



Lower Saucon Township

-Established in 1743-

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer 2011

Saucon Rail Trail Opening



On May 7, 2011, after several years of negotiations with SEPTA and a year for construction, the Lower Saucon Township portion of the Saucon Rail Trail was finally opened. Working in partnership with Hellertown Borough, officials from the two communities cut the ribbon to officially open the combined 2.8 mile section of the trail that runs through the two communities and connects with the 2-mile Upper Saucon Township section that had opened previously in April. Keeping within our budget of \$50,000, the Township erected safety fencing on the two bridges spanning the Saucon Creek, installed gates, bollards and signage at the Meadows and Old Mill Road crossings, and using our Public Works staff, laid down a hard packed surface of inexpensive recycled concrete material for pedestrians and bicyclists. Reports that have been received from the thousands of people who have discovered the trail in the

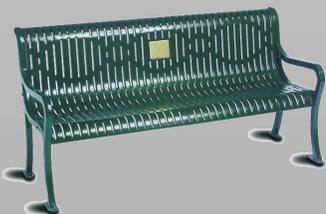
backyard of the Borough and Township rave about the natural beauty and tranquility of the trail as it passes the Hellertown Marsh, follows the Saucon Creek and winds its way through the quiet secluded cuts on its way to the Bingen crossing.

Future improvements to the trail will include the extension of the trail southward through Upper Saucon Township to connect with Coopersburg Borough and Bucks County and northward over Norfolk Southern owned track to connect with the Bethlehem Greenway at Saucon Park. The Township is currently negotiating the purchase of property adjacent to the trail which will serve as a trailhead access point and provide parking, toilet and picnic facilities for the public. Currently, the only parking and access to the trail is from the Hellertown Borough end, at Water Street and Grist Mill Parks, and at the Upper Saucon end of the trail at their Community Park on Preston Lane.

As a result of an incident on the trail that required an EMS response by Dewey Ambulance Company, the emergency responders asked the Township and Borough to work on installing markers along the trail that could be used in identifying the location on the trail in the event of an emergency call to Northampton County 911. Spearheaded by Roger Jurczak, a Township resident and member of the Saucon Rail Trail Advisory Committee, and underwritten by two merchants in Hellertown, Saucon Valley Bikes and Advanced Optics, a system of wood posts will soon be installed along the Hellertown and Lower Saucon sections of the trail denoting the municipality, the trail initials (SRT) and the mileage designation which will utilize the historic milepost numbering system that was used by the North Penn Railroad. This system will be further augmented with the addition of color coded posts every ¼ mile with the colors (Green for Hellertown; Orange for Lower Saucon Township) and road crossing signs at each of the six (6) road crossings in the two municipalities.



Saucon Rail Trail Memorial Benches



The Township has instituted a Memorial Bench Program for the trail that will allow individuals or organizations to purchase benches in memory of a loved one or a former member. The benches, which will come in the color green only, cost \$995 and can be purchased directly from Eternal Products, a Coopersburg, PA company, who will assemble the bench, prepare and attach the memorial plaque, and install the bench at one of the seven (7) locations chosen on the Lower Saucon Township portion of the trail. For more information, contact Jack Cahalan, Township Manager, at manager@lowersaucontownship.org or at (610) 865-3291.

Happy Retirement Ellen!!!



Stacey Ellen

Ellen DePaolis, Lower Saucon Authority Assistant Administrator, retired on June 10th, after 20+ years of dedicated service.

Ellen joined the Authority in January of 1991 and made

many contributions to the operation over the years. Most recently, she oversaw the transition to the new Harris financial software system which upgraded the Authority's financial records and billing, accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll systems.

Ellen knew virtually every customer by name and kept the operation running smoothly day-to-day. She was great to work with and will be missed by her co-workers and the many people she interacted with on a daily basis.

Ellen and her husband Mike reside in Upper Saucon Township.

Stacey Fetzer, Secretary since 1999, has been promoted to Assistant Administrator effective June 13th. Stacey worked closely with Ellen over the years and worked to make the transition to the new accounting system in 2010.

