

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP**  
**OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION & AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCILS**  
**SPRING 2025**

**Letter from the Chair**



**The Rising Sun Farm & Country Store – 26 Rising Sun Tavern Rd Millstone, NJ 08510**

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our newsletter created by the volunteer members of the Agricultural Advisory Council and Open Space Preservation Council, who are working on many ongoing farmland preservation and open space projects for the greater good. Within an hour to the major metropolitan areas of New York City and Philadelphia, Millstone Township is truly a unique setting with its rural character and abundance of natural and cultural resources.

Millstone Township proudly showcases its endeavors in farmland preservation and supports a diverse agricultural industry. Approximately 50% of land in Millstone Township continues to be actively farmed today, land which boasts some of the best prime soils across the Garden State for agricultural viability. This key component to any farm is the reason many farmers choose to establish their agricultural operations within the township. The desirable land hosts a true array of farms which highlight traditional grain and crops, vegetables and fruits, equine and livestock production, nursery and horticulture operations, beekeeping, herbs, exotic produce, pick your own operations, community supported agriculture (CSA) programs and agritourism. Millstone Township agricultural products are actively marketed across the county, state and country under Grown in Monmouth and Jersey Fresh marketing and branding initiatives.

With such a multifaceted agricultural industry in the township, the significance of farmland and open space preservation cannot be overlooked. Preservation initiatives assist not only the farmer and landowner but directly impact the many residents who call Millstone Township home. The benefits of farmland and open space preservation correlate with a healthy environment, control of urban sprawl, support of public recreation projects, protection of water quality and natural resources, and simply providing a superior quality of life. Further, our local township and county park and trail systems provide opportunities in all seasons to enjoy the outdoors and offer forms of recreation such as hiking, biking, horseback riding and fishing.

With challenges to the viability of farms and the pressures on remaining unpreserved open space, the time to preserve as much land within the township is at a critical crossroads. We ask our residents to continue in their support of the important work of the volunteer members of both respective Councils. There is no better time than the present to preserve our farmland and open space for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

**Amy Lynn Butewicz (Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Council)**

# Grand Re-Opening of the Clarksburg Cultural Center It's Time to Recognize the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration of our Country & Our Challenges for Freedom 1776-2026

On April 26<sup>th</sup> the Friends (Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties) & the HPC (Historic Preservation Commission) hosted the Re-Opening of the Clarksburg Cultural Center following the completion of a major restoration project funded by the Monmouth County Commissioners through the County Recreation Commission's, *Municipal Open Space Grant Program*. On hand to cut the ribbon were Mayor Al Ferro, Deputy Mayor Chris Morris, and Pat Butch, HPC Chair.

The day's events included the premier opening of the 250<sup>th</sup> Photo Gallery, a collection of approximately 100 pictures and maps framed by Doreen & Ray Polhemus and a Presentation, "*Molly Pitcher's Local Origins: Revised*", by local Allentown historian, John Fabiano. The audience heard three theories of different women who have been credited to be the famed Molly Pitcher backed up with primary and secondary source materials. Was Molly Pitcher one of these women? Or was she a folklore composite of several women?



John has another video presentation, "*The British Army's March to Monmouth*", that can be accessed using the link or QR Code below.



**Please be sure to check out  
other upcoming events at:  
[www.savinghistorywithfriends.org](http://www.savinghistorywithfriends.org)**

**Facebook: Friends of Millstone  
Township Historic Registered  
Properties**

**Instagram: Millstone Friends**

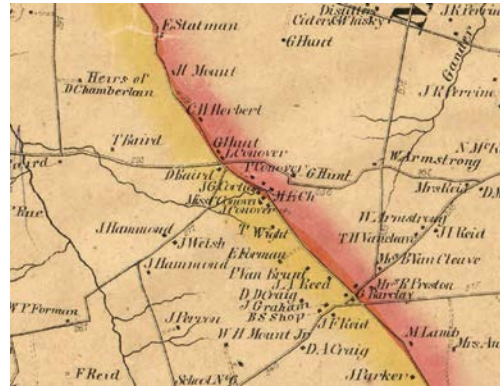
<https://youtu.be/iw-L56fYHdw>

The day was attended by over 50 visitors who enjoyed light refreshments, "a revolutionary dated picnic lunch", prepared by local 4-Hers and high school history club students under the direction of Robin Bruins. The menu included colonial blueberry/dandