

SWISSVALE NEWS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

TRUNDLE MANOR SCARES UP INTERNATIONAL NOTORIETY

By William McCloskey

Horrors !!! Trundle Manor has escaped the confines of Swissvale.

The deliciously bizarre museum of weirdness on Juniata Street achieved international celebrity when the house and its resident characters were featured August 9 on MTV's "Extreme Cribbs" show.

Since early 2010, long before MTV's bright lights and cameras, this monument to oddity that masquerades as a conventional home on a Swissvale



Cordelia Igor (Alexa Black) and Mr ARM (Anton Raphael Miriello) greet visitors at Trundle Manor

hilltop has been the delightful hidden treasure of those who savor the macabre.

Conceived and operated by Mr ARM (real name Anton Raphael Miriello) and Velda Von Minx (Rachel Rech), the house is both their home and the center of their bizarre collection, which also goes on the road under a tent in the finest creep show tradition.

The establishment takes its name from the prosaic trundle bed. Housemate Cordelia Igor explains "we specialize in the types of things you might want to keep *under the bed!*"

Mr ARM, Velda and Cordelia conduct tours by appointment, host parties and haul the road show around behind a spooky, cartoonish 1952 Dodge pickup named "Trixy." It would spoil things to report here what a tour of the manor actually involves.

(Continued on page 2)

SWISSVALE NEWS IS YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Let us hear from you

Swissvale residents, businesses and organizations wishing to publish information about community news and events in the Swissvale News, or to place advertising, should contact:

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Edgewood Towne Centre isn't entirely in Edgewood; an important part of it is in Swissvale.

On the western edge of the center, along South Braddock Avenue, both the Towne Centre Offices building and PNC Bank lie in Swissvale—providing important tax and employment benefits to the borough.

When the shopping center was erected over the site of the old Union Switch & Signal factory, the developers never explained why exactly they hung the British-style "Towne Centre" name on the project.



TRUNDLE MANOR

(Continued from page 1)

Let's defer, instead, to a quote from the website "Atlas Obscura:"

"Trundle Manor looks, from the outside, like any other house in the neighborhood of Swissvale near Pittsburgh—except for the coffin on the porch. But the inside is filled with a wide assortment of oddities that have drawn tourists from all over the country. In the house, collections of vintage taxidermy — 'rat bird' and 'pigeon shark' are examples— plus Steampunk sculptures, various types of artwork, antique medical devices, rusty cleavers and other weaponry, coffins and more line the walls and fill the rooms. The Trundle Manor also specialized in 'dead things in jars,' according to the official website, which also notes that the house 'prides itself on displaying genuine articles and not cheap Halloween props.'"

Trundle Manor isn't actually a business but a sort of artists' residence. One gets the feeling that it's a hobby gone riot. Aside from real names and real clothes, the residents also have real jobs to complement their costumes and personae.

Mr ARM (note that it's a palindrome of his initials) is the child of parents who own an art gallery and a self-described "weird little kid who always kept things in jars." Still weird, Miriello uses for his daily driving a mammoth Cadillac Fleetwood funeral limousine that barely fits the streets of his hilltop community.

The crew also is developing a "villain couture" clothing line of affordable fashion items suitable for everyday wear, but suggesting mustachioed villains and corseted, lace-bedecked *femmes fatale*.

The editors know we can't begin to do justice to Trundle Manor in a black-and-white newspaper, and suggest that you check it out for yourself at 7724 Juniata Street, 412-916-5544, www.trundlemanor.com.

SWISSVALE FIREFIGHTERS RAISE \$12,000 FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

By Frank Berry

The Swissvale Fire Department has been recognized for its outstanding work raising funds to advance Muscular Dystrophy research after collecting \$12,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association during 2011.

Accepting the MDA proclamation on behalf of Swissvale Borough Council in August was Council President David Petrarca. Accepting on behalf of the Fire Department were firefighters Robert Soderberg,

Mike Volpe, Jim Barca and Paul Shiring.

The department has been active on behalf of the cause for the past 13 years, both under the leadership of former Fire Chief Kenneth Johnston and current Chief Clyde Wilhelm.



MDA representative, David Petrarca and Robert Soderberg exchange the proclamation. With them are Mike Volpe, Jim Barca and Paul Shiring.

