Happy Birthday America!

I love July 4th. I love everything about it. I love backyard barbecues with friends and family, seeing who can spit watermelon seeds the farthest (don’t turn your nose up at that one because you know you’ve done it), running around the neighborhood with sparklers and watching the look on my children’s faces as fireworks explode overhead. I love Grandma’s apple pie (I’m proudly cliché with that one) and vanilla ice cream. I love it when we come together as a community and celebrate this great nation. We are a diverse people coming together and working hard to better our community, our nation and our world.

As America celebrates its 242nd birthday, I want to take this opportunity to thank EVERYONE that protects us and provides us with our safety, our freedoms and our liberties every day. To all the men and women that wear the uniforms of our first responders, emergency personnel and every branch of the armed services … THANK YOU. Without each and every one of you, we would not continue to have the privileges that we celebrate each day.

A reminder to keep an eye on our calendar for our upcoming events as there are several great opportunities coming up for you to network and get involved. For now, grab your Kingsford, your apple pie and ice cream, your watermelon, your sparklers and fireworks (now that they’re legal) and have a great 4th of July.

Sincerely,

Dan Baer
Chair, Board of Directors
Shippensburg Area Chamber of Commerce
**NOTE: No events scheduled until September**
Outside Home Maintenance Tips

The inside of the house is where you live, sleep and spend most of your time. We spend a lot of time on the inside of the home fixing this or remodeling that but there is also an outside to your home. Outside maintenance to your home is an extremely important process in the overall quality of the structure. The better that we maintain and take care of the outside, the home will last a lot longer with less major problems that will arise. Let’s talk about some of the opportunities to catch the outside up to the inside.

Go outside and walk around your home and really look at it. No matter what the structure of the home is made from like brick, siding, block or wood you will find areas that need taken care of. Check for loose siding or wood. Check for cracks or missing mortar in brick and block. Next look at your gutters and downspouts. Are they tight to the house? Are they clogged? Are there holes in them that water is leaking from? The number one issue on the outside of the home is water. Fill in any cracks with the right products. Repair gutters and downspouts right away. It only takes one big storm for you to get water in a basement or through your roof which could cost you thousands of dollars.

Next look at the flowers, shrubs and trees around your home. Are they touching the home? If so, we need to get them trimmed back away from the home. Tree limbs that overhang onto the home are a highway for bugs, mice and squirrels. This opens your structure of the home up to all kinds of dangers and damage. Shrubs and flowers should always be at least 6 inches from the house walls to allow air flow to the home. If shrubs are touching the home, mold and mildew will start to form and the rubbing of the branches will start to wear out the siding on the home. If they are overgrown, then make that tough decision and either cut them back or pull them out and start over.

Lastly, we all love to use the grill and outside space during this time of year but you need to make sure that the grill or smoker is in the right spot. Keep grills at least 1 ft away from the home when using them and allow them to cool properly before pushing them back to the home to store. Siding melts very quickly and wood will catch fire very easily. If you are using a charcoal grill and there are hot ashes, let them cool completely down before disposing of them.

These are only a few ideas on how to maintain the outside of your home but if you start with these small projects, your home will last a lot longer with a lot less major repair. Get outside and enjoy the great summer weather and while you are outside take a couple of minutes to walk around and inspect your home. It is amazing what we find just by looking!!
In our January article, we provided a short overview of our three companies — Vigilant Hose Company, Cumberland Valley Hose Company and West End Fire and Rescue Company. With Vigilant Hose celebrating its 175th anniversary this year, we wanted to share a few highlights of the history of the all-volunteer fire service in Shippensburg.

Vigilant Hose Company

Vigilant Hose Company was formed in February 1843. The first new piece of fire apparatus ever operated in the borough arrived by rail in 1860, and was assigned to Vigilant. In 1919, the company received the borough's first piece of motorized apparatus, a Ford chemical and hose engine.

In 1932, fire protection was extended to the rural areas surrounding the borough. M. Garfield Barbour was named the first rural fire chief, serving until 1958.

In the 1960s, Vigilant started both a junior members’ program and a ladies’ auxiliary, and opened a second station in Walnut Bottom that later became South Newton Township Volunteer Fire Company. Vigilant built its first bunkroom early in 1977, and later that year accepted women as members for the first time.

