

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

VALLEY FORGE



The Pilot

Dec 21-Jan 22

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Commander

Cdr Patty Pezely, AP

Commander's Report

2021 For November Pilot

What is a merit mark? A merit mark is awarded by the chief commander to a member for substantial personal effort in furthering the interest, programs and objectives of USPS, its districts and squadrons. It is a coveted award; it is by and large the only official recognition members receive for their efforts.

Only one merit mark may be awarded in a year to a member, no matter how extensive the contribution. This past year has been a very difficult year for members to contribute but it was not impossible.

Members having received five merit marks are awarded the status of "Senior Members". Members who are awarded 25 merit marks become "life members" and are exempt from paying national dues.

Members awarded 50 merit marks become a Governing Board emeritus member.

I want to thank Bill McManimen for working with me to submit these merit mark and thank all members who received merit marks for their continued contribution to ABC- VF.

(Continued on page 2)

2021-2022 Bridge

Commander

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Asterisk (*) means the member has complet-

(Continued from page 1) *Commander's Report*

I am pleased to say the follow members have received merit marks.

Commander Patty Pezely, AP

Gary E. Armstrong (22)	John Juzbasich (8)
Meridith S. Barrett (29)	Samuel S. Lyness (22)
Wayne R. Barrett (22)	William J. McManimen III (44)
John Beardsley (9)	Nicholas R. Montalto (15)
Maryanne J. Boettjer (25)	George M. Painter (17)
Elizabeth Corbin (34)	Jan W. Painter (12)
Christopher B. Dome (3)	Lance A. Parry (13)
Lisa M. Fegan (12)	Virginia E. Parry (9)
James R. Friedrichs (35)	Joseph F. Pezely (18)
Susan M. Friedrichs (30)	Charles Rossi (8)
Michael Gibson (10)	Rita Rossi (5)
Cynthia L. Gorge (9)	Frank J. Visich (5)
James L. Heckman (45)	Patricia A. Visich (5)
James P. Herron (15)	Megan Weber (2)
Barbara A Jones (20)	Edward E. White (20)
William R. Jones (22)	Susan P. Woron (10)



Past Squadron member Ginny Devaney Somers, sadly passed away on 11/5/21.

<https://www.donohuefuneralhome.com/obituary/Virginia-Somers>

Condolences can be sent to her husband Steve Somers, 49 Potts School Rd, Glenmore, Pa 19343

Services were private. In lieu of flowers, contributions to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 7 St Andrews Ln., Glenmoore, PA 19343, or LaMancha Animal Rescue, 855 Doe Run Rd., Coatesville, PA 19320 would be appreciated.



Executive Officer

Lt Cdr Ginny Parry, S

Thanksgiving's just past, but here are two of the things I continue to be thankful for:

That mild fall weather that gave us a long-lasting dazzle of leaves swirling, skittering, spiraling to the ground (and gutters). Before the raking and the mulching came that airborne kaleidoscope of radiant yellows, oranges and reds; it was magical.

Our Valley Forge squadron (shall we call ourselves a club?) members, who step up to solve problems, teach classes, attend meetings, and Do Things That Need to Be Done. Members are working hard to give boaters the training to be safe on the water, and the opportunities to become friends on land.

When I attended the District 5 Fall Educational Conference several weeks ago, I came away with a greater understanding of the challenges we face as a club, a district and as a national organization. You know the list, which many organizations and non-profits face, which includes:

Membership overall is declining, shrinking clubs, and leaving some with fewer than 25 members. It's hard to persuade members to become officers or even attend meetings. Covid-19 restrictions have accelerated the decline in in-person attendance at events, possibly permanently.

However, our Valley Forge club, while facing all these challenges, continues to offer courses, plan in-person activities (including the Holiday Party!) and support civic projects.

This is not magic. It's plain hard work buoyed by the belief in the importance of what we do, and perhaps a sense of loyalty to each other in our endeavors. But it's not guaranteed. To continue working, we need more hands on deck – your hands on deck.

What interest or talent do you have that you'd lend for an hour or a few hours? If you haven't already done so, fill out the Nominating Committee's survey that was emailed on Nov. 4, and return it to Lisa Fegan.

