mike Reece, said of the social.

The Sunday service will focus on reflections of the past and maintaining a vision for the future.

Reece, who began serving as the senior pastor on July 4, 1994, said the church has a rich history which was largely created by its dedicated members.

The first version of the church was constructed near the location at 4,570 Musser Lane, Watsontown. According to information provided, the land was purchased from Mrs. William Reynolds for $3.

A dedication for the first church building, called Apostles' Hall, was held April 27, 1919.

Information provided by the church said members "worked with much harmony and prayer" to complete the construction, in ten months which reached 8 degrees.

The church was complete with a 600 seat sanctuary, the information said. "The cost included the building of the chimney and the engraving of the cornerstone."

Reece said the giving spirit of the congregation which prevailed in 1919 has remained for the past 100 years. At the church continued to grow, a new building was

constructed and dedicated in September 1931. A portion of the building is still in use today, though it has seen additions and renovations.

The name of the church has also evolved over the years. In 1968, it was changed to the Pilgrim Holiness Church of Delaware Run to Delaware Run Wesleyan Church.

Information provided by the church said the ground-breaking for a building renovation and expansion was held July 20, 1975.

The new church building, which incorporated a portion of what was built in 1931, was dedicated on Oct. 31, 1976.

In 2002, Reece said a $354,000 family life center was built.

He pointed to the construction of the center as one of his most significant memories this year in ministry at the church.

"It had been discussed and planned... for 28 years," Reece said, of the center. "We were at the point where we said if we don't get this done, we won't get it done for a generation."

The facility includes a library, conference rooms and a large kitchen area.

Reece said the facility has "opened up a plethora" of new ministry opportunities for the church.

"AVSO used it for indoor soccer," he said, of the facility. "We had basketball events in there... we have youth events in there, our vacation Bible school."

For the past six weeks, the church has held its Sunday services in the family life center as some much-needed renovations have been taking place in the sanctuary.

"The inside of the sanctu-

ary had not been remodeled since it was built in 1976," Reece said. "We redid the entire interior of the sanctu-

ary."

The work included paint-

ing, replacing upholstery cushions and installing new carpet.

The first service inside of the remodeled sanctuary was held this past Sunday and featured a performance by True Heart.

A significant portion of the work inside the church was done by members.

"We did a lot of the man-

ual labor ourselves," Reece said. "The carpeting was done by Reed's Flooring. The pew were reuphol-

stered by B & W Upholstery."

Work completed by con-

gregation members included removing all of the pews from the floor so the carpet could be installed.

It was a major under-

taking, since the whole congregation came together. That's been the history of the church.""We have members of the church whose grandmother was the one who sold the land," Reece said. "That's the history of the church. Its connection to the communi-

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Reece also noted that he and his wife, Bert, have watched their daughters grow up in the church. Both were in school when Reece answered the call to serve as senior pastor.

The two, Lynette Wallace and Danielle Cressinger, are now involved in ministry at the church, along with their families.

Among his many fond memories of the Delaware Run Wesleyan Church, Reece said he was particularly proud when his daughter, a member of the Cressinger Band — first per-

formed there. He noted that the band is regional-ly for its Christian music.

Looking to the future, Reece said congregation members based on spiritually "reproducing our life in Christ in the life of others."

For more information about the church, visit www.delaware-

runwesleyan.org.

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