Contact Information Updates Needed

The Lower Saucon Authority maintains water and sewer customer phone numbers which are used occasionally to contact customers to let them know of hydrant flushing or other potential disruptions scheduled for their specific area. This mechanism is also used in the event of a more serious event, such as a main break, boil water advisory, etc.

Customers who have recently changed their phone number or were not called during the late April-early May hydrant flushing should contact the Authority at 610-317-3212 (or by e-mail at billing@lowersauconauthority.org) and leave a message with their name, address and the phone numbers they would like to have on record. These records are not shared or used for anything other than operational or emergency issues and helps the Authority provide more personalized service.

Consumer Confidence Report for 2010

The Consumer Confidence Report for calendar year 2010 was mailed to Lower Saucon Authority water customers on June 15, 2011.

The report is available on the Authority website at www.lowersauconauthority.org Extra paper copies are available at the office. The CCR gives basic information and the results from the regular water tests conducted during the calendar Year.

Walter Street Main Replacement Project -2011



The Authority replaced some 1100 feet of 1940-1950's vintage 2-inch galvanized water main with 4-inch Double-cement-lined ductile iron pipe on Walter Street in the Wydnor area, in May and June.

This project is part of the Authority's ongoing focus on replacing a portion of aging infrastructure each year. Mains on McCloskey and a section of Walter Street to the west were replaced two years ago.

New Above Ground Fuel Tanks

Using a \$43,000 grant awarded by the State through the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) Program, the Township was able to install a new fuel dispensing system at our Public Works facility in the Town Hall complex on Old Philadelphia



Pike. The new system, which consists of two (2) above ground tanks: a 1,000 gallon E85 compliant gasoline tank and a 1,000 gallon tank for bio-diesel fuel, replaced below-ground tanks that were susceptible to leaks in the past. The new system, with steel tanks encased in reinforced concrete vaults, will virtually eliminate the possibility of any future fuel spills. The fuel dispensing system, which is used by the Township Police and volunteer fire companies on a 24/7 basis, also has a new secure fuel management system which utilizes unique PIN numbers assigned to individual users to assist us in tracking fuel usage.



PSU - Lehigh Valley Invasive Plant Removal at Polk Valley Park



Fifteen incoming freshman students at the Penn State Lehigh Valley campus assisted the Saucon Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) on August 19th with the removal of invasive plants at Polk Valley Park. The new students are required by the school to complete a community service project as a part of their campus orientation.



Assisted by PSU-LV coordinator Cindy Nguyen, SCWA members Allan Johnson, Ron Horiszny (and his 2 grandsons), Terry Boos, Tom and Keri Maxfield, and by Lehigh County Conservation District Conservation Specialist Erin Frederick, the students concentrated on a small area in the park and removed three (3) invasives: bamboo, multiflora and crown vetch. This group planned to remove the last vestiges of the bamboo plants that were initially removed in 2010 by volunteers from the Olympus Corporation who worked with the SCWA.



The students began the project by digging up remaining bamboo "runners" and new shoots along the walking trail. This area had previously been worked on by the SCWA and Olympus volunteers last year. The large stalks of bamboo that were removed were defoliated and saved to dry for use as garden stakes. Anyone who would like some bamboo garden stakes - contact Keri Maxfield at the SCWA at: sauconcreek@gmail.com.

Change in Earned Income Tax Collector

In 2012, Keystone Collection Service will replace Berkheimer Associates for Earned Income Tax Collections.

The Saucon Valley School District, Hellertown Borough, and Lower Saucon Township impose an earned income and net profits tax (EIT Tax) on all residents and non-residents who work in the Borough of Hellertown or Lower Saucon Township. Beginning in 2012, all Northampton County Municipalities (except North Catasauqua) and School Districts will have a single EIT Collector, Keystone Collections Group. Also beginning in 2012, taxpayers will need to follow new rules in connection with the collection of local EIT. The EIT tax rate and exemptions will not increase as result of these changes.

