

Warren County Commissioners Present Three Preservation Grants

By Holly Luberto

WHITE TOWNSHIP, NJ – The Warren County Board of County Commissioners traveled throughout the county on Friday, April 11 to present ceremonial checks to the recipients of this year's Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund grants.

Three historic building restoration projects received grant funding which totaled \$324,000. Funding for the three projects was approved by the Commissioners, acting on the recommendations of the 12-member Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee. The grants are financed through the County's Open Space Trust, which is funded by a voter-approved dedicated tax.

Commissioner Director Jason J. Sarnoski, along with County Commissioners Lori Ciesla and James R. Kern III, visited the three locations to present the checks, meet with the local officials and stakeholders, and tour the sites.

First up was the Hope Township Community Center, originally the site of the Moravian Log Tavern in 1773, the Christian Church was built in 1841. The building now serves as the Hope Community Center, where the town holds plays, events, occasional meetings, and is home to the weekly "Fun Fridays." The \$150,000 the Township of Hope received from the Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund will go towards the third phase of the building's restoration, which will replace both the floor and ceiling of the main room, install new lights, and fund repairs to the exterior steps.

The Commissioners then headed to Washington Township, to see the "First exclusive Autogiro Airport in America." Invented by Spanish engineer Juan de la Cierva in 1923, the autogiro was the predecessor of the modern day helicopter, it used an airplane fuselage with a forward-mounted propeller and engine, an un-powered rotor mounted on a mast, and a horizontal and vertical stabilizer. Eckel's Autogiro airport was built in 1931 and it was the first exclusive Autogiro airport in the U.S. Washington Township received \$57,000 to perform needed maintenance and repairs to the two wooden hangars that once stored the aircrafts.

Finally, the Commissioners visited Shimer Mansion in Pohatcong Township. Built in 1850, the Shimer Mansion was the centerpiece of a 120-acre rural estate about a half-mile east of Morris Canal Lock 10 in the Green's Bridge section of Phillipsburg. The Pohatcong History and Heritage Society took ownership in 2015 and has been working to restore the property. The History and Heritage Society received \$117,000 for stage two of this restoration project. The group's end goal is to turn the property into a community center and gallery for local artists.

For details on the MCCTFC, visit: <https://www.warrencountynj.gov/government/land-preservation-department/municipal-charitable-conservancy-grants>



L-R: Commissioner Kern, Project Architect Michael Margulies, Hope Committeeman Terry Urfer, Commissioner Sarnoski, Commissioner Ciesla, President of the Hope Historical Society Elsie Donohue, Warren County Director of Land Preservation Corey Tierney at Hope Community Center.



L-R: Washington Township Chief of Police Chris Jones, Township Administrator Peter DeBoer, Deputy Mayor George Willan, Mayor Robert Klingel, Chairman of the Washington Township Historical Preservation Commission Brian Wilcox, Commissioner Sarnoski, Commissioner Ciesla, Commissioner Kern, Project Architect Michael Margulies, Committeeman Ralph Fiore, Warren County Director of Land Preservation Corey Tierney.



L-R: Warren County Director of Land Preservation Corey Tierney, Project Architect Michael Margulies, Pohatcong Mayor David Slack, Commissioner Sarnoski, Commissioner Ciesla, Councilwoman Ingrid Gray, Commissioner Kern in front of Shimer Mansion.

Shapiro Administration, Advocates Highlight Life-Saving Impacts of Organ Donation

By Mark O'Neill, DOH

HARRISBURG, PA – In support of the Shapiro Administration's commitment to public health, officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Department of Health (DOH), the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE), and Gift of Life Donor Program joined together today to highlight the importance of registering as an organ donor as part of National Donate Life Month in April.

"Choosing to become an organ donor could help save a life or help to enhance the quality of life for those awaiting a transplant," said PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services Kara Templeton. "And you don't have to wait until you renew your driver's license or ID card - you can add the designation any time."

Today also marks National Donate Life Blue & Green Day. During this special celebration, the public is encouraged to wear blue and green – the recognized colors of organ donation.

Nearly 48.5 percent of current driver's license and identification card holders are registered as organ donors, about five million Pennsylvanians. Currently, more than 6,000 Pennsylvanians await organ transplants.

"The gift of life from just one individual organ and tissue donor can save the lives of up to eight people and you can be a part of this exponential impact by joining me in becoming a registered organ donor today," said Cindy Findley, Department of Health Deputy Secretary for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

To add the organ donor designation to an existing driver's license or identification card, visit the Organ and Tissue Donation page on the Driver and Vehicle Services website. Once the designation is added, individuals will receive a designation card that they must carry with them until they renew or replace their driver's license or identification card. There is no charge for adding the designation.

"In Pennsylvania, one man, woman, or child dies every 18 hours due to lack of organ donors. April is National Donate Life Month. Please consider becoming an organ and tissue donor. Your gift will bring hope to families. Donors create a legacy of life not only for the people they help, but also for themselves. Organ donation truly is a quiet act of heroism," said Dr. Lisa Battat, a cornea transplant surgeon and Chairperson of Pennsylvania's Organ Donation Advisory Committee. "This is why the Departments of Health and Transportation, CORE, and Gift of Life ask Pennsylvanians to learn about organ donation and consider registering today."

Driver's license and identification card holders, as well as registered vehicle owners, can also support organ donation programs by donating \$3 to the Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund at the time of application and/or renewal. Proceeds from the fund are used to educate and promote awareness of the organ donor program through non-profit organizations like CORE and the Gift of Life Donor Program.

For more information on organ and tissue donation in Pennsylvania or to sign up to become an organ donor, please visit www.donatelifepa.org, www.core.org or www.donors1.org. It only takes 30 seconds to save a life.