



“Colonel Peter Snyder Home”

Winners of 14th Annual Historic Preservation Awards

By Amy Leiser, Executive Director

STROUDSBURG - The Monroe County Historical Association is pleased to announce the 2019 P.E.P (Preserve, Enhance, Promote) Historical Preservation awards. Owners of historic buildings who have shown their dedication to preserving, enhancing, and promoting Monroe County’s wealth of historic structures will be honored at the Monroe County Historical Association’s Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on Sunday, February 24, 2019, at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, Shawnee-on-Delaware.

Three categories of buildings were judged: Commercial, Non-profit, and Private Residence. The 2019 winners in the three categories are: Commercial Property – Ken & Company, Main Street, Borough of Stroudsburg; Nonprofit – Cattell Cabin and the Friends of Big Pocono, Jackson Township; and Residential Property – “Colonel Peter Snyder Home” owned by Elizabeth Tilley, Hamilton Township. The Heritage Resource Award will be given to the Monroe County Archives, Borough of Stroudsburg.

Monroe County Historical Association Executive Director Amy Leiser said, “Our organization is pleased to recognize the owners of these historic properties, cultural sites, and the volunteers who help keep our past alive. We appreciate their dedication in helping to maintain the historic fabric of our community.”

Leiser also commented, “This is the 14th year we’ve acknowledged owners of historic properties. We are always looking for additional structures to highlight and we welcome suggestions of other Monroe County sites that deserve recognition.”

The cost for the luncheon meeting is \$35.00 for MCHA members and \$40.00 for non-members. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Reservations, with payment, should be made to the Monroe County Historical Association, 900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, before Friday, February 15, 2019. For more information, please contact the office at (570) 421-7703 or admin@MonroeHistorical.org

The Monroe County Historical Association is a cultural and learning center that assists our diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting the county’s past with the present. Visit the website at www.monroehistorical.org for more information on the organization.



Ken & Company,
Main Street,
Borough of
Stroudsburg



Monroe County Archives



Cattell Cabin and the Friends of Big Pocono, Jackson Township

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Jan Marie Schwartz



This column is exclusive to the *Blue Valley Times*

You're in the car, and your five-year-old is quietly looking at cartoon characters on an iPad. The radio is playing. You're drinking your coffee and staring silently out the front windshield. Through no fault of your own, at that moment, you're missing out on an opportunity to give your child valuable skills needed in kindergarten.

Yes, there's snow on the ground, temperatures have plummeted, and it's only the second month of the New Year, but kindergarten registration is happening now in school districts across the Lehigh Valley. Registration helps districts gauge the number of teachers and classrooms they will need in the upcoming school year. To register your child you'll usually need a birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of residency.

Don't be concerned if your child doesn't know how to write their name or count to one hundred. These academic skills can be taught to them once they begin their elementary school career. The skills that kindergarten teachers are looking for include hard skills like phonological awareness (the ability to recognize and work with sounds in spoken language) but, says Linda Lasher, a kindergarten teacher at The Children's Garden, they also need soft skills like being "...able to follow directions, attend for an appropriate amount of time and...play appropriately with other students."

Kindergarten teachers are in agreement that social-emotional skills are the ones they need to see. Without these skills, teachers, like Lasher, say, "Children lack communication skills to verbalize wants and needs," therefore making it harder for teachers to teach academic skills like reading, writing and math.

What exactly are social-emotional skills?

According to a recent Pennsylvania Department of Education report "Social and emotional learning

Jan Marie Schwartz is an Outreach Coordinator for the Pre-K for PA campaign. The campaign is supported by individuals and organizations across Pennsylvania who believe that investing in our children is the right choice and an urgent necessity. She also serves as VP of Public Policy for the Lehigh and Northampton Chapter of PennAEYC

(SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions." The state of Pennsylvania recognizes how important these skills are and has early learning standards in this content area beginning from birth (yes, birth!).

Pennsylvania's learning standards for early childhood are "research based according to age and development, and form the foundation for curriculum, assessment, instruction and intervention within early care and education programs."

Areas include self-awareness and self management, establishing and maintaining relationships and decision making and responsible behavior.

How can parents help children develop social emotional skills? The consensus among educators is to put away your phone and talk to your child.

"Skills children entering kindergarten need are oral language skills," says Shawnee Elementary School Principal Josephine Galloway. "This skill is critical. While a child knowing the alphabet, numbers, and colors are all important foundational skills... because we are entrenched in the digital age and families are busy, with more than one child, running around to work and activities sometimes it's easiest to give the child a tablet or phone. The problem from my observation is that it seems to cut down on conversations. Conversations that were happening when kids played with blocks or puzzles. These activities foster more conversation between the parent and the child. The parent can offer feedback versus something just being on a screen."

So in the intervening months until kindergarten begins just remember to talk, talk, talk to your child. In the car, at the grocery store, or at a sporting event. Point out the things you're seeing, hearing, and feeling and encourage your child to do the same.

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