Pennsylvania Act 32 of 2008 (Act 32) mandates local EIT on a county-wide basis and the use of a single Tax Collector beginning in 2012. The county-wide tax collection district is known as the Northampton Tax Collection District (TCD). The TCD is governed by the Northampton Tax Collection Committee (TCC) which consists of appointed representatives from each municipality and school district in the TCD.

Act 32 requires the TCC to select a single EIT Collector for the TCD. After reviewing the tax collection rates and capabilities of several tax firms, the TCC voted to appoint Keystone Collections Group as the EIT Collector for Northampton TCD effective 2012. The new collection commission rate of 1.48% is lower than the current rate for most of the municipalities and school districts within the TCD.

Additional information is available at www.keystonecollects.com/

To learn more about Act 32 and the implementation of the Commonwealth's consolidation of local EIT collection, go to www.newpa.com and type in "DCED Act 32" in the search box.

Township Awarded Grant for Rail Trail



At a ceremony on July 14th at Hellertown's Water Street Park attended by the Northampton and Lehigh County Executives and other local and state dignitaries, the Township was one of several municipalities awarded a \$2,400 mini-grant through the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Initiative for amenities such as benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles and bike racks for the Saucon Rail Trail. These items will be installed at the Township's trailhead access once acquisition of that property is completed.

2010 Casino Impact Grant

In October 2010 the Northampton County Gaming Revenue and Economic Redevelopment Authority awarded a Local Share Municipal Gaming Grant to Lower Saucon Township in the amount of \$112,574. The grant, which was received in January 2011, has allowed the Township to create a new full-time police officer's position and purchase a new police vehicle (pictured on right bottom).

To fill the new full-time position, Officer Robert Winters, who had been a part-time officer with Lower Saucon since March of 2010, was promoted and sworn-in on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at the Lower Saucon Township Council Meeting. Rob is currently a resident of Hanover Township and graduated from Emmaus High School. He has completed courses at Lehigh Carbon Community College for both Criminal Justice and construction Management, and graduated from the Allentown Police Academy's Act 120 Basic Police Officer Certification Course in November 2009.

Jared Gunshore, a Lehigh County Sheriff Deputy and graduate of Palisades High School, was hired to fill the P/T Police Officer position vacated by Winters.

The creation of this new full-time position increases the number of full-time officers to fifteen and the total complement of officers to twenty-one.

Additionally, using grant funds, the department was able to purchase a new 2011 Ford Police Interceptor which was outfitted with specialized police equipment for patrol duty. This purchase will help to maintain our fleet of nine police vehicles.

National Take Back Initiative

In conjunction with the Red Ribbon Campaign, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) & Lower Saucon Township Police Department have officially announced that **Saturday, October 29, 2011** will be their next, and *final*, event for the **National Take Back Initiative**. The collection of unwanted or expired medications for a safe and proper disposal will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Lower Saucon Township Police Department.



Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free life and pay tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena.

Police Awards

Several commendations were presented to a number of Lower Saucon's Police Officers for their fine work during 2010 at a Township Council meeting earlier this year.

Chief Guy Lesser presented Patrolman Charles Werkheiser with the Officer-of-the-Year Award. Officer Werkheiser scored the highest overall totals in 13 areas of police performance covering Appearance, Report Quality, Commendation vs. Complaints, Tracker/Vascar Operation, Criminal Arrests, Non-Traffic Citations, Traffic Citations, Warning Notices, Parking Tickets, Patrol Mileage, Vacant Home Checks, Vehicle Stops, and Incidents/Crashes/Offenses investigated.



(Pictured L-R: Sgt. Barndt, Inv. Leidy, Off. Werkheiser, Off. Winters, T.L. Louder, Off. Marth, Chief Lesser)

Additionally, the Chief presented Enforcement Commendation Plaques to Officer Charles Werkheiser, Sergeant Thomas Barndt, Team Leader Thomas Louder, Officer Eric Marth, and Officer Robert Winters for their efforts in combating the terrible effects of Drunk Driving and making traveling the roadways of Lower Saucon Township safer for all of us. All Officers were, as a group, among the top in the County for arrests as confirmed by the Northampton County DUI Program.

Finally, Investigator Christopher Leidy was presented with a Commendation for Special Achievement for his ongoing and continued persistence, attention to detail, and thorough diligence over the course of 4 ½ years while investigating an armed robbery at which the offenders discharged a firearm during December of 2005 which resulted in a conviction in 2010.



Lower Saucon Township Historical Society



Lower Saucon Township Historical Society will host its second annual Apple Festival on October 1, 2011 at the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse on Countryside Lane. Join us between 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. for a day of family fun enjoying a piece of apple pie or maybe a glass of apple cider. The historical society is looking for participants to enter our apple dessert contest. For more information on entering the contest contact us at lshistorical@yahoo.com or call 610-625-8771. Many additional activities are being planned for the festival including crafts for children, a visit and storytelling by Johnny Applesseed, and Laura Ray's goats for children to pet. The festival will feature music by John Samuels in the morning and Rhythm Road will entertain us in the afternoon.

LSTHS meets the second Wednesday of the month in Seidersville Hall on Old Philadelphia Pike. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and guests are always welcome to attend. Our September 14th meeting will be a planning session for the Apple Festival. Our October 12th meeting will be a presentation on the history of Lost River Caverns.

Teen Earns Girl Scout Gold Award with Completion of Native Plant Garden

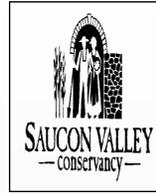


For the past two years, Saucon Valley Girl Scout Mary Elizabeth Anthony has worked at completing and maintaining a native plant garden at Lower Saucon Town Hall. Features added to the garden during Mary Elizabeth's time there include 80 additional native plants, two more nature paths, two wooden podiums which contain maps of the garden, a rain gutter connected to a water barrel that sustains the garden, and a water element powered by solar energy. With completion of the garden project, The Environmental Advisory Council can now apply for the garden to become a Certified Wildlife Habitat.

Among the volunteers who helped Mary Elizabeth complete her Girl Scout Gold Award project are Springtown resident, Hans Reimann, garden advisor; Coopersburg resident, Howard Anderson, carpentry advisor; and Bethlehem resident, Jacob Anthony, graphic art advisor as well as family members and friends.



Saucon Valley Conservancy



Heller Homestead ~ Saucon Valley Conservancy
Save the date – 5th Annual Barn Tour
Saturday, September 10, 2011 -

Fascinated by old barns? Enjoy the unique experience of being able to tour inside some of the wonderful old barns along our rural roads in the Saucon Valley area. Each barn is truly one-of-a-kind. Your day begins with a presentation giving an overview of the barn highlights by two well-known barn experts at the Beethoven Waldheim Club, 1984 Waldheim Road, Hellertown, PA. You can then travel to the barns on the tour at your leisure using our guide book. A great diversity of barns will be experienced and will expand upon the excitement that was created during the past tours that included homestead barns of many types, shapes and sizes.



For information: 610-216-0566, SVConser-vancy@aol.com, www.sauconvalleyconservancy.org. Rain or Shine. \$20.00 in advance, \$25.00 day of tour. Hosted by Saucon Valley Conservancy. Proceeds benefit the Heller Barn Preservation Fund.

Please join us at the Heller Homestead located just off the Saucon Rail Trail. Monthly Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on September 8, October 20, and November 17, (no meetings in July and December). The Art Gallery and Antiques & Collectibles gift shop are open to the public on weekends, Saturdays and Sundays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Sundays, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. May – November) and special events. Tours of the Museum are available by appointment. Volunteer opportunities are available.

Upcoming activities:

- ~ August 6 – October 30 – Louise & William Cosgrove Art Exhibit
- ~ September 10 – 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Fifth Annual Barn Tour
- ~ November 5 – January 30 – Bethlehem Palette Club Plein Air Group Art Exhibit
- ~ December 5 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Annual Holiday Gathering and Bethlehem Palette Club Plein Air Group Artist Reception, snow date, December 6

Fall Electronics Recycling

The Lower Saucon Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) will be holding a computer/electronics recycling drop-off event to allow residents of the Township and surrounding areas to recycle computers and electronic equipment.

