



TOWN AND COUNTRY

LOCAL NEWS FOR LOCAL READERS SINCE 1899

News from Bally, Douglass, East Greenville, Green Lane, Hereford, Lower Salford, Marlborough, Milford, New Hanover, Pennsburg, Quakertown, Red Hill, Trumbauersville, Upper Hanover, Upper Salford, Washington Township and nearby communities.

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Weis Market

SPORTS



Upper Perk boys take on Wildcats at home court.
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FEATURES



Area fire companies bring Santa to area neighborhoods.
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East Greenville Council Overrides Mayoral Veto to Ratify 2016 Budget

By **Bradley Schlegel**
Correspondent

On its third try, East Greenville borough council voted Tuesday night to override a mayoral veto and approve the 2016 budget that holds the line on taxes and allocates funds for the Upper Perk Regional Police Department to hire a full-time officer.

Council member Ryan Pugh cast the decisive vote to ratify the budget, which totals \$1.842 million in projected expenses and maintains a tax rate of 6.25 mills.

Pugh, who voted against the first two motions to undo Mayor Ryan Sloyer's veto, relented on the final vote. Council members Josiah Pierson, Timothy Huff, Andrew

Rock and Leon Steinert – who cast his vote by phone – joined Pugh in the affirmative.

James Young and Tracey Hunsinger voted against the measure. Council rules require a yes vote from a majority plus one of attending members, according to borough Solicitor Michelle Forsell.

East Greenville, continued on page 9

Police: East Greenville Woman Was Drunk When She Caused Two Crashes

By **Kelly Chandler**
Staff Writer

Upper Perk Police said a 59-year-old East Greenville woman, whose license was already suspended for driving under the influence, got behind the wheel drunk again last month and caused two separate accidents which injured a local man.

Samantha Bernard, of the 100 block of Main Street, was charged Dec. 17 with DUI, highest rate; DUI, accident resulting in injury or death; reckless driving, driving on a suspended license and numerous other offenses in connection with incidents in Pennsburg and East Greenville Nov. 4 around 5:30 p.m.

Police said not only was she driving without a valid license, her vehicle was also uninsured at the time of the collisions.

According to court documents, Bernard was intoxicated when she crashed into a green Honda Civic parked near the intersection of Main and Church streets in East Greenville. Authorities said after she hit that car, which was legally parked at the time, she took off at a high rate of speed south on Main Street.

Police said Bernard continued to drive recklessly, crossing into oncoming traffic and attempting to pass
DUI Crash, continued on page 6



Bob Esposito / Town and Country

Making Christmas Merry - The annual local Toys for Tots distribution was held last Saturday morning at the Red Hill Fire Company giving toys to almost 300 children in need. Above, volunteer Danielle Emers helps Mariposa Luna select a toy from the thousands donated by the community. **Additional photo on page 15.**

Vets for Vets, Home Depot Partner to Restore Local Family's Home for the Holidays

By **Kelly Chandler**
Staff Writer

Susan Santangelo, for one, will not be wishing for a white Christmas this year.

She, her husband John, two daughters and two dogs are currently living in a camper in their backyard. And if it snows, that could spell disaster.

"My greatest fear is that the water hose freezes. We got a heated line but if it snows and lays or it gets really cold...Mother Nature has been very gracious so far. But it's not an all-season camper."

The Santangelos have been forced to call their camper home since Labor Day weekend when the water line to their refrigerator broke

while they were on vacation. For several days water ran all over their Perkiomenville rancher until Susan and the girls arrived home separately late Sept. 7.

The first thing that hit her when she opened the front door was the smell.

"It was dark and the smell of the house
Vets for Vets, continued on page 8



The Town and Country Staff Wish You The Best This Holiday Season And Throughout The Coming Year!



Vets for Vets and Home Depot volunteers working on the Renninger Road, Perkiomenville project gather outside Dec. 11. The home of a Desert Storm veteran, his wife and two young daughters suffered serious damage in September thanks to a broken water line.

Vets for Vets, continued from page 1

being wet, it hit me. After I turned off the alarm I heard the water running. It was running like a waterfall. I was trying to turn everything off in the basement. I was hysterical. I didn't know where to start; what to do."

In the light of day, reality hit. Their hardwood floors were twisted and buckled, carpets saturated and moldy and the walls were wet two feet up from the floor. Many of their possessions were soaked, and a lot had to be tossed. The water had run along the first floor and

down into the basement, where it damaged electronics and many items in storage cabinets, in addition to the flooring and walls.

"It has been hectic, frustrating and stressful," Susan Santangelo said of the ordeal. "Really it's been a nightmare. It was hard to know where to begin with the cleanup. And to not be able to sleep or shower in the house..."

Luckily for the family, as their insurance company hired a remediation company to come in and get rid of the water, a friend took it upon himself to contact Home Depot in Pottstown to see if the chain

could help donate supplies in the rebuilding effort.

"We're usually the one helping others but he went on behalf of my husband to Home Depot knowing that my husband wouldn't go himself," Susan said of John, a Marine Corps Desert Storm veteran. "We're so grateful."

Home Depot then contacted Pottstown-based veterans organization Vets for Vets, to see if they would be willing to partner on a project at the home. Vets for Vets' founder and administrator Jake Leone enthusiastically agreed and the Santangelos were awarded a \$9,000 grant from Home Depot to help rebuild.

On Dec. 11, five volunteers from Vets for Vets and eight from Home Depot, headed by Pottstown store manager Jessica Morrotto, arrived at the Renninger Road home. They immediately began cutting out all the drywall, tearing the flooring out and gutting the bathroom as well as parts of the basement.

Santangelo said the abundance of willing hands spurred some tears.

"We're very overwhelmed and very grateful and thankful



Bob Esposito / Town and Country

Volunteers Jesse Lawrenz and Alex Antonetti, with Vets for Vets, install drywall at John and Susan Santangelo's home. The living room, kitchen, bathroom and three bedrooms largely had to be gutted.

for the generous time given; the grant that was received. There are a lot of men and women donating their time and talents. It's overwhelming. I was crying when I left the driveway this morning. But until it happens to you, you don't know how meaningful it is. It's very heartwarming to know there are people there who care and help you when you need help. It's certainly appreciated."

"I volunteer because it's the right thing to do. When there are people out there in need and we have the opportunity to make things right for them, that's what I want to do," said Matthew Miller, a Home Depot staffer for eight years. "That's what Home Depot wants to do. We do the best to make people's lives easier. We try to do the right thing for the community."

Leone said the goal is to have the drywall and everything framed in, as well as the first layer of spackling, done by Christmas. Mold remediation is being donated by Ed Voce of Voce Cleaning LLC of Quakertown. The next portion

of the work will include the installation of tile, a vanity and toilet in the home's bathroom.

With two or three more workdays, and about a dozen volunteers, Leone said he thinks the work can be completed sometime early in the new year.

"We are absolutely looking forward to completing this project for the family," he said.

And while the novelty of living in a camper has started to wear off for her two young daughters, Santangelo said the family is looking at the bright side of things.

"It's a good way to start getting rid of stuff," she joked. "And we've talked to the girls and, while they were very upset in the beginning, they are happy to help pick out the paint color for their 'new rooms.'"

As for Christmas, the family said they're excited to spend time together with a makeshift tree in their bare living room, which was recently spruced up with a carpet remnant.

"We'll be happy just to get the repairs done and start getting things back to normal," Santangelo said.

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