In 1991, Vigilant and Cumberland Valley Hose Company joined resources to build the Shippensburg Firefighters Activities Center on West Orange Street, home to fundraising and other events. In 2010, having outgrown its building at King and Prince streets, Vigilant joined with Shippensburg Area EMS to construct the Shippensburg Emergency Services Building on the site of the former University Lodge on Walnut Bottom Road. The new facility opened in June 2012, and in 2013 received LEED Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the first public safety building in Pennsylvania to do so.

Cumberland Valley Hose Company

Cumberland Valley Hose Company was organized in January 1859. The company motto, “Ever Ready,” was adopted in 1877, and is still the motto today. CV Hose formed its first fire police organization in 1879.

The company’s first motorized piece of equipment, an American LaFrance hose-chemical pumping apparatus, was purchased in 1920. In 1937, the borough bought a Ward LaFrance pumper for CV Hose; in 2004, the company was able to buy back the pumper and restore it.

Recognizing the increasing number of multi-story buildings on the then-Shippensburg State College campus and elsewhere in the community, borough council purchased a 1949 American LaFrance telescoping aerial ladder truck from a New Jersey fire company in late 1969 — CV’s first ladder truck. (The company expects to put its new 2018 Pierce aerial ladder truck in service this month.)

The present CV Hose building on East King Street, next to the Shippensburg Historical Society and across the street from the Chamber office, was constructed in 1949.

West End Fire and Rescue Company

West End Fire and Rescue was formed in 1955. It has provided emergency rescue service since its founding; the first rescue vehicle was a 1947 Dodge panel truck, originally owned by Henry’s Bakery, that was donated by Frank Hollar. Nearly a dozen other area businesses donated equipment for the unit.

West End purchased its first engine, a 1935 International with a 400-gallon-per-minute pump, in 1958. The company bought its first new piece of apparatus, a 1973 International engine, for about $37,000. By comparison, the two 2015 Pierce engines the company purchased new cost nearly $550,000 each.

In 1977, West End put into service its first rescue tool, the Hurst “Jaws of Life.” It also broke ground for an expansion to its station on Lurgan Avenue that added a second floor and included a bunkroom, offices and expanded work area. Thirty-five years later, in September 2012, West End dedicated a second expansion project that added four apparatus bays, a gear room and a watch office to the station.

The company’s recent history also includes a tragic chapter: a line of duty death on January 20, 2003, when Lt. Keith Hess was killed at the scene of a house fire in Blairs Mills. Two other firefighters were injured. More than 1,000 people and nearly 200 pieces of fire apparatus attended Keith’s funeral.

A new book on the history of Shippensburg’s fire service recently was written by Randy Watts, a former SFD firefighter. For more information or to purchase it, email shipfiredept@gmail.com
SCPRA - Summer Fun in the Shippensburg Parks!

Movies in the Park! (Watch for special venues!)

Title Sponsors: Hub City Club, Volvo Construction Equipment, & Coldwell Banker

Be sure to join us, Sat. July 14th for our next event

Polar Express @ Shippensburg Station
FREE!! – Movie starts at DUSK

July Feature Sponsors:
American Legion Post #223 and VFW Post #6168

DUCK DODGE 5K – Sat. August 18th – Dykeman Park & Trails
Details at www.shippensburgparkandrec.org

July is National Parks and Recreation Month!
Take some time this month to discover the parks in our Community:
- Shippensburg Memorial Park & Pool/Veteran’s Stadium
  - Branch Creek Children’s Park
- Dykeman Springs Park and Nature Trails
  - Dentler Village Park

Prepare A Plan To Replace Your Water Heater

If you want to save time, energy and effort in the future, think about a replacement plan for your water heater when it fails.

This helpful tip comes from an expert who has published research showing that the increased use of electric appliances would improve energy efficiency in the home. According to an article published in the November 2017 issue of The Electricity Journal by Keith Dennis, the senior principal of end-use solutions and standards at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), some assumptions and measurements for energy efficiency are no longer accurate. The article explains that electric water heaters are a much better choice than natural gas—both for environmental impact, as well as home energy savings. And that’s important because water heating accounts for approximately 15 percent of your home’s energy use.

The problem is, replacing a water heater is often a panic decision because they seem to break at the worst time. “Most people replace their water heater in an emergency situation,” Dennis says. “That may not be best for the environment or a homeowner’s wallet”. Many electric utilities, including electric co-ops, have incentives that make it easier to buy the most effective water heater. Adams Electric members who join the U-Shift, U-$ave water heating program allow an interruptible switch to be installed free of charge (a $215-value) on their electric water heater. They earn a $10 monthly bill credit for doing so ($5 a month for a heat pump water heater).

