

# THE ADVANCE

## OF BUCKS COUNTY

Sunday, January 9, 2022 50CENTS

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ADVANCE PHOTO BY JEFF WERNER

The Spread Eagle Inn in the heart of Richboro is among the township's earliest buildings. A traveler wrote in 1858 that weary travelers were fortunate, when reaching Richboro after a long day on the road, to have two taverns from which to choose: the White Bear Hotel, now known as the Spread Eagle Inn, or the Black Bear Hotel, no longer in existence. Documentation shows that the White Bear was built by Enoch Addis, who purchased the property where the building still stands in July 1790 from Peter and Sarah Stryker. References to an inn being in existence on the White Bear site appear as early as 1793, when a sign advertised lodgings "for men and beasts." It is likely that this was a smaller building on the property, perhaps Enoch's residence, since he bought the property in 1790. In May of 1810, Addis officially petitioned the county court to open a tavern at the site.

### NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

## Northampton to celebrate 300th birthday in 2022

By Jeff Werner

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**NORTHAMPTON** » Northampton Township will turn 300 in 2022 and it is planning a year long celebration to mark the occasion.

Outgoing supervisor Eileen Silver, who is chairing the township's 300th anniversary committee, detailed the celebration at the December meeting of the board of supervisors as she portrayed Sara Shaw, one of the township's original residents.

Shaw, who lived on the Richboro Turnpike (now 2nd Street Pike) in the 1700s, was among a handful of residents who traveled to Bristol 299 years ago to petition the court to incorporate a new municipality.

At the time just 20 families were living in the town-

ship in a 20 square mile area.

On December 14, 1772 the courts approved the petition and the township of Northampton was created out of the adjoining settlements.

Three centuries later, the township is gearing up for the celebration, which will "Cherish the Past, Celebrate the Present and Welcome the Future," the theme of the 300th anniversary celebration.

Much of what is planned will begin in the spring with a trivia night, paint the plow project with the local schools, displays at the parks along with ongoing programs with the Senior Center, Library, Fire, Police and Recreation departments.

"There will be programs and events that will focus

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# 300th birthday

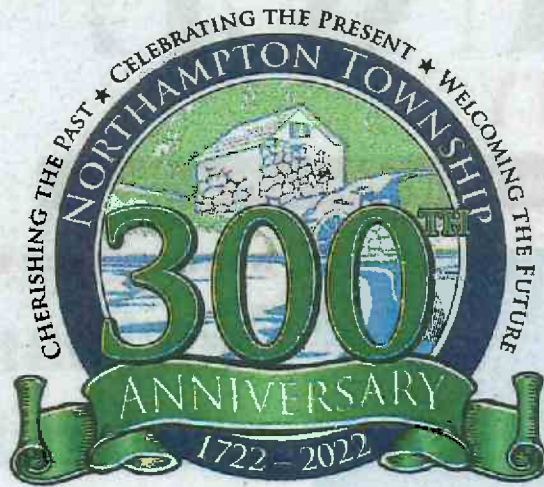
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on the township's history and provide opportunities for residents of all ages to learn about the township's history and to share with others the history that they remember," said Silver.

"We are planning to get interested residents to share their stories about life in the township, both past and present," she said.

Those stories will then be compiled by the Northampton Township Senior Center and the staff at the Free Library of Northampton and showcased at events later in the year.

The committee will be sharing an interesting township fact each week through social media. The facts will then be used at a Trivia Night to be hosted by the library.



The official 300 anniversary logo.

"The schools will contribute to the fun by participating in a 'Paint the (snow) Plow' contest. The plows will be painted with a 300th anniversary theme and will be on display throughout the summer at the individual schools and then all together during the anniversary festival weekend," said Silver.

Residents will be able to walk through township parks and learn about the township's past. Displays will be featured along the trails describing township landmarks and history.

"Other activities will embrace the community spirit and are planned solely to have some good old fun," said Silver.

Watch for activities scheduled for the spring and summer that embrace the 300th anniversary theme.

"One thing for sure, you

are definitely going to want to mark your calendar for our festival weekend on September 24 and 25," said Silver.

On Saturday, September 24 from morning to night activities, workshops and entertainment are planned throughout the township including at the library, senior center, recreation center, police department, fire department, Tyler State Park, the Churchville Nature Center and the Langhorne Rod and Gun Club.

On Sunday, September 25 the special weekend continues with Northampton Day, which hasn't been held since 2019 due to the pandemic. The day will have a 300th anniversary theme.

"We are so glad it's coming back," said Silver of the Northampton Day celebration.

And there's more to come in October with a History



CREDIT: NORTHAMPTON DAY WEBSITE

Fire trucks lined up on Northampton Day.

Mystery Dinner and Celebration on Friday, October 14 at the Northampton Valley Country Club.

In November contests and challenges are scheduled with all things 300.

"And finally, on Dec. 14, 2022, exactly 300 years to the day when Northampton became a township there will be a celebration at the board of supervisors' meeting to commemorate the anniversary," said Silver.

"I am so excited that we are all going to celebrate 300 years, but I'm also excited that everyone is going to learn what an amazing place Northampton Township is now."

Northampton Township officially became a township on December 14, 1722, covering 26.5 miles. Although the origin of the name of the Township has never been officially verified, it is believed to have



The Free Library of Northampton Township is located at 25 Upper Holland Road, Richboro.

stemmed from the County of Northampton in the English midlands 100 miles north of London.

Interested in sponsoring an event or volunteer to help, email northamp-

ton300@nhtwp.org

Follow and visit Facebook for updates throughout the year: <https://www.northamptontownship.com/information/300th-anniversary/>

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