



NEWSLETTER

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Vintage Postcards

By Jacqueline Magann

In the summer of 2022 Bernadine Lennon and Diane Smith of Greene-Dreher Historical Society wrote articles for the Greene-Dreher Historical Society Newsletter on postcards. The articles prompted me to undertake a program on the postcards in the Barrett Historical Society collection.

The first sheet of postcards was printed by a French engraver in 1777. However, the idea did not catch on readily because of the fear that people other than the receiver could read them.

There are three periods identified in the history of postcards:

- The pre-Postcard Period 1848-1870
- The Pioneer Period 1870-1898
- The Private Mailing Period 1898-1901

In the pre-Postcard Period some people sent cards through the mail with attached postage. These cards are typically referred to as “mailed cards”. Envelopes with pictures on them were produced during this period, and some speculate that postcards are the direct descendants of these picture envelopes.

(Continued on page 7)

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Presidential Message

A New Year Means New Opportunities for BTHS

Like many of us, I view the New Year with a heavy dose of excitement tempered by nostalgia. The New Year represents a fresh start, built on the work we completed in the past. All of this is predicated on the continued service provided to the Society by our dedicated volunteers.

In 2023, we began the ambitious job of taking a new inventory of our archives. Thanks to the crew working diligently in the Library and Research Center, this daunting task is well underway. Part of the work being done is to have all of our documents prepared for digitizing our collection. This is part of a larger effort being administered by the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library. We do not yet know when the contractors doing the work will get to our collection but we can feel confident that we will be prepared when they do.

The work being done at the LRC is only part of what we have going on at the Barrett Township Historical Society. Operation of the Cresco Station Museum and Library and Research Center, monthly programs at the Friendly Community Center, articles in the Village View, special events, visits from Steamtown, rotating exhibits in the display cases at the Library and our quarterly newsletter are all being done by our incredible volunteers. What that list represents are the activities that everyone in the community can see, but there is so much more work that goes into each of these activities that go unseen. Everything that the BTHS does or contemplates doing is coordinated by volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

It is a lot of work and it requires a commitment of time but it is also a lot of fun and the emotional reward of doing something for your community is wonderful. We can use your help. Please look hard at your calendar and see if there isn't some way you can find the time to join our team and become involved. The Executive Committee meets the second Monday of the month at 3 pm at the Library and Research Center across from the train station in Cresco. I highly encourage everyone reading this to come out to a meeting and find out how you can become a part of the fun.

Darryl Speicher
BTHS President



2024 Yesteryear Calendars are still available at Steele's Hardware Store in Mountainhome!

Barrett Township Historical Society Calendars for 2024 are now on sale at Ace/Steele's Hardware in Mountainhome for \$10.00 each. They are titled "Yesteryear" and feature photographs taken from the Postcard Collection housed at the Society's Library Research Center on Sand Spring Road across from the Cresco Station Museum. Stop in and get yours before they're gone!

⚡ Whoops, a Mistake...

If there is something that needs to be corrected, speak-up. Please email me at alesiagallo@yahoo.com or give me call/text at (570)972-6422.

Visit our website at www.barretthistorical.org

2024 Board of Directors

Shirley Lansdowne Jayne Blair Mary Price Marie Guidry Claudia Shoesmith-Fox

2024 Executive Officers

President	Darryl Speicher
Vice President	Walter Lewis
Recording Secretary	Ellen Davis
Corresponding Secretary	Hannelore Gaupp
Treasurer	Claudia Shoesmith-Fox

Treasurer’s Report

Claudia Shoesmith-Fox, Treasur-
DATE: 12/31/2023
Checking: \$618.76
Money Market: \$5,186.69
CD: \$15,276.16
CD: \$20,740.40
TOTAL: \$41,822.01