Here are some other notes from the District 5 Conference:

- Nationally, non-renewals of membership have declined from last year (meaning more members are renewing their memberships) and we are being asked to ask folks why they are not renewing. But total membership is still shrinking.
- Most members join because of educational programs, but 58% leave after two years.
- The National organization has trimmed parts of its budget, reduced staff, and cut expenses for conferences.
- One member asked that the organization institute a "transparent, comprehensive, long-range financial plan" covering 3-5 years as a way to improve planning. Ralph Bernard, National Administrative Officer, said he would pass on the recommendation.
- Another member said he has an associate membership in

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) Executive Officer

two nearby clubs as a way of sharing information about boating events with his club, which has just 12 members, making it hard to staff the bridge or tackle any issues.

-National is discussing – and seeking member input on – regionalizing the districts. Currently there are 332 clubs in 31 districts in America's Boating Club, but some entire districts have fewer than 200 members, and 88 clubs have fewer than 25. By contrast, our District 5 has more than 1,000 members in its 28 clubs. One proposal is to combine the districts into six regions, with memberships ranging from 2600 to 3900 members. Our proposed Northeast District would have 3130 members in 59 clubs. The change, if approved, would make the districts more equal

in size and reduce the number of district officers. You'll find more information on the D5 website in coming days

-Member Benefits now include UPS and more. Check the National website www.usps.org for new benefits, including a shipping discount from UPS.

Oh yes, one more thing I'm thankful for – that guilty pleasure called *Below Deck*, a "reality" show on Peacock featuring the crew and a series of rich, self-involved, entitled cruisers on a megayacht. It has absolutely no redeeming social value (and not much nautical info) but is a respite from day-to-day considerations, and a reminder of the lure of beckoning waters and the joy of boating with friends. What's your guilty pleasure?

LtC Ginny Parry, S




Upcoming Boat Shows

As of the date of publication, the Philadelphia Boat Show in Oaks, PA is cancelled.



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Educational Officer
Stf/C James Heckman, SN



Asst. Educational Officer
Lt Wayne Barrett, JN

“Knowledgeable boaters have more fun.”

The following three courses will be offered this spring as part of the Chester County Lifelong Learning (formerly CCNS) course offerings.

Title: America’s Boating Course (ABC)

Location: B. Reed Henderson High School

Cost: \$70

Dates: Mondays starting in early March, exact dates TBD

Time: 7:30 PM

Description:

The ABC boating course is designed for the operators of power, sail, paddle, personal watercraft and fishing boats. The course is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the United States Coast Guard. It meets Pennsylvania’s requirements to obtain a Pennsylvania Boating Safety Education Certificate which is honored by most nearby states. The course includes topics such as: on the water safety guidelines, required safety equipment, navigation rules and aids, regulations, on the water navigation, communications, navigation tools, GPS, adverse conditions and emergencies. The course includes the ABC student course guide with detailed explanations and diagrams of the various boating topics.

Contact: Wayne Barrett (wrfbarrett@comcast.net)

Title: Marine Navigation

Location: Downingtown High School

Cost: \$40 plus \$75 for the course student manual, course plotter, dividers, and chart

Dates: Tuesdays starting in early March, exact dates TBD

Time: 7:30 PM

Description:

The Marine Navigation course provides students with information on marine navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course

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Megan Weber, Safety Officer

First Aid product review.

Maybe a good gift?

We are in the holiday season and sometimes you see gift guides. Here is one product that I've been using for 4 years now and would definitely add it to my own.

It's from BLDG called Active Skin Repair Hydro-gel – a clear gel that



doesn't sting when applied. This product replaces a few products in one.

It helps heal bug bites, burns, scrapes, cuts or an advance moisturizer. When searching for this in retail shops, my firsthand account is this product works. It's something you might want to gift or get for yourself.

Are you looking for a present for that boater in your life? Maybe one of these books would do the trick:

The Practical Mariner's Book of Knowledge by John Vigor

Just like the subtitle says, it offers 420 Sea-tested rules of thumb for almost every boating situation, including John Vigor's famous ceremony for renaming your boat. An interesting read, and a handy reference to keep on the boat.

Longitude by Dava Sobel.

If you ever wondered how early navigators found their way across the oceans, out of sight of land, this book will fascinate you. It details the history of navigational techniques, including the difficult problem of determining longitude on a boat at sea.

The Prize Game by Donald A. Petrie

A story about lawful looting on the high seas in the days of fighting sail. This non-fiction book delves into

the historical evolution and the development of maritime laws involving capture of sea-going vessels by pirates and privateers.

In the Heart of the Sea by Nathaniel Philbrick

This is the incredible true story of the whale ship Essex, which left Nantucket for the Pacific Ocean on a whaling expedition. An angry sperm whale sunk the ship and the 30 crew members set out in rowboats for South America, 3000 miles away. Only two of the crew survived in the end.

The Hungry Ocean by Linda Greenlaw

This is another true story written by a sword-fishing captain out of Gloucester, Massachusetts. Linda Greenlaw was the captain of one of the vessels caught in the "Perfect Storm", the storm described in the bestseller written by Sebastian Unger, which was later made into a movie. An interesting read about the life aboard a sword fishing boat.

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Fleet Captain's Report

P/C Lt. Jim Friedrichs, JN

Use caution on the Patapsco River

The work on the high voltage line that crosses the Patapsco River at the Francis Scott Key Bridge that requires periodic stoppage of traffic on the river is scheduled to be completed by November 17, 2021. Auxiliary work not requiring river traffic stoppage is scheduled to continue until October 7, 2022.

Work is scheduled to be conducted 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Five barges are scheduled to work the site. The largest is 120 feet long and 120 feet wide. It will carry a 200 ton crane for pile driving. Use caution when transiting the area. The work boats will monitor VHF-FM Channels 12 and 16. BG&E will provide up dates on its web site.

Shoaling has been reported in the below locations.

- Chester River Queenstown Creek between Buoys 3 and 5. Depths of 3 and 4 feet have been reported.
- Chester River Harts Island Channel Daybeacon 3. Channel depths of 2 to 4 feet.
- Chester River Kent Island Narrows North Approach. Shoaling to a depth of 4 feet at Light 2 KN to. Approach Light 8.
- Sassafras River Daybeacon 8 to Light 10. Shoaling to 7 feet reported.
- Northeast River between Lighted Buoys 7 and 8.

Seasonal Buoy Changes to Unlighted Ice Buoys

Chester River Lighted Buoys 6, 9 and 12.

Pooles Island Flats Channel Lighted Buoy 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Jim Friedrichs, JN*

Fleet Captain

(Continued from page 5) Education

focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. OpenCPN, free software that runs on Windows, MAC and other systems, will be taught in the class to demonstrate to students how to use electronic charting software. Students will be required to pay a materials fee of \$95 to the instructor at the first class.

Contact: Russ Jones (wrjones3@verizon.net)

Title: Essential Knowledge for Boaters:

Location: E. N. Peirce Middle School

Dates: Wednesdays starting in early March, exact dates TBD

Time: 7:30 PM

Cost: \$40

Description:

This course is designed with the new boat operator in mind. It will provide invaluable knowledge useful to the captain, first mate and other crew members. Each session is designed to provide the students with the knowledge they need to safely enjoy a day on the water. The topics are: understanding marine weather systems, using a nautical chart, deploying, setting and retrieving the anchor, and essential boating skills needed to operate a boat safely in the event the captain is unable to operate the boat.

Contact: Russ Jones (wrjones3@verizon.net)

The following one-day course will be offered twice this spring at Clews and Strawbridge

Title: America's Boating Course (ABC)

Cost: \$45

Dates: two Saturdays in April or May 2022, the exact dates TBD

Description: see the ABC course description above

Contact: Wayne Barrett (wrfbarrett@comcast.net)

The following one-day course will be offered this spring at Stolfus RV & Marine

Title: America's Boating Course (ABC)

Cost: \$45

Date: one Saturday in April or May 2022, the exact date TBD

Description: see the ABC course description above

Contact: Wayne Barrett (wrfbarrett@comcast.net)

From the Nominating Committee

Our Squadron would like to invite more members to volunteer and participate in activities that we have available. Our active membership enjoys several activities that we would like to invite our “not so active” members to join in. We hope that with additional people involved in various positions and activities, we will have even more fun, improve what we are doing, and increase our capacity for future leaders. We enjoy the camaraderie and friendships we currently have, but to thrive we need more participation, and more contribution to our future growth.