Date: Saturday, September 24, 2011

Time: 9:00 am to Noon – Rain or Shine –

NO EARLY BIRDS, NO EXCEPTIONS

Where: Lower Saucon Township
Public Works Garage,
3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA



Made possible by:
AERC Recycling Solutions

*If you have any questions about any recyclable item,
please contact AERC at (610) 797-7608.*

What's accepted: Computer monitors (CRTs, plasma & LCD displays); laptop & notebook computers; televisions (standalone, console, wide-screen, projection-screen, CRT, plasma, LCD); computer systems (CPU); computer peripherals (printers, scanners, plotters, copiers); computer accessories (keyboards, mice, speakers, cords, cables); external disk memory & hard disk drives (*confidential data destruction available*); circuit boards & electronic components/chips; network hubs, modems & routers; photocopiers & multi-use copiers (copy, fax, scan, print); telephone telecommunications/switching systems; PDAs, PDA cradles, & other handheld devices; cellular phones & cell phone chargers; toner cartridges (ink jet & laser jet); CDs, DVDs, magnetic tape, car batteries, household batteries, fluorescent lamps.

***Note: There will be a small fee charged for all these items:**
\$1.00 each – answering machine, cell phone, copier, CPU, fax machine, keyboard, laptop, microwave, modem, pager, printer, radio/stereo, telephone. \$5.00 each – Monitors. \$20.00 each – Televisions. \$0.25 each – Fluorescent bulbs.

Items not accepted: Primarily “electric” CONSUMER ELECTRIC ITEMS with a cord are not accepted at this event: oscillating fans, desk & floor fans, small kitchen appliances (toaster, toaster oven, blender, mixer, etc.), small handheld power tools, small personal cosmetic appliances (portable hair dryers, shavers, curling irons, etc.), vacuum cleaners.

Do I need a Permit?

Lower Saucon Township requires permits for many types of construction and building work in residential structures.

Please allow up to 15 business days for zoning/building permits to be processed.

Examples of work that requires a Zoning/Building Permit:

- Construction and/or installation of a fence.
- Construction and/or installation of a shed, carport, or garage.
- Construction and/or installation of a patio or porch.
- Construction and/or installation of a walkway on the property.
- Construction and/or installation of a deck.
- Widening an existing driveway.
- Resurfacing a driveway with/without enlarging it or changing the shape at all.
- Above ground and in ground swimming pools, even “wall-less” and portable pools! Any pool that is deeper than 24” needs a permit. If your pool is taken down every year, you need a permit to put it back up every year.
- Building an addition onto your house including attached garages and carports.
- Adding a roof to a patio, porch, or deck where the roof is attached to a dwelling.
- Installation of doors and windows if the new doors and windows are of a different size than the existing doors/windows.
- Upgrading an electrical service.
- The addition or relocation of electrical wiring.
- Adding stud walls such as when finishing a basement.

Examples of work that does not require any permit:

- Repair and replacement of existing structures such as floorboards in a deck.
- Putting new shingles on your roof.
- Replacing or installing siding on a house.
- Replacing windows and doors with new ones of the same size.
- Replacing a garage door (however, replacing a manual door with an electric door may require an electrical permit).
- Wallpaper, carpet, tile, paint work, and interior cabinetry such as kitchen cabinets.

Also, please note that a Certificate of Occupancy is required for anyone moving into the Township. The application fee is \$10.00. This permit should be applied for at least 10 business days prior to the move-in date.

A Moving Permit is required to move out of the Township and the fee is \$5.00. This permit is issued the same day of application.

Please contact Chris Garges, Zoning Officer at 610-865-3291. If you are unsure what kind of permit you need or if you have any questions. Please visit our website www.lowerSaucontownship.org for more information.

Helpful Honey Bees

Recently, our Township Public Works Department discovered a large honey bee nest inhabiting a dead log in one of our Township parks. We contacted the Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Association www.lehighvalleybeekeepers.org and Bob Milot from that organization came out to look at the nest. He said that the colony is quite large and looks like it will have to break off into a separate colony once the queen lays more queen bee eggs. Fortunately, the nest is in a dense wooded area and poses no threat to the public visiting this park. A honey bee is essential to the environment as we know it. Over 70 per cent of plants are pollinated by insects, and of those nearly 90 per cent are pollinated by bees. Without bees there would be very little pollination and a large proportion of plant species would die out.



Over the last three years more than one in three honey bee colonies has died nationwide, posing a serious risk to our natural food supply. One cause of these losses is a phenomenon called “Colony Collapse Disorder” or CCD. When a hive develops CCD, the honey bees mysteriously desert their hive and die. CCD symptoms have been reported in over thirty-five states across the U.S., and in many other countries. Researchers do not know exactly what causes CCD, but they believe there may be many factors contributing to the problem, including viruses, mites, chemical exposure and poor nutrition.

We are pleased that the honey bees chose to locate in our park. For more information on these helpful critters, visit <http://lehighvalleybeekeepers.org/HelptheHoneyBees.aspx> and the Haagen-Dazs site at: www.helpthehoneybees.com.

Saucon Valley Parade & Trick-or-Treat Info.

The Saucon Valley Halloween Parade will be on Sunday, October 23rd at 2:00 p.m. (Line up begins at 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.). There will be no rain date. The 2011 Parade Theme is: Super Heroes of Saucon Valley. You may obtain a copy of the application form at the Township. Applications are due no later than October 14th.

Trick or Treat will be held on Friday, **October 28th, 2011** or Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough residents from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (rain or shine)**.

Lower Saucon Township Residents Welcome!!!!

Springfield Township EAC Committee is hosting their Annual Tire Recycling

Saturday, October 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
2320 Township Road, Quakertown

Car & SUV tires - \$2.00 each

Motorcycle tires - \$3.50 each

Tractor Trailer tires - \$7.00 each

Tires should be free of rims. Tires on rims will be an additional charge of \$1.00.

Car, truck and marine batteries will also be accepted.

*Leaking or damaged batteries will not be accepted.

For additional information on this event log onto

Springfield Township's website:

www.springfieldbucks.org or

info@springfieldbucks.org

Annual Volunteer Picnic

On June 13th, the Township Council held its 3rd annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Town Hall Park to thank the many volunteers who have made contributions to the Township's committees, boards, commissions in the past year. Attending were over 35 representatives from the Historical Committee, Zoning Hearing Board, Lower Saucon Authority, Parks & Recreation Board, Environmental Advisory Council, Library Committee, Landfill Committee, Planning Commission and Junior Council Members. Council Vice President Tom Maxfield and Council Members Priscilla deLeon and Ron Horiszny handed out certificates to the volunteers recognizing their years of service to the Township.



Lower Saucon Township

3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA 18015



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lehigh Valley, PA
Permit #618

Lower Saucon Township Officials

Glenn Kern	Council President
Tom Maxfield	Council Vice President
Priscilla deLeon	Council Member
Ron Horiszny	Council Member
Sandra Yerger	Council Member
Lou Mahlman	Controller
Jack Cahalan	Township Manager
Leslie Huhn	Assistant Manager

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency (Police)	610-759-2200
Police Department	610-317-6110
Administrative Offices	610-865-3291
Water/Sewer Authority	610-317-3212

Visit us on the web @
www.lowersaucontownship.org

2011 Community Day

This year's Community Day celebration was held under sunny skies at Dimmick Park in Hellertown on Saturday, August 20th.



Meeting Schedule

Council
1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Board
1st Monday - 7:00 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Council
2nd Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
3rd Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board
3rd Monday - 7:00 p.m.

Lower Saucon Authority
3rd Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.

**Lower Saucon Township
Administration Offices will be closed
on the following days:**

September 5th—Labor Day

November 8th—Election Day

November 24th & 25th—Thanksgiving