2024 Executive Committee

<u>Archivist for LRC & CSM</u>	Consolidated in LRC & CSM activities
Cresco Station Museum	Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese
Curator for LRC & CSM	Joanne Seese
Finance	Claudia Shoesmith-Fox
Historian	Jacqueline Magann
Hospitality	OPEN
Information Systems	Jim Bibber
Library Research Center	Jacqueline Magann & Joanne Seese
Membership	Jackie Speicher
Newsletter	Alesia Gallo, Editor & Jacqueline Magann, Co-Editor
Oral Tradition	Christina Raley
Programs	Mary Price & Malinda Bender, Co-Chairs
Publicity	Marie S. Guidry
Research	OPEN
Ways & Means Committee	Diane Price

Exec Committee Meeting Dates

Executive Committee meetings are held on the 2nd
Monday at 3 pm monthly at LRC
February 16
March 15
April 19

General Membership Meeting Dates

February 12 at 2:00 pm
March 11 at 2:00 pm
April 8 at 2:00 pm

Committee Reports:

Cresco Station Museum Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese

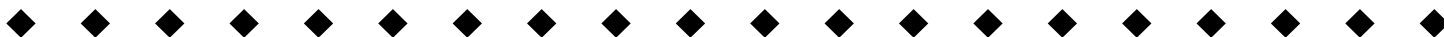
The Cresco Station Museum will be open the first Sunday of the month from 1 pm to 4 pm weather permitting.

Information Systems Jim Bibber

Jim Bibber, a member of the BTHS, has agreed to Chair this committee. He will be working with Blue Ridge to update our communications system. An inventory of the Library Research Center is being conducted under the guidance of Jayne Blair.

Newsletter Alesia Gallo

Some folks may be curious about who I am —the lady behind your BTHS newsletter. I am a former educator at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center where I also headed their public relations. Prior to that I worked at The Inn at Pocono Manor in the sales and human resources departments. As of recently, I have taken on my most challenging, yet rewarding role yet, the mother to a beautiful baby girl. I currently reside in Tobyhanna, with my husband Anthony, our two cats and our daughter. I am an avid hiker, baker and reader. I have lived in the Poconos most of my life and enjoy learning about the history of our area. I am looking forward to learning more about the history of Barrett as I continue to help share this information with others via our newsletter and website.



Upcoming Programs

February 16, 2024 @ 2 pm (This will be a duel program)

“The Sprag Mill” by Mickey Miller

Theodore B. Price invented the Sprag which was patented and first used in 1902. Do you know what a sprag looks like and what it was used for? Do you know who the “runners” were and what their job was? If not, please join us for the story behind this invention and enjoy slides showing the actual machine which makes the sprags and how and why it came into being.

“The History of the Cresco Garage” by Malinda Bender

The Cresco Garage was built in the early 1900’s (approximately 1906) and has an interesting history. Come find out who the original owners were right up to the latest owners who just purchased the Cresco Garage in January of 2023 after the current owner of several years passed away. Refreshments will be served.

March 15, 2024 @ 2 pm

“Trivia Round Two” hosted by Vic Vacarro (aka Darryl Speicher)

How much do you know about local, state and national history? There will be an equal amount of questions in each of these categories. You may play as an individual or form a team with other players. So gather up your friends and family and come prepared to do battle and find out just how much you know. You might be surprised! Then again, maybe not! Come and join us at the Friendly Community Center for a good time and a lot of laughs with snacks to keep you on your toes.

April 19, 2024 @ 2 pm

Program and details to be announced at a later time.

Program Recaps

October

Our program for October was “Vintage Postcards of the Villages and Resorts of Barrett Township”. The program started with the history and evolution of postcards. The first sheet of postcards was printed by a French engraver in 1777. There are three periods identified in the history of postcards. The pre-Postcard Period from 1848-1870, the Pioneer Period from 1870-1898 and the Private Mailing Period from 1898-1901. This was followed up by a power point presentation showing several vintage postcards of our five villages of Barrett including early resorts. On display were several books of postcards from the BTHS collection as well as those from Walter Lewis and some early 1900’s postcards with photographs of family members from Malinda Price Bender. There is much more history to the evolution of postcards. We welcome all to stop in at the Library Research Center on Sand Spring Road, Cresco to view the postcard collection.

November

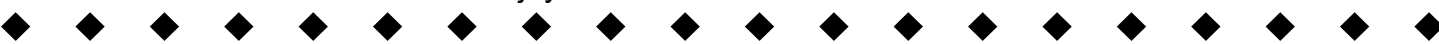
Our program for November was “Winter Wonders” presented by Derek Lederer, naturalist at Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. He presented a power point presentation of winter critters of the Poconos, their adaptations, and signs that can be seen of them with snow cover during the winter months. After the program everyone had the chance to check out the pelts of various animals which he brought with him. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.



November Winter Wonder Program Presented by the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

December

Our program for December was “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. Ruth Kochera entertained us with Christmas music throughout the program. Those who brought special ornaments shared the history behind the ornament and what made it special to them. Everyone enjoyed telling stories about their Christmas experiences, some of which were very entertaining! Before we ended, Ruth played “The Twelve Days of Christmas” with several joining in singing their part as one of the “twelve”. What fun! Everyone then was treated to the beautiful array of homemade Christmas cookies to enjoy.



December and January Display featured vintage Christmas ornaments

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library Display

Just a reminder that when you are at the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library to take a moment and check out the Barrett Township Historical Society display case featuring Vintage Christmas Ornaments for the months of December and January.

We are rotating items every two months. The next display will be for the months of February and March and will feature hand woven items by Carol Hillstad. If anyone has a collection they would like displayed, please contact Ellen Davis at belle45@ptd.net.



Bed Bug Control 101

By Ellen Davis

Bed bugs as adult are usually about ¼" in size & orange to red in color depending if they have fed recently.

They congregate on the seams of mattress, bed pads, slats of beds & crevasses of beds & along the crevasses of walls behind beds usually.

Refer to the internet sites for life cycle of bed bugs.

Professional exterminators can be costly but Ellen recommends them. They will heat treat & also spray.

Most important is to NOT spread the bugs: To do this, avoid the area where they are spotted. Heat treat linens, clothing, etc. by washing on the longest cycle of the wash machine in the hottest water possible (you might want to turn your water heater temp up for this) & then drying on the hottest cycle possible in the dryer. Then keep these out of the bed bug area.

If you need to go into the area, wear old clothes that then can be immediately heat treated.

Be patient; eradicating bed bugs will take awhile.

Bed Bug Life Cycle



Image Source: <https://www.epa.gov/bedbugs/bed-bugs-appearance-and-life-cycle>

Contact Ellen at belle45@ptd for hints at controlling them - the little rascals!

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(Vintage Postcards Continued from Cover Page)

Postcards were first restricted by size, color and other regulations. On February 27, 1861, the U.S. Congress passed an act that allowed privately printed cards weighing one ounce or under to be sent in the mail. That same year John P. Carlton copyrighted the first postcard in America.

In the Pioneer Period in 1870 Hyman Lipman began re-issuing Carlton's postcards under a new name: Lipman's Postcards. Congress passed legislation on June 8, 1872, that approved government production of postcards. The first government produced postcard was issued on May 1, 1873. One side of the postcard was for a message and the other side was for the recipient's address. Early postcards didn't have pictures.

In the Private Mailing Period Congress passed an act allowing private printing companies to produce postcards with the statement "Private Mailing Card" authorized by Act of Congress of May 19, 1898. Private Mailing Cards now cost the same amount of money to mail as government produced postcards. The words "Private Mailing Card" distinguished privately printed cards from government printed cards.

There was a postcard craze between the years of 1907-1910 in rural America. Demand for postcards increased, government restrictions on production loosened and technology advanced (in photography, printing and mass production). German manufacturers produced most of the postcards used by Americans up through 1909. American publishers who did not wish to compete with German publishers lobbied for a tariff on imported postcards. The new tariff on postcards increased the cost of postcards by 300 percent. German publishers began moving production to the United States shortly after the tariff to keep selling to the American market. Effects of the tariffs were reinforced by the British Naval blockage of German merchant ships at the outbreak of World War I in 1914. The War cut off the importation of fine German-produced cards as well as dyes for ink which were largely produced by the German Empire.

Hand-printed postcards were produced in France and Belgium. These were photo cards with various topics which were colored by hand, giving them a realistic color look. Unfortunately, these cards did not last long. The process of hand-tinting was labor intensive and unhealthy. Mostly women artists sat in rows while the postcards were passed down "assembly line style". Each woman was responsible for a particular color. The cards were small, the artwork detailed. Women would wet the tip of their brush, usually cotton covered, with their lips as they worked. Soon the lead in the paint took its toll as women became ill.

In response to the War-time shortages of ink and the restrictions placed on importation, American publishers began producing larger quantities of postcards which featured a white border on the edges. This decision change allowed publishers to save ink and lowered the precision of threshold for cutting the cards. The white border area would last from about 1913 to 1930.

Photo postcards just had a small strip along the bottom front edge for messages but later evolved into the split-back version we are familiar with today with space for writing a message and an address.

The first postcards with pictures appeared in France in 1870 when the first postcard was sent from Vienna.

Postcards were heavily featured at the 1889 Exposition Universelle to unveil the Eiffel Tower and in 1893 when postcards with photographs first began to become popular collectibles.

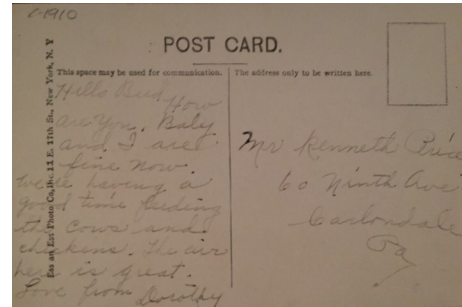
The penny postcard stamp lasted until 1952 and then the stamp cost 2 cents.

There is much more history to the evolution of postcards. We welcome all to stop in at the Library Research Center on Sand Spring Road, Cresco, and view the postcard collection.

Visit our website at www.barretthistorical.org

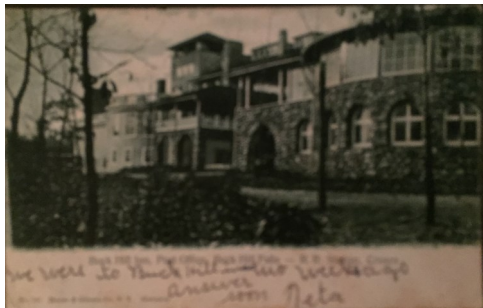
Vintage Postcards

(Continued from Cover Page)



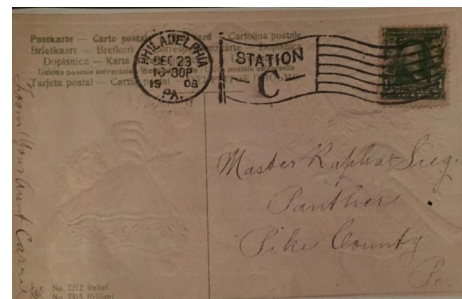
“The Bridge at Mountainhome”

Split-back postcard postmarked August 13th, 1909, Mountainhome, PA. Woodlawn House in the background was once owned by Reverend Samuel Cooper (Mountainhome United Methodist Church). The last owner was Cook's Touch Restaurant. The building was raised and is now the CVS Pharmacy.