Please help us out by answering the questions in the survey below:

Yes No

1. Would you be interested in attending meetings by Zoom in addition to having the option to come in person?

Executive Committee* (ExCom) meetings

*The Executive Committee is our squadron’s Board of Directors.

Dinner meetings

Other meetings (please describe) _____

Would you be interested in becoming a member of the ExCom?

If no, what stops you from volunteering more? Choose as many as apply:

___ don’t have the time

___ don’t want to “chair” an activity but would help with one

___ don’t feel I know enough about what is involved to help; need more information; could someone call me?

___ I would get more involved if I had a mentor to answer my questions and help me learn what I need to learn

Comments:

I would be willing to **volunteer more** with the following activities:

___ boating mini cruises

___ Boat Show

___ Education Department

___ Archives

___ Vessel Safety Checks

___ Newsletter

___ Public relations

___ Veteran’s events

___ Membership

___ events, speakers, setting up

___ Creating flyers for events

___ Other

Tell us what you have in mind: -

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9) Nominating Committee

Tell us what would make you more interested in volunteering for our squadron?

- ☐ I would like to know more about what you do besides teach classes.
- ☐ I don't want to become overwhelmed. I am willing to do a small job.
- ☐ I need someone to teach me what to do.
- ☐ I don't want to do something "forever", but I will try it for a limited period.
- ☐ I live far from most events, but I would be willing to help from a distance.

Comments:

What skills do you have that you would be willing to share with us?

- ☐ Computer skills such as word processing, excel etc.
- ☐ helping other boaters (on the water, in a classroom)
- ☐ organizational skills
- ☐ making phone calls
- ☐ technology skills; please list _____
- ☐ hauling stuff
- ☐ making flyers, signs, brochures or other printed materials
- ☐ copying or printing
- ☐ creating powerpoints or presentations
- ☐ social media
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Other; please specify _____

What would you like the squadron to do for you?

Names _____ (Feel free to be anonymous)

Please return to Lisa Fegan as soon as possible. Thanks!

579 Powderhorn Rd.

King of Prussia, PA 19406

lbfeagan@verizon.net

610-496-4301

To complete the document using email, please copy it, save it, and then email to Lisa (lbfeagan@verizon.net)

OR just print, complete, and hand it to her. A BIG THANK YOU!

Boater's Holiday Schedule

(Or what to do until spring comes)

(I did not make any of these up!)

November

28th - Thanksgiving Day - Be thankful that you have wonderful places to go boating: Delaware River and Bay, Jersey Shore and the Chesapeake Bay and your local body of water. You could be living in Arizona and see cacti when you look out your front window.

December

6th - National Pawnbroker's Day - Go get that old boat anchor or chartplotter out of hock so you can clean it up in time for boating season. And go ahead and hock that useless watch, television set or kitchen appliance; you'll need the money to put fuel in the old girl come next May.

21st - National Underdog Day - Now is the time to start thinking about how to win the annual race around (fill in the name of an island on your body of water). Rumor has it that just showing up will ensure a win this year.

23rd - Festivus - for the rest of us

31st - Make Up Your Mind Day - Take the plunge and put the down payment on that shiny new boat/cruiser/yacht you saw at the Boat Show. It's only money, and you'd be surprised how much the bank will lend you.

January

3rd - Festival of Sleep Day - Blow up your air mattress and spend the night sleeping on it in your half-full bathtub. You'll simulate the gentle rocking of your boat when anchored out.

19th - Penguin Awareness Day - If you are out on your favorite body of water on this date, keep a sharp lookout for our tuxedoed friends.

