

A heaping of news with all the fixings

Suburban

Although the Thanksgiving Day turkey is still in the icebox, as this editorial is being penned Dean Martin is crooning "Let It Snow" and Bruce Springsteen is belting out "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" on the all-Christmas-all-the-time radio station (actually there are two), the holiday decorations are already festooning stores and television commercials are pitching luxury automobiles as Christmas and Hanukkah presents. The holidays have landed upon us like a ton of fruitcakes. But before we go a wassailing, The Suburban would like to bestow its Main Line Laurels and Lemons for November.

Laurels

■ The T & E (Tredyffrin and Easttown) Cares for housing three families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Because of the volunteer effort of this home-grown organization of residents and the generosity of all the Main Line residents and businesses owners who donated goods and services, these families have something to truly be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

■ To the residents of North Wayne for getting behind Radnor Township for its proposed creation of a HARB (Historic and Architectural Review Board). If approved, the creation of the advisory board would add an important layer of protection against eroding the integrity of the historic district, which is chock full of Victorian-era architecture. Anyone having second thoughts about not having an advisory board just think back to 2002, when a Victorian was demolished to make way for two modern homes on Poplar Avenue, causing an uproar in the community.

■ To the Valley Forge Military Academy for admitting women as cadets for the first time in its history. Women will now have the opportunity to take advantage of four areas of education the same as men, including the traditional two-year transfer college, ROTC, military service-academy preparatory programs and the Army Early Commissioning Program.

■ Kudos to the Radnor Conservancy and Radnor League of Women Voters for going the extra mile to get the word out for Radnor residents to consider funding another bond for open-space acquisition. The acquisition of additional open space is a worthy consideration as the township and other Main Line communities face the increased pressure of commercial and residential development.

■ To Tredyffrin officials for proposing a no-tax-increase budget for 2006, which one supervisor has credited to sound management practices and an improving local economy. Surely this is an early holiday present for the residents of the township.

Lemons

■ To the closing of Bryn Mawr Hardware, a fixture on Lancaster Avenue since 1926. You can't blame the owners for retiring, and they did try to seek out new owners to carry on the business. It's just a shame anytime a longtime, independent shop leaves town. It's mom-and-pop businesses that help make the Main Line a special place to shop.