The co-op also offers a rebate for the purchase of new electric water heater that is part of the U-Shift, U-$ave program. A rebate is also available to members who convert an existing water heater to the U-Shift program.

A $10 monthly bill credit is also available for the months of June, July and August to members who allow U-Shift switches to be installed on their heat pumps or central air units. Members may also pay to install a separately-metered off-peak subpanel and pay about 40 percent less on the energy supply portion of their bills for any electricity that runs through that subpanel.

The bottom line: Before purchasing a new water heater for your home, talk to the energy experts at Adams Electric.

For more information (888-232-6732) or www.adamsec.coop
“Free Indeed”

July is the month we remember how great it is to live in a free country. It is also the time to remember those men and women who sacrificed so much so that we could enjoy that freedom. And to them we say, “Thank you.”

But interestingly enough you can live in a free country and still not be free. Or you can live in a dictatorship and be truly free. How can this be? Because no matter who you are or what country you live in, everyone is enslaved to something the Bible calls sin.

Sin is doing those things that are outside the will of God. Those things bring heartache, shame, regret and eventually total enslavement. Enslavement to the tyranny of sin. But there’s hope. You don’t have to live that way.

You can be free no matter who you are, where you live or what you have done.

Jesus spoke to people living under the tyranny of Rome, the most powerful dictatorship in the world at that time. He said, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” -John 8:36. He wasn’t speaking of overthrowing the government or organizing a massive uprising. He was speaking of a freedom that has no bounds or limitations. It isn’t dependent on who you are, the country you live in, or what you have done. It can’t be won by any army, purchased with any amount of money or earned by any good deed. He spoke of a freedom that surpasses all other freedoms and can be experienced anywhere, anytime, by anyone. He spoke of being free from the bondage of sin and its consequences. How? He said in John 8:31, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will now the truth and the truth will set you free.” Freedom comes from Jesus. He purchased it with His blood. He won it on the cross, and He gives it to anyone who knows the truth and holds to His teachings. That’s how to be free indeed. It’s the ultimate freedom. Won by Jesus and given to us.

It’s great to live in a free country. It’s even greater to live free in that country. Are you free? You can be free indeed. -Pastor Jim Rogers

Volvo Construction Equipment

Volvo CE Makes Their Voices Heard

Employees attended Transportation Week on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about the need of government infrastructure funding.

The Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) Legislative Fly-In focuses on trying to increase the federal budget and bring attention to industry issues. Construction executives and employees from all over, including people from Volvo CE Shippensburg, meet yearly in Washington D.C. to get their voices heard by federal legislators.

The week is dedicated to an awareness campaign of putting pressure on Congress and having the industry’s voices be heard. There is a strong need for the federal government to fix the highway trust fund and begin to support the nation’s infrastructure.

“We need a 21st century transportation system that can meet the needs of modern manufacturing. Logistically we need our suppliers and our products to be delivered on time. Delays and congestion have a cost to the bottom line and a modern infrastructure system can mitigate this problem,” Kelly Bobek, Director - Government Relations.

The Volvo CE Shippensburg site had four employees from the plant, Jerome Pritchett, Tim Semple, Bob Begley and Bill Foy, attend the week of events on Capitol Hill. Pritchett got the opportunity to speak at the AEM Press Conference and talked about how the comprehensive infrastructure bill would affect their jobs and overall livelihood.

“Being a production manager, I take part in making an impacting on the machines that build infrastructure. Infrastructure is a big concern to us as it affects our ability to do business efficiently and simultaneously creates work for our factory.

We don’t have hours, we don’t have the business, and people are out of jobs. The biggest thing for us is to make sure infrastructure development is on the forefront of our minds,” he stated.

Attendees got to meet and put pressure on legislators and Members of Congress while they spoke about transportation issues and give feedback on how they are handling those problems. “It’s really exciting to be able to sit down across the table from our elected Members and see that they’re interested in what we have to say.” Bob Begley, business platform leader paving.

There were hundreds of businesses from the industry including many of Volvo CE’s competitors. As those companies stood together on Capitol Hill they had a united voice as they raised awareness for infrastructure support needs.
Utility

IRS Announces They Are Working on a New 2018 1040 Tax Form?