27th - Thomas Crapper Day - Without his invention we wouldn't be able to deduct the interest on our boat loan.

February

1st - Robinson Crusoe Day - Get out the charts and locate an uninhabited island to get marooned on.

15th - National Sea Monkey Day - Drop a baited hook in the aquarium and see what you can catch.

26th - For Pete's Sake Day - Set up a boating date with anyone you know named Pete.

March

14th - National Pi Day - Why today? Because today is 3.14, the value of Pi

17th - Act Happy Day - You shouldn't have to act. Spring is just around the corner.

21st - Memory Day - Try to remember where you stored all that stuff you removed from the boat last fall. You are doing good if you find half of it.

April

6th - Check Your Batteries Day - This goes for boaters, too. Get the cranking and house batteries out and hook them up to the charger. If they don't hold a charge, it's time to replace them.

25th - National Hairball Awareness Day - Seek professional help for this problem.

May

4th National Weather Observers Day - With any luck you'll observe some warm weather in the forecast. Don't delay any longer. De-winterize the boat and get out on the water.

Editor

Mike Gibson—December 10

Jeffrey Holland—Dec 12

Richard Kennedy—Dec 12

Robert Long—December 18

Ginny Parry December 25

Barbara Jones—December 31



Bob Alexander—January 1

Katherine Dix—January 1

Marjorie Peterson—Jan 16

Gary Armstrong—January 17

John Sheldrake—January 19

Patty Visich—January 22

(Continued from page 6) Books

Between 2 Bays and the Sea by Howard Walker Schindler

This is the tale of a sailboat adventurer who circumnavigated the Delmarva Peninsula, while exploring all the nooks and crannies the bays and tributaries had to offer. Even if you are a power boater, you will find this book an interesting read.

Fatal Storm by Rob Mundle

The riveting story of the famous Sydney to Hobart sailboat race of 1998. When all was said and done, seven boats were abandoned at sea and five sank. Fifty-seven sailors had to be rescued and 6 died. An absolute must read for anyone who likes an exciting story about boating.

One Day Celestial Navigation by Otis S. Brown

Are you intimidated by the USPS Navigation courses? Don't want to spend several months learning about celestial navigation? Try this book. In the space of a day you will be able to determine your latitude by using the sun and a sextant.

Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea by Gary Kinder

What could be more basic and ingrained in the lore of the sea than the treasure hunt? This is a modern-day tale of treasure hunter Tommy Thompson who invented the technology to find and recover treasure in deep-water locations. He located the vessel *Central America*

(Continued on page 14)

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Bud Haly - President

Notice of Annual Meeting of Main Line Sail and Power Squadron and Election of Officers

To the members of the Main Line Sail and Power Squadron:

The Annual Meeting of the Meeting of the Main Line Sail and Power Squadron shall be held at 7:30 PM February 17, 2022 at a location to be determined. Election for the Bridge and Elected Committees will be held at that time. The report of the Nominating Committee is as follows:

Bridge Officers

Office

Commander

Executive Officer

Squadron Educational Officer

Administrative Officer

Assistant SEO

Secretary

Treasurer

Audit Committee **(2 year terms, alternating)** James Herron and Lisa Fegan

Rules Committee **3 year terms, staggered)** George Painter, Nicholas Montalto, Russ Jones

Nominee:

Ginny Parry, S

Mike Gibson, JN

James Heckman, SN

Megan Weber, S

Wayne Barrett, JN

Cynthia Gorge JN

Mike Gibson, JN

Executive Committee (28)

John Beardsley

Wayne Barrett

Meridith Barrett

Maryanne Boettjer

Betty Corbin

Chris Dome

Lisa Fegan

James Friedrichs

Susan Friedrichs

Cindy Gorge

Mike Gibson

Jim Heckman

Barbara Jones

Russ Jones

Sam Lyness

John Juzbasich

William McManimen

Nicholas Montalto

Ginny Parry

Lance Parry

Patty Pezely

Joe Pezely

Charles Rossi

Rita Rossi

Frank Visich

Ed White

Susan Woron

Rory Tucker

Megan Weber

Additional nominations for elective offices may be made by petition in writing signed by at least 5 active members in good standing and filed with the secretary at least 15 days before the February 17, 2022 date of election.