Photo by Robert Gionta



Nick Kalogeris, Swissvale's newest full-time police officer, is congratulated by Chief Greg Geppert, Council President David Petrarca and Council Member Patricia L. Gionta.

Photo by Robert Gionta

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SWISSVALE LIBRARY CELEBRATING PAUL CORRADO

By Kate Grannemann and Sharon Ramsey

The Friends of Swissvale Library along with the library staff celebrate the life of Paul Corrado, a person well known to the Swissvale Community, who recently passed away.

Corrado's Fruit Market on Denniston Avenue was a highly regarded fixture in the community. Paul was a generous man with a big heart. No one in need left his market empty-handed.

Though a very quiet person, Paul also had a great love for books and music. His sister, Margaret Corrado, has generously donated to the Swissvale Library all of those books and films that fed his intellect, his curiosity and his passions.

The library is in the process of adding many of these books and most of the DVDs to our collection. Some are beautiful art books, others are philosophical and intellectual works that will challenge all of us to think more broadly and deeply. Some are just plain good entertainment. Thank you, Margaret and Paul.

Fall Book and Bake Sale

Fall means back to school, cooler weather, and the Swissvale Library Book and Bake Sale, slated to begin at 4 p.m. October 27 and run through October 29.

This popular community tradition that raises funds for the library features gently-used books and many videos, home-made baked goods, hand-knitted items, original art and Halloween surprises.

"Everything we sell is top-quality and very reasonably priced, which is why people look forward to it each year," according to Friends of Swissvale Library, which sponsors the event. "They also feel good about supporting a vital community asset. All of the proceeds from the sale go toward improvements at the library."

Folks will find one-of-a-kind items to put away for holiday gift-giving, including scarves, scrubbies, hats and other items knitted by Pam Schmidbauer and Donna Deppmeyer, and paintings by Linda O'Toole. All these artists live in Swissvale.

At the sale, recycle your gently used print and audio books and DVDs. We frequently add the newest and most popular donated items to the library's circulating collection, and the others we sell to support library programs.

For the library's collection we're especially looking for audio books on CD, best sellers and new books, and recent DVDs.

Pick up some great books and videos at bargain prices, buy some delicious cookies and other goodies, and help support the library all at the same time. What could be better?

Fall programs at the Swissvale Library

The library offers fun and educational programs all year long for children and adults. After a busy Summer Reading Program, with kids and adults reading like crazy and enjoying more than 50 classes and contests, the library now unveils its lineup of free activities for the fall and winter.

Bring your children and grandchildren to the library for story hour, game class, Saturday fun classes, book discussions and the ever-popular Wizard tournament. Days and times are:

- Mondays at 11 a.m. story hour for kids 3 to 5
- Game Class Tuesdays at 4 p.m. for school age kids kindergarten and up
- Saturday Fun Classes at 1 p.m., a different fun project every week for school-age kids kindergarten and up

(Continued on page 4)

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SWISSVALE LIBRARY

(Continued from page 3)

- Junior Book Discussion, third Saturday at 11 a.m., grade 5 and up
- Wizard tournament Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., begins September 17

Join one of our monthly book or movie clubs. They are open to all. Copies of the books and movies for discussion are available for check out.

- Adult Book Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 3 p.m.
- Movie Discussion group meets the last Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m.
- PALS Book Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Swissvale Senior Center. PALS books are available at the Senior Center.

Through these programs, children and adults read books and earn book bucks to claim prizes in the library's annual auction. See Miss Bonnie for details.

Carnegie Free Library of Swissvale, 1800 Monongahela Avenue, 412-731-2300, www.swissvalelibrary.org

Kate Grannemann is interim director of the Carnegie Free Library of Swissvale. Sharon Ramsey is president of the volunteer Friends of Swissvale Library.

SWISSVALE HALLOWEEN NEWS



Community kids are invited to line up for the Halloween Parade in their costumes at 11:45 a.m. Saturday, October 29.

At noon they will begin marching to Dickson Field where all participants will receive trick-or-treat bags of goodies.

On Monday, October 31, official trick-or-treat hours are 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Swissvale residents are encouraged to have their porch lights on.

