



*knee-deep in history*

# The Scribe

January 2024

Palmerton Area Historical Society  
*Palmerton, Pennsylvania proudly listed on  
The National Register of Historic Places*

## **Palmerton Welcomes Allentown Symphony Orchestra** *Concert Celebrates the 125th Anniversary*

The area surrounding the Palmerton High School auditorium on Sunday August 27th was filled with never before heard sounds. For the first time in its history, the Allentown Symphony Orchestra was invited to perform a concert in Carbon County to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of Palmerton.

in a 16-page program that is sure to become a collector's item. The Society has extra copies available for those unable to attend.

As Music Director Diane Wittry stepped to the podium, the orchestra began to play the opening bars of our National Anthem. Spontaneously,

The Historical Society believed it was important to recognize this anniversary and to maintain awareness of the community's unique history. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, businesses, and organizations the concert costs were raised.



*As the concert began, five-hundred voices joined in the Star Banged Banner*

Letters of congratulations were received from the Governor's office and from other federal, state, and local dignitaries. These were included

more than 500 members of the audience rose to their feet and joined in chorus! It was an appropriate beginning to a remarkable afternoon.

The program had something for everyone. The audience responded to the child-like melodies of the John Williams music for the classic "E.T." and to the more robust, toe-tapping strains of Meredith Willson's "76 Trombones."

*continued on page three*

# Palmerton Area Historical Society

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(610) 824-6954

## **OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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### ***Program Coordinators***

Vinita Horinko & Marianne Smelas

## **The Curb Market** *A Scene From A Century Ago*

This memorable photograph came to us from Marveline Costenbader and shows a Palmerton scene from more than 100 years ago. It was inscribed with a hand-written date of (Friday) July 26, 1918. The presence of horse-drawn wagons and automobiles depicts the transition that was taking place in many small towns of that time.

The Great War was raging in Europe and New Jersey Zinc was providing vital resources to the American Expeditionary Forces under General Pershing. The community helped by recycling metal and rubber. In addition to the efforts of NJZ employees in Palmerton, others found their way to the front and a number made the ultimate sacrifice in bringing this terrible conflict to an end.

Do you recognize the site of the "Curb Market" and can you provide information on it? The editors of *The Scribe* would welcome your comments.



**NO MONTHLY MEETINGS  
SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY,  
FEBRUARY and MARCH**

## **Partnership Brings Brass Band to Palmerton** *Historical Society and Concourse Club Co-Sponsor*

What would better compliment Palmerton's 125th Anniversary than a concert by a brass band? The answer is a concert by a band in period uniform from the late 1800's that performs numbers on antique brass and percussion instruments!

Headquartered in Vermont, the two dozen members of the Yankee Brass Band tour communities that welcome their unique historical performances. Palmerton's beautiful bandstand and park setting came to their attention as they planned a whirlwind tour of the area. With performances already scheduled for Honesdale on July 19th,



*Yankee Brass Band*

East Stroudsburg University on July 20th, and nearby Belvidere, NJ on July 22nd, a perfect opening existed for Palmerton on Friday July 21st.

The Band contacted the Borough offices and they were referred to the Concourse Club and Historical Society who enthusiastically agreed to co-sponsor the event. The weather cooperated and in a setting that befit the

125th anniversary year, an overflow crowd was treated to a memorable outdoor concert in the Borough Park on a warm July evening.

## **Palmerton Welcomes Allentown Symphony Orchestra** *~ continued from front page ~*

The many children in attendance immediately recognized favorites such as "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Alladin" while their grandparents thrilled once again to highlights from "Rocky." No Pops Concert would have been complete without the thrilling opening music to the original 1977 "Star Wars" classic and as the strains died away, the audience rose in enthusiastic applause.

Of course, every great dinner should have an equally sumptuous dessert! This was

provided by an encore that featured a rousing performance of the conclusion to Rossini's famous "William Tell Overture!" The Lone Ranger never sounded so good!

At the concert's end,, many in the audience stayed to greet Diane Wittry and orchestra members and to thank them for an experience they will treasure. They anxiously asked "What's Next?" Let's hope, they may not have to wait another 25 years to find out!

# Demolition of Palmerton

## *Future Use of Site is*

Five years ago, the October 2018 issue of *The Scribe* foresaw the eventual demise of The Palmerton Hospital. Rapid technological advancements in healthcare and the growing population of the Carbon County area indicated a need for change. Palmerton Hospital's days were clearly numbered.

But the question still remained – *What was to become of the proud structure that occupied the area between Lafayette and Columbia Avenues and stretched from First to Second Streets?* For several years, the engineers and environmental consultants engaged by St. Luke's studied alternative uses for the components that were referred to as "Palmerton Hospital".

