

Former Mayor Knows All About Political "Season"

As the fall election season heats up with the November general election quickly approaching, one House of the Good Shepherd resident is very familiar with the ins and outs of local politics.

Former Hardwick Township Mayor George Kopp, who has been residing at the House of the Good Shepherd for about a year with his wife Jean, said that while he enjoyed his several years of service in local elected offices, he doesn't miss the politics of campaigning for office.

Kopp, whose combination of service as Hardwick mayor and a township committeeman spanned most of the 1990s, was actively involved in two of the most notable projects in the community's history. One of the projects was the construction of a new town hall. The other, which changed the face of northern Warren County, was the merger of then neighboring Pahaquarry Township into Hardwick.

As the campaigning for various political offices continues to step up over the next several weeks, Kopp notes there is one aspect of politics he believes will always remain constant.

"I feel politics has remained pretty much the same over the years; you have those who are dedicated to doing the job and others who are looking for glory. I don't think this aspect of politics will ever change," he said.



George and Jean Kopp enjoy breakfast in their cozy cottage home at The House of the Good Shepherd.

Beyond the several monumental local projects he was actively involved in, Kopp said the most rewarding aspect of political service is seeing the fruits of your work helping others.

Kopp said he became interested in seeking elected office after he began to attend township committee meetings. He began to feel he could play an important role in helping the municipality function more efficiently.

Kopp believes he stepped aside from local politics at the right time. "I feel like I had my time to serve," he stated. "It was a lot of headaches at times, but overall I enjoyed it and the experience was rewarding."

Prior to Kopp and his wife moving to Hardwick, they had originally lived in Wayne. Kopp is retired from New York Telephone, where he worked for 35 years.

Kopp said he and his wife decided to move to The House of the Good

Shepherd after researching and visiting several senior housing locations in the area. They live in one of the private cottages located in an area commonly referred to as The Village.

"This location is great. It's very scenic, right on the banks of the Musconetcong River," he said. "The people are very friendly here and the staff is excellent."

Kopp said they decided to make the move from their Hardwick home to The House of the Good Shepherd as a way to downsize to a simpler lifestyle. "I was a little skeptical to the change at first in downsizing, but it's been nice to live without having all the maintenance concerns," he noted.

It's also nice not to have the concerns of running for office, instead just sitting back, listening and watching.



Afternoon Tunes

Bob Peterson, Millie Eppedio, Jean Rizzuto and Natalie Nicole listen as Clare Fox sings during a special musical performance at The House.

Time Of Year To Plan For Future

By Henry F.de Mena
Director of Development

CARPE DIEM...Seize the Day

As 2006 begins to wind down, we arrive at the customary time of year to pause and plan for the future. Add in the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons and it also becomes the period for considering others through charitable gifts. Careful planning not only affects the impact of our gifts but may also produce tax savings and other benefits. The following thoughts may assist you in benefiting others while helping yourself at the same time.

Cash Gifts

Please keep in mind that gifts of cash or checks must be conveyed or mailed by December 31 in order to be deductible for 2006. These gifts may eliminate or reduce your tax due on as much as 50% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Tax savings from large gifts can carry forward for up to five additional years. You should also be aware that charitable deductions are one of the few that can lower your tax due even if you are subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT).

Securities

Gifts of stocks, mutual funds, and bonds can bring you even additional tax savings. If you have held an asset for more than one year and its current fair market value is greater than when you purchased it, you can avoid the capital gains tax by donating the security directly to a charity rather than selling it. Gifts of appreciated property are deductible up to 30% of the AGI,

with a carryover for unused credit up to five years.

Low yielding assets also make suitable charitable gifts since their donation will have little or no effect on your spendable income but still earn you an income tax deduction.

But watch this. If you are considering a gift of property that has decreased in value since it was purchased, you should sell it first and then donate the cash. That way you may obtain a credit for the loss that is deductible from other taxable income in addition to receiving the charitable gift deduction for the cash.

Long-Range Planning

Year-end financial planning usually also incorporates a review of estate and other plans. For instance, perhaps you own one or more life insurance policies that are no longer as necessary as when originally taken out. Or maybe the named beneficiaries are no longer alive or are no longer in need of the policy proceeds.

Sometimes it is appropriate to change the primary or secondary beneficiary to a charitable institution or to add it as a partial beneficiary. Either one is a simple but effective way to leave a gift through your estate. In fact, if the ownership of the policy is changed to the charity, future premiums are tax deductible.

Life insurance policies that have built up a cash value make excellent choices as charitable gifts. A tax deduction can apply here also.

How about your will? Is that up to date? Are your loved ones taken care of? If so, have you

considered including a charitable bequest? Did you know there is no limit to the amount of charitable gifts that are deductible for gift or estate taxes?

The Development Office will be pleased to answer any questions or assist you in any way it can. Simply call (908) 684-5900.

The Shepherd's Fund

The House of the Good Shepherd respectfully requests your consideration of its Shepherd's Fund to be the recipient of a gift or bequest or to be a life insurance beneficiary. This Fund assists The House in guaranteeing its practice of never asking a resident (after only one year) to leave for the sole reason of inability to afford the full cost of their stay.

This heartwarming attitude greatly comforts our elderly occupants by assuring them that they will remain here even beyond their financial ability, if necessary. And this holds true regardless of the level of their care: independent living, assisted living, or nursing care.

If you are familiar with any of the wonderful folks who live here, you can understand the good you will be accomplishing by supporting this Fund. Not only its direct benefit of financial assistance, but the peace of mind it brings to our entire population.

The House of the Good Shepherd truly prides itself as being a continuing care retirement community in every sense of the words. Thank you for your graciousness in considering the Shepherd's Fund.

McLendon Named President Of The House Of The Good Shepherd Auxiliary

Holly McLendon, whose parents Earle and Jane Holsapple have long been involved with the House of the Good Shepherd retirement community in Hackettstown, was recently named the new President of the House of the Good Shepherd Auxiliary.

McLendon, a former member of the Auxiliary several years ago, is looking to bring "fresh ideas" to the organization.

"I want to get the Auxiliary more active, do more things," said McLendon.

McLendon, whose father was a longtime member of the Board

of Trustees for The House, is reaching out to area colleges to invite students to help out with projects as part of their community service requirements. McLendon also noted that she has opened up membership to both men and women. It had been a women's only group until now.

"We want to have more contact with residents," said McLendon, whose parents now reside at The House. "As it is we send flowers to residents on their birthdays. On the holidays we want to help decorate the doors to the

residents' homes and offer other new programs."

The Auxiliary meets 3 or 4 times a year, with one night meeting being added to the mix so that working people can participate as well.

"We are looking forward to a great year," said McLendon. "A few new faces in the organization would be terrific."

To learn more about the Auxiliary, please call Jen Sills, Recreation Director at The House, 908-684-5731, or contact Holly McLendon via email, Bichon22@comcast.net.

Friends & Neighbors Mighty Friendly To The House

When it comes to lending a helping hand to The House of the Good Shepherd, the Friends & Neighbors community service organization is definitely one group that more than lives up to its name.

Whether it's providing cookies and refreshments for bingo, helping organize the Christmas sing-a-long or assisting with an upcoming tricky tray, the Friends & Neighbors help spread friendship, fellowship and fun among the residents of The House of the Good Shepherd.

The Friends & Neighbors group volunteers about once a month at the House of the Good Shepherd, and are willing to help in any way they can.

"Whatever they need us for, we're ready to help," said Traude Hughes, one of the Friends & Neighbors' approximately 100 members. The group's members are primarily from Panther Valley and surrounding communities.

Hughes said the Friends & Neighbors' volunteerism at The House of the Good Shepherd has created a sense of mutual appreciation and satisfaction among both members of the group and the residents there.

"We love working with the people of The House of the Good Shepherd and really enjoy being with them," she said. "I also think the residents really enjoy having us helping out with their events."

In addition to volunteering at The House of the Good Shepherd, the Friends & Neighbors group is involved in various other charitable causes in the area, including making donations to several Warren County organizations.

The group, which has been in existence for about 30 years, is also active at the Warren Haven nursing facility in several ways, including holding a barbecue for the residents each year.



Animal Friend

Frances Pew feeds a young goat that was visiting The House for a special event.



Would You Like to Know More About The House of the Good Shepherd?

Yes. Please send me more information about The House of the Good Shepherd Retirement Community.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

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Please return to: The House of the Good Shepherd,
798 Willow Grove Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1721
or phone 908-684-5900



Crazy Hat Day

Residents of The House of the Good Shepherd recently celebrated “Crazy Hat Day.” Here, Doris Ballengee wears her hat well.

The House of the Good Shepherd is a continuing care retirement community. The Our House newsletter is published 3 times per year. Founded in 1882 by five Episcopal congregations in the Oranges.