Nominating Committee:

At the regular squadron meeting, January 5, 2022 preceding the Annual Meeting, a minimum of seven (7) candidates for the Nominating Committee shall be nominated from the floor by the members. Voting to elect the nominating committee will occur at the Annual Meeting February 17, 2021. The five (5) candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall constitute the Elected Nominating Committee for the ensuing year.

Calendar of Events

December	
1	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
12	Holiday Party- Downingtown Country Club
January 2022	
5	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
tbd	D/5 Spring Conference Hospitality Planning Meeting
tbd	2020 Budget meeting
tbd	New Members party at the Fegans' house
tbd	Change of Watch planning meeting at the Pezelys' house
20	Dinner Meeting – Founder's Day
12	Pilot articles deadline
February	
2	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
19-27	America's Boating Club® (USPS) Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra, FL
17	Dinner Meeting – Officer elections
March	
2	Virtual ExCom Meeting, 7 pm, (7:30 pm if we're meeting in person)
12-14	Greater Philadelphia Boat Show, Oaks, Pa.
27	Change of Watch, Downingtown Country Club
12	Pilot articles deadline
31-2	D5 Conference, Ocean City Maryland

(Continued from page 12) Books

in 4000 feet of water over 200 miles off the Carolina coast. When the ship sank in 1857, it went down with over 21 tons of gold from the California Gold Rush. *Life* magazine called it "the greatest treasure ever found."

The Sea Hunters II by Clive Cussler

Novelist Cussler uses the royalties from his novels on a real-life search for lost ships and wrecks. Unlike Thompson, he does this for historical purposes and for the personal fulfillment of finding a lost ship that no one else had been able to find. Cussler makes each story lively and interesting.

Inland Passage by David W. Shaw

More true stories of a sailor who plied the lakes, rivers and bays of the northeast United States. The author reveals the natural history of the waterways from Cape May to Lake Ontario and many places in between. Interesting stories about some of the areas we live and boat in.

Power Cruising by Claiborne S. Young

This is a factual, how-to book geared for the novice boater. It covers a lot of what you need to know to select, outfit and maintain your powerboat. It's an excellent companion to the Power Squadron public boating classes.

Happy Holidays!

P/C Gary Armstrong, SN

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB VALLEY FORGE

FOUNDERS DAY DINNER MEETING THURSDAY - JANUARY 20, 2022

PLACE: UNO PIZZERIA & GRILL
106 BLACK ROCK ROAD
OAKS, PA. 19456

TIME: Cocktails 6:30 pm; Dinner 7:30 pm

MENU: You will be ordering individually from the menu

PROGRAM:

This year's Founders Day will highlight our Squadrons Past, Present and Future. We have some remarkable photos of the original boats and their owners from 1964, the year our Squadron was founded. Many things, have changed, especially recently, which demonstrates our flexibility and our strengths moving into the future. Finally, we will have on display the original Charter, Very first 1964 Newsletter and Roster and many other memorabilia that show where we came from.



Please respond by January 10, 2022 to:

RITA ROSSI - 610-533-0909 or rrossi2000@comcast.net
Rita Rossi 504 Beidler Road,
King of Prussia, PA 19406

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO : Main Line Sail & Power Squadron

Put some food on the table without leaving home!

Our Valley Forge squadron is again raising money for the Chester County Food Bank, which provides food to more than 150 partner agencies in Chester County through its network of food cupboards, hot meal sites, shelters, and other social service organizations.

Our virtual food drive goal is \$2,000 by Jan. 6, 2022. Use this link to donate: <https://bit.ly/3ICBaF8>

When you're on our page, you can choose whether to make a general donation, or specify how you'd like your donation to be spent.

Happy Holidays, knowing you're helping individuals and families in need.

And share our link with a friend.



21 Ironwood Dr
Collegeville, PA 19426

First Class Mail

Return Service Requested



The Pilot

Editor: Gary Armstrong (garmstro55@gmail.com)



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The February-March Pilot Deadline is January 15th