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HI-TECH FASTSIGNS COMES TO SWISSVALE

Krohmal's Printing, the printing and design firm for Swissvale News, has added FASTSIGNS to its product line.

A national leader and technological innovator in signage of all types, FASTSIGNS says: "We can provide virtually any type of sign you can think of, such as:

- Backdrops and murals
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- Maps
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Patti and Bob Krohmaly emphasize that FASTSIGNS is an addition to their 57-year family business and does not replace their traditional services of design and printing of forms, cards, publications, menus, bulletins and newsletters.



UCP/CLASS GRAND OPENING SEPTEMBER 12

By Cynthia Elm

The new UCP/Class facility in the renovated former Foodland site at 1400 South Braddock Ave. will have its grand opening September 12.

UCP (formerly United Cerebral Palsy) bought the large three-story facility to consolidate many of its operations that had been spread among smaller buildings in Pittsburgh's dense urban neighborhoods. The new Swissvale location, adjacent to the Parkway East, is expected to ease travel for UCP workers serving clients around the region.

The complex sat idle for many years after Foodland closed, then for a while was the site of the Center for Creative Play, which went out of business in 2008. East End Fitness, which had prospered in a lower section of the building, was displaced by the UCP project.

The new facility will house more than 100 UCP professionals who are expected to boost trade for businesses in Swissvale, Edgewood and Regent Square. Swissvale and Edgewood police will be monitoring vehicular congestion at the already-busy location to see if traffic patterns and signals require modification.

UCP/Class, formally named "United Cerebral Palsy Community Living and Support Services," reported that the renovated building will be called "UCP/CLASS Centre II" and will complement the organization's existing main "Centre I" location at 4638 Centre Ave., Oakland.

The agency, which recently celebrated its sixtieth anniversary, purchased the building in June 2010 and held a ground-breaking ceremony Feb. 11 to observe the start of the 30,000-square-foot renovation project.

UCP/CLASS works continually to develop innovative approaches that promote independence for adults and children with disabilities so they can fully participate in their home communities and pursue activities of their choosing. Currently, more than 3,000 individuals are served.

The organization has grown from a grass-roots group founded by parents in 1951 to become 14th largest Pittsburgh-area social service non-profit.

For more information about UCP/CLASS programs, services and facilities, see www.ucpclass.org.

SWISSVALE SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

By Joanne Winwood

Special events for September and October

- **Monday, September 12, 11:45 a.m.—Chocolate Milkshake Day**
Stay after lunch and enjoy a milkshake for dessert
- **Tuesday, September 13, noon—Milton Hershey Birthday Party**
Enjoy some of Hershey's greatest candies and learn the history behind America's candy man and his chocolate
- **Wednesday, September 14, 1 p.m.—Cream-filled Donut Day**
Treats will be served during Nickel Bingo
- **Wednesday, September 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
Trip to The Waterfront shopping center, cost on your own plus OPT tickets
- **Friday, September 30, 11 a.m.—Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream**
Learn to whip up liquid nitrogen ice cream in seconds
- **Sunday, October 23, 1 p.m.—Bingo Bash**
Cost is \$20, which includes all games and specials. There will be door prizes, 50/50 and Chinese Auction. Tickets to be purchased in advance; no tickets sold at the door
- **Friday, October 28, 12:45 p.m.—Halloween Pizza Party**
Enjoy pizza during Bingo

Swissvale Senior Center, 7350 McClure Ave., lower level of library building, 412-731-6125. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

SWISSVALE ROTARY'S "WINGS OVER SWISSVALE" FLIES SEPTEMBER 17

By Jo Ellen Welsh



"Wings Over Swissvale" is a fundraising event being hosted by Swissvale Rotary in place of the Annual Corn Roast. The event will take place on Saturday, September 17 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Les Getz Memorial Field off Church Street.

Each paying attendee will receive one wing from each vendor and attendees will have a chance to vote for their favorite wings.

Vendors will not only be able to sell their wings, but also any other food item they wish. Swissvale Rotary will have a booth selling beverages.

This will be a family event and we'll have kid-friendly activities. We're also looking for other non-food vendors who would like to have a booth at the event.

At the end of the event the vendor with the most attendee votes wins the Wings Over Swissvale trophy to display in their establishment as well as "clucking" rights for one year.