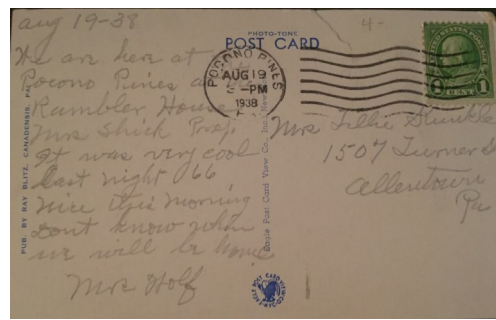
“Buck Hill Falls Post Office”

The Inn was built in 1901. This photo postcard dated 1905 had a small strip of white along the bottom front edge for messages but later evolved into the split-back version. The card carries 3 postmarks – Mount Pocono, Swiftwater and Canadensis. It is amazing to see that this cost 1 cent and got to the destination just addressed to Swiftwater, Monroe County, PA.



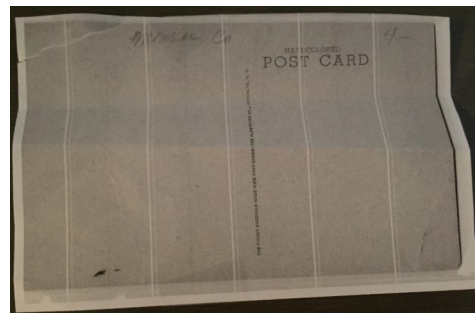
“Christmas Greetings”

This card postmarked Philadelphia, PA, Station C, 1908 was split-back. It was mailed to Master Rapha Sieg, Panther, Pikes County, PA. When Rapha was a lad, it was sent by his Aunt Carrie. Some of you will recognize the family name as past owners of Laurel Grove Hotel, Canadensis. Rapha was also a bus driver for the Barrett Consolidated School



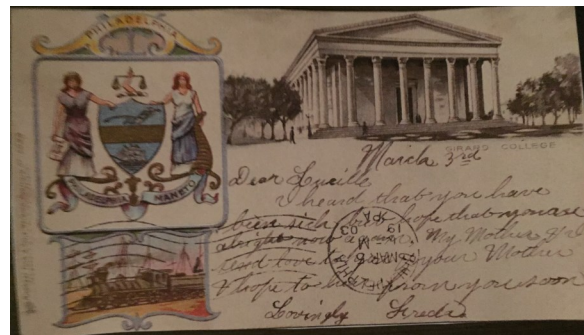
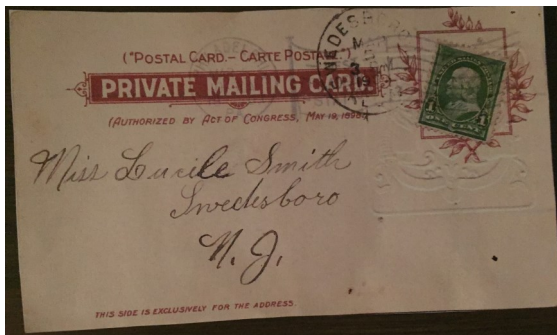
“The Canadensis Hotel”

It was built in 1867 and first owned by Adam Albert and the hotel was noted for attracting fishermen to the area. The hotel was also called Green Mountain House when it was owned by Frank Brown in 1916. It burned the winter of 2003.



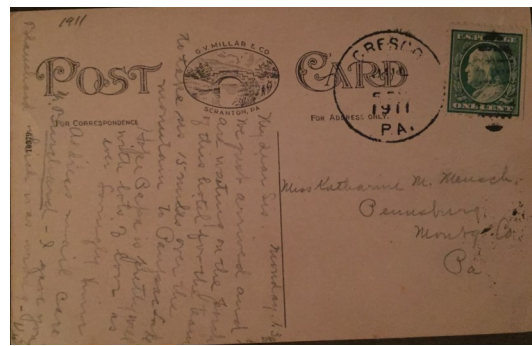
“Skiing at the Lodge at Skytop Club”

The club was not open to the public. It was a private club and the postcard is hand colored.



“Private Mailing Card”

It was authorized by an Act of Congress on May 19, 1898. The back of the postcard is used exclusively for the address. The card depicts the seal of Philadelphia, PA, and includes a picture of Girard College in Philadelphia.



“The Cresco Hotel”

This card is postmarked 1911, Cresco, PA. The hotel was located across from the DL&W Railroad Station. Owners J.W. Yothers and J.S. Coleman petitioned the court in April 1880 for a tavern license. It was granted in May 1880. How convenient for train passengers.

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Historical Recipe Side by Side: Soup

By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

It's that time of year – cold and flu, and Soup! Does Soup really have medicinal value, is it really the original penicillin? I know when I am not feeling well, a cup of hot soup is my “go to” comfort food. For some it's chicken soup, for other's it's a cream soup, or a hearty meat and veg soup – for me, it's Campbell's Tomato Soup. Soup has been a comfort food for decades, even centuries. Here is a look at some of the winning soups over the years in the Newspapers.

(Photos are clickable links to actual recipes in digital newsletter)

 <p>Barley Soup. Wash and rub dry half a pint of pearl barley and boil it in a quart of white stock until the barley be reduced to a pulp. To this then add enough white stock to make the whole of the consistency of cream, and put the soup back on the fire. When it boils, take the vessel off the fire and stir into the soup the yolk of an egg beaten up in half a pint of cream, and then melt in it half an ounce of fresh butter.</p> <p>Italian Salad. Take some cold cooked potatoes, some raw peeled cucumber and Brussels sprouts, cooked artichoke bottoms and any other nice vegetable; cut all these</p>	 <p>Squash Soup Take about 2 pounds squash, cut off rind and boil till soft; press through a sieve and then add a quart of scalded milk; add pinch of salt, a little sugar and cinnamon, and let boil up once; serve with buttered croutons. E. A. S. Boston.</p> <p>Oyster Chowder Boil 2 medium sized potatoes peeled in a little water; to this add 1/4 pound fat pork, fried out, and 2 onions chopped and fried in it, when cooked, add a pint milk which has come to a boil;</p>	 <p>VELVET SOUP.—Boil two or three quarts of milk or stock, and add one tablespoonful cornstarch mixed with a glass of cold water, milk, or stock. Boil for five minutes; then add two whole eggs, beaten with one glass milk, and two tablespoonfuls butter.</p> <p>Given Due Warning. On an ash tray which has reached England from Germany is the following: “Defilement of the room by ash of cigars is forbidden to the severest.</p>
<p>Barley Soup (1898) <u>08 May 1898, Sun The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) Newspapers.com</u></p>	<p>Squash Soup (1904) <u>10 Apr 1904, Sun Boston Post (Boston, Massachusetts) Newspapers.com</u></p>	<p>Velvet Soup (1906) <u>30 Aug 1906, Thu Plainville Times (Plainville, Kansas) Newspapers.com</u></p>
 <p>Cranberry Soup Brown together 1 spoonful butter and 3 flour. Thin to the consistency of soup with water, added gradually. Add a good slice of lemon, 1 small cup of cranberries, 2 tablespoons raw rice, 1 of sugar, 1 small bit of stick cinnamon; salt to taste. Let boil gently until the rice is cooked.</p> <p>Chopped Roast Have a reliable butcher give you 1 pound each of beef, veal, pork, each finely and separately chopped. These</p>	 <p>Sweet Potato Soup.—Take two cups of baked sweet potato, mash, put through a ricer, add a quart of hot milk and put into a double boiler. Brown two tablespoonfuls of flour, add two tablespoonfuls of butter, and when smooth add the milk; season to taste and serve with a dash of cinnamon.</p> <p>Now is the time; ah, friend, No longer wait To scatter loving smiles and words</p>	 <p>Savory Vegetable Stew To keep in step with wartime activity of Valley women, assisting neighbors preparing Valley green products will be presented each day on this page. Readers are asked to send in their own recipes or others they have tried and found when chosen a minimum of returning posts and afford high relative value. Some of women supplying recipes will be printed unless otherwise requested. Recipes using Valley grown produce, particularly leaf vegetables and fruits, are especially desirable. Fresh Valley vegetables are used for the variety vegetable soup recipe given below except for the cup of white kernel corn or lima beans. Either will use approximately six grams from crop surplus bins.</p> <p>SAVORY VEGETABLE STEW (Serves Eight) 2 lbs. raw beef, lamb, veal or pork 1 cup oil 2 lbs. onion 1/2 cup sugar 2 cups leaf of chopped art 1 cup chopped tomato 1 cup tomato 2 cups boiling water 1 cup whole kernel corn or 1/2 cup lima beans Cut beef into cube pieces, oil in bowl. Brown meat with chopped onion on hot fire or stove. Add onion, water, bay leaves, salt and pepper. Remove the beef. Boil quickly and thick, a quarter pint water, add with white white cooking in 1943 recipe, remove 1/2 cup of oil, pour and vegetables are allowed water. Add pork or lima beans or corn, remove five minutes more. If desired, season green with flour and water mixed in a paste.</p>
<p>Cranberry Soup (1921) 08 Jan 1921, Sat Boston Post (Boston, Massachusetts) Newspapers.com</p>	<p>Sweet Potato Soup (1923) 27 Sep 1923, Thu Hill City Republican (Hill City, Kansas) Newspapers.com</p>	<p>Savory Vegetable Stew (1943) <u>26 Feb 1943, Fri Valley Morning Star (Harlingen, Texas) Newspapers.com</u></p>

Remember for cold and flu season, wash your hands often, sneeze into your elbow. Get a updated flu and RSV vaccinations, and if you're not feeling well. Stay away from others – oh, and try a bowl of soup. You might feel better. Thousands of mothers think you will.

What's New with COVID-19?

By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

It's cold and flu season as it is every winter. Along with colds and flu, this year we also have a resurgence of COVID-19 with the new variant and RSV. As mentioned in the July 2023 newsletter, the COVID-19 virus continues to circulate in high levels around the world, and continues to mutate to create variants – our new variant is JN.1.

In the October 2023 newsletter I mentioned that you could and should get an updated COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the new RSV vaccine. But no vaccine is perfect, and you still might get a mild case of COVID. If you do get sick, you need to test yourself, and you might need treatment with an antiviral (a drug that stops the virus from replicating in your body) if you meet the criteria for treatment.

First, test yourself if you are sick. You can order free COVID testing kits from the CDC at: <https://www.covid.gov/tools-and-resources/resources/tests> or you can call 1-800-232-0233 for help with ordering the free COVID tests.

If you are sick, call your provider and request treatment. Antivirals are available for those individuals who are at least 50 years of age or older OR who have certain underlying medical conditions, such as a weakened immune system, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, or chronic lung disease, regardless of your age.

Sources:

CDC COVID-19 Illness Severity <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data-research/dashboard/illness-severity.html>, accessed Jan 5, 2024

WHO Tracking SARS-CoV-2 Variants <https://www.who.int/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants> accessed Jan 5, 2024

CDC Overview of COVID-19 Vaccines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/overview-COVID-19-vaccines.html> , accessed Jan 5, 2024

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Barrett Township Historical Society

New Membership

Membership Renewal

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Regular Membership

Individual \$20.00

Family \$30.00

Business/Organization
\$50.00

Sustaining Membership

Friend \$51.00 - \$99.00

Patron \$100.00 - \$249.00

Angel \$250.00 - \$499.00

Lifetime Membership

\$500.00 and Up

Additional Donation \$ _____ enclosed

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***Please make checks payable to Barrett Township Historical Society and mail check
and membership form to:***

**Barrett Township Historical Society
PO Box 358
Mountainhome, PA 18342**

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