The Hospital was in fact four distinct units - a separate boiler house and an adjacent four-story patient care wing constructed in 1967; an emergency department and administrative office building constructed in 1978;



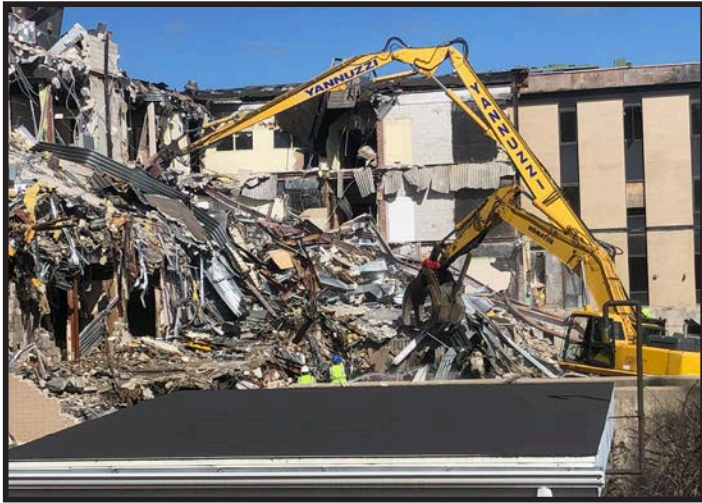
*September*



*February 21, 2023*



*March 1, 2023*



*March 9, 2023*

# n Hospital is Completed

## *Yet to be Determined*

and a receiving area, cafeteria, laboratory, and nine-bed same-day unit added in 1993. Each presented unique challenges to being repurposed.

One year ago, the January 2023 issue of *The Scribe* reported on the ceremony marking the formal closure of Palmerton Hospital. Shortly thereafter, demolition began and by June the structures had been carefully dismantled and the debris hauled from the site. Over the following three months, the grounds were graded, replacement soil was brought in, and by the end of September the transformation to a park-like setting was virtually complete.

Residents now await news as to the plans St. Luke's has for the site. Future issues of *The Scribe* will keep our readers apprised of developments as one chapter in Palmerton's rich history ends and a new chapter begins.



*March 29, 2023*



*April 19, 2023*



*27, 2023*



*August 8, 2023*

## **Society Completes 2023 Fiscal Year** *Financial Summary Reflects the 125th Anniversary*

The financial summary for the year appears on the opposite page. The 125th Anniversary year saw an increase from the typical budget of about \$40,000 to one twice as large. The cost of the Allentown Symphony concert, that accounted for much of this increase, was offset by the generosity of sponsors and by ticket sales. The Society is proud of the role it played in underwriting events in celebration of the 125th year since the founding of Palmerton.

You may note the cost of maintaining the Little White Church. This Palmerton historical treasure comes with the responsibility to maintain the building and its historic cemetery. Unfortunately, the church's antiquated furnace had to be replaced this year at a cost in excess of \$6,000 - an unanticipated event.

The Board of Directors also wishes to express its appreciation for member contributions that were designated for the restricted endowment. This fund was started two years ago with a \$25,000 bequest from the estate of George Ashman. It now stands at \$34,150. As this fund grows, it will help maintain the Society's ability to meet its obligations and fulfill its mission in the future.

The Treasurer's records are annually sent to the Society's public accountant for preparation of a formal financial report and for required filings to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to the Internal Revenue Service. Additional information is available to members upon request.

### **Have You Renewed Your 2024 Membership!**

If not, renew now!

Don't miss future issues  
of *The Scribe*!

Join our 400 members from  
Maine to Hawaii!

### **Jane Borbe Moves On** *North Carolina Gains Another Palmertonian*

After a distinguished tenure as President of the Historical Society, Jane Borbe and husband David have departed for Mooresville, NC. It is ironic that she should relocate to the same area that today is near the \$500 million plant of American Zinc Recycling. This is a division of Befesa, the corporation that provides recycled zinc from its plant in Palmerton. Best wishes, Jane and David, in your new home.

**PALMERTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2023 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

**EXPENSES**

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS - 125th ANNIVERSARY**

YANKEE BRASS BAND CONCERT 600.00  
ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT 34798.48

**PROGRAM - MISSION**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING 1035.00  
SPEAKER HONORARIUMS 1150.00  
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS 325.00  
CONTRIBUTIONS - NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS 1622.00  
TIMES NEWS PRINTING - SCRIBE & MISC PUBLICATIONS 4713.12

**HERITAGE CENTER OPERATING COSTS**

WEBSITE MAINTENANCE & ACCOUNTING SERVICES 1783.76  
REAL ESTATE, COMMONWEALTH FILING, & SALES TAXES 4602.35  
PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE 2241.00  
OFFICE SUPPLIES, MAINTENANCE & MISC EXPENSES 2159.54  
STATIONERY, PRINTING, PO BOX, ETC 1730.12  
ELECTRIC UTILITIES - 1117.57  
FUEL OIL - 3374.79  
TELEPHONE SERVICES- 844.27  
INTERNET SERVICES- 1992.48  
WATER, SEWER, TRASH SERVICES - 1896.40

**LITTLE WHITE CHURCH OPERATING COSTS**

GRASS MOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, MAINTENANCE 6350.00  
ELECTRIC UTILITIES 360.01  
FUEL OIL 649.83  
WATER, SEWER, TRASH SERVICES - 144.40

**LITTLE WHITE CHURCH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

NEW FURNACE AT LITTLE WHITE CHURCH 6090.07

TOTAL 79580.19

**INCOME**

**SPECIAL PROGRAM - 125th ANNIVERSARY**

ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT 31207.09

**OPERATIONS**

DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS - BOARD ENDOWMENT 4485.00  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 15060.05  
FOUNDATION GRANTS 21000.00  
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS 3404.50  
CONTRIBUTIONS - PHC DESK 492.25  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING 1025.00  
BUS TOUR, LWC OFFERING, & MISC 1357.79  
SALES - HERITAGE CENTER & FESTIVAL 2378.18

TOTAL 80409.86



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PO Box 267  
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**Palmerton Area  
Historical Society  
Heritage Center**

410 Delaware Avenue  
(610) 824-6954

**Thursdays & Saturdays  
10am-1pm**