Contact Swissvale Rotary at swissvalerotary@gmail.com and 412-206-6501

WILKINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTER HOSTS ECOFEST

This year's WSCC EcoFest, a free recycling boutique on Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., is bursting with values and green opportunities.

New this year is a free Clothing Exchange and a Sporting Goods Swap. How does it work? If you contribute, you can participate.

Bring out those lovely items that just did not work out, you grew out of, or you grew tired of. Volunteer stylists will be on hand to pull together looks for you from exchanged clothing items. With the contributed sporting goods, pick out what works for you.

Also available:

- Recycling of CP light bulbs, small batteries and used plastic gift cards
- Free used electronics collection by Goodwill Industries
- Bring a t-shirt or a tank top and turn it into a shopping bag
- Daveia Davis will be constructing a mosaic window
- CMU will be driving over in a Honda Civic converted to plug-in electric power
- Global Links will be hosting a collection site
- Activists will lead a Marcellus Shale discussion

Many local environmental organizations will be on hand and there will be yummy homemade soups and goodies to fortify participants.

WSCC new classes begin September 11.

SWISSVALE CLERGY'S 9/11 MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO BE CELEBRATED SEPTEMBER 10

The Swissvale Clergy Association—also known as The Ministerium—will conduct a 9/11 memorial tribute, marking the events of September 11, 2001, on Saturday, September 10, at 11 a.m.

The program will commemorate the tenth anniversary of those terrorist attacks that brought down the Twin Towers in New York City, damaged the Pentagon and resulted in the crash and loss of 44 lives on United Flight 93 near Shanksville, PA.

In addition to memorializing the decade-old events, the program also will be a tribute to today's emergency workers—police, firefighters, EMS—who endanger their own lives for the sake of others, in the same tradition as those emergency workers who sacrificed their lives 10 years ago. All members of the Swissvale community are invited to attend.

The program is tentatively scheduled to be held at Swissvale Presbyterian Church, 1825 Monongahela Ave., 412-351-0900. Those interested in participating are urged to phone ahead to confirm schedule and location details.

FORMER SWISSVALE POLICE OFFICER'S DAUGHTER FIGHTS CANCER

By Frank Berry



Many fathers have their lives enriched by their children, and Joey Dollman, daughter of former Swissvale patrolman Mike Dollman, is no exception.

Mike Dollman, 28, now with the Wilkins Township police department, finds inspiration in Joey's battle with cancer, which so far she is winning.

Those who know the family say the prayers, support and good wishes of friends and the local law enforcement community have greatly benefited Joey's recovery.

Joey's fighting spirit exemplifies her family heritage. The Dollman family immigrated to the Penn Hills area from Germany in the 1830s, and Dollman Road in Penn Hills is named for their old family farmstead.

Swissvale Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder has "Joey's Cause" orange wrist bands available for a donation of \$5 to help support Joey's treatment. You can contact the mayor at borough council meetings and at 412-271-3811, email mayorswissvale@aol.com.

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BURTON'S TOTAL PET OPENS ITS EIGHTH STORE IN TOWNE CENTRE



Erin Lett and manager Mark Cunningham greet shoppers at new pet emporium

There's a sharp new pet store in Edgewood Towne Centre that sells the best of everything pet-related—except the pets themselves.

Aside from hamsters, lizards and other wee-tiny critters, Total Pet doesn't sell animals, and most especially they don't sell puppies or kittens.

Total Pet is happy to provide you top-quality food, nutrition products and pet accessories, but prefers that you'd get your dogs and cats from rescue shelters or other non-retail sources.

Mark Cunningham, manager of the newly opened store, said Burton's Total Pet is a regional chain established by zoological scientist Burton Patrick, who once was operations manager for the Detroit Zoo.

Also unlike many of the puppy-hustling big-time pet retailers, Total Pet does not sell on-line.

Said Cunningham, "Well, it's, you know, a store...just like the old days. You come in, get what you want, ask us for help if you want it, and pay at the counter."

Located—officially—at 1635C South Braddock Ave., Total Pet is in the lower half of the Towne Centre, between Planet Fitness and the newly opened ReStore resale outlet operated by Habitat for Humanity, which sells used and surplus building materials to divert them from landfills.

Total Pet hours are Monday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone is 412-342-0110. Visit their website at www.totalpetstores.com.

"PATCH" GROWS IN SWISSVALE AND EASTERN COMMUNITIES



Forest Hills-Regent Square Patch, the on-line daily newsletter serving Swissvale, Edgewood, Forest Hills and other nearby communities, continues to spread steadily to households, businesses and mobile devices for those who enjoy a daily shot of "hyper-local" news and features.

Stephanie Rex, editor of the Regent Square Patch, reported in August that the local e-newsletter then had published 1,100 articles since it debuted here in December 2010.

There are Patch newsletters in hundreds of American communities and each one tailors news, announcements, opinion items, reader comment and other content strictly to the home "patch."

In the Pittsburgh area, other Patches serve Baldwin-Whitehall, Canon-McMillan, Chartiers Valley, Cranberry, Dormont-Brookline, Moon, Peters, Pine-Richland, Plum-Oakmont, Sewickley and Upper St. Clair.

To sample the local Patch and to subscribe, see: foreshills-regentsquare.patch.com.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER SCHOOL AT FRICK PARK MAKES CONSCIENTIOUS CHANGES

By Laurel Patterson

Although it's been around since 2008, it seems the Environmental Charter School at Frick Park is one of the best-kept secrets in town.

Partnering with Imagine Schools of Virginia, ECS has a mission to "educate each student to high academic learning standards using a themed curriculum that will foster knowledge, love of and respect for the environment, and the will to preserve it for future generations."

Located at 829 Milton St., Regent Square, it's the first of its kind in Allegheny County.

Along with the change in leaves come several changes for ECS. As the 2011-2012 school year unfolds, the ECS population of 420 students will use two campuses, including a new "upper school" further north along South Braddock Avenue, in the former Park Place School, which until recently was a luxury condo facility.

The upper school will house grades 4 to 6. The "lower school," fostering exploration and education of the littlest learners in grades K to 3, will continue at the original Regent Square location, actually situated in Frick Park.

ECS strives to minimize the impact of development during this transition. While awaiting the completion of renovations of the Park Place location, several modular classrooms house students at the Regent Square location.

Noting the temporary nature of these classrooms and the visual impact they have on the community, ECS has put their best efforts into ensuring that the natural space around the school blends into the natural beauty of the park.

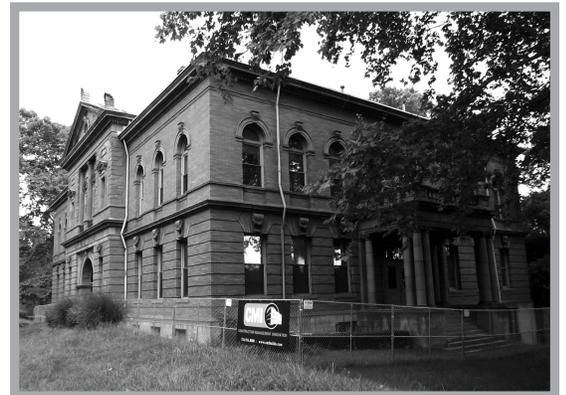
A native garden was installed to buffer the zone from the built environment to the natural world, and to combat the spread of invasive species in Frick Park. In the front of the Regent Square building, students planted a vegetable garden in the spring and currently are harvesting the fruits of their labor.

Bordering the vegetable garden, thanks to the design and landscaping expertise of the Penn State Master Gardeners, they created a space which provides butterflies and other essential pollinators a place to do their work.

ECS strives to provide a living example of the things taught. Being conscientious of its impact on the natural and built worlds, the school carefully weighs choices both inside and out to ensure that they stay true to their mission.

Not only are these institutional choices important to the overall environment, they illustrate the commitment to teaching students how thoughtful, collaborative actions can impact their local community and how small efforts can make a difference.

To learn more about the Environmental Charter School at Frick Park and any future activities, check out their web site at www.environmentalcharterschool.org or phone 412-247-7970.



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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

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Thursday • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETINGS DATES

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7 p.m. last Wednesday of month

Council meeting
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Second floor of borough building

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e-mail mayorswissvale@aol.com

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SWISSVALE NEWS

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