On the six-month anniversary of the passage of tax reform, June 29th, 2018, the Treasury Department and IRS revealed the new 2018 Form 1040 for use in the 2019 filing period. The new form will replace the existing forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ.

The first page of the draft form, is information about the taxpayer, dependents, and the taxpayer’s signature and pledge that the taxpayer is filing correctly.

The second page collects information on the taxpayer’s income, deductions, and credits, including a dedicated line for the child tax credit.

With the consolidation to a single Form 1040, the rules for determining eligibility for various credits, such as the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit, remain unchanged, and the calculations and worksheets necessary for deductions and credits will still be required. In addition, this change adds 6 new supporting schedules (Schedules 1-6) but does not eliminate any other schedules or forms – though, as many of you are aware, there were some already announced changes to schedules and forms as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA).


There is no doubt that the changes from the Tax Cut Jobs Act and the newly designed 2018 Form 1040 is going to create a lot of uncertainty and doubt when it comes to filing your tax return in 2019!

H&R Block is taking active steps to ensure clients understand the benefit we provide in working through these changes. If you have questions about how all this change is going to affect you for next year, please contact your local H&R Block.

For more information, contact H&R Block located at 103 South Conestoga Drive, Shippensburg or (717) 532-7744 or visit us at www.hrblock.com

Source: Barbara Richardson, MBA, EA

H&R Block
Heat Stroke Life-Threatening:

- Call 9-1-1 immediately if someone shows signs of heat stroke. When you get hot, seriously consider if the issue that’s bothering you is one you want to die on. Is it really that important? Many times we react without thought, and later wish we had not.

- Consider letting the issue go without comment or action. Give yourself time to think before you act or speak. Sometimes asking yourself what you think the other’s role in the interaction is can help you hold your tongue.

- Give yourself time to think before you act or speak. When you get hot, seriously consider if the issue that’s bothering you is one you want to die on. Is it really that important? Many times we react without thought, and later wish we had not.

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- If someone hurts you, though, there’s nothing wrong with letting them know it, clearly, but without anger. You can say something simple like, “I felt hurt when you did that. Please don’t do it again.”

- Know what is likely to trigger you. If something makes you crazy, avoid it as much as you can. It may take creativity to do this, but it’s worth it to lessen the stress.

- Don’t sweat the small stuff. Everyone has to deal with the same kinds of frustrations. I used to tell my kids, “If there’s not blood or fire involved, don’t bother me” at times. Pretty much that still works — if the only inevitabilities are death and taxes, why do we get so bent out of shape about everything else?

- Before you react, ask if that will reflect the person you want to be, and how you want to treat others. This can really help you hold your tongue.

- Do you consider yourself a positive or a negative person? Thinking through this question can help you get yourself back in line with your personal goals.

Finding balance after getting too hot can be a challenge, but with practice, you can improve your skill at doing it. If things get hot, and you need help figuring it all out, don’t hesitate to let us know. We are here to help you live your best life … coolly!

Source: Ellen J.W. Gigliotti, Clinical Director
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As I write this we are in the middle of our first – but probably not last – heat wave of summer 2018.

But it isn’t that kind of hot I’m talking about.

You know the other well, I suspect. I know I do.

Someone says just the wrong thing, or possibly just an unfortunate thing at the wrong time. Someone questions you … or doubts you. Someone who shouldn’t, argues. Your kids get on your last nerve. Your spouse snores. Something happens that causes you to lose your cool.

Sometimes it doesn’t take much to make us hot, even without the heat wave.

But Thomas Jefferson was right when he said, “Nothing gives one person so much advantage over another as to remain cool and unruffled under all circumstances.”

So what are some strategies to help us cool down when those temperatures rise?

- Research has shown that, once your heart rate rises above 100 beats a minute, most of us lose the ability to be rational and to think. When this happens, stop, take time to bring that heart rate down, and then resume your activities.

- Having a hard time thinking of ways to bring your heart rate down? Walk. Do almost anything physical. Deep breathe. Stretch. If you can, move locations, focus on something else. Count to ten (that really works). All of these will help you cool down.

- When you get hot, seriously consider if the issue that’s bothering you is one you want to die on. Is it really that important? Many times we react without thought, and later wish we had not.

- Consider letting the issue go without comment or action. Give yourself time to think before you act or speak. Sometimes asking yourself what you think the other’s reaction will be can be a reminder to check your actions or words.

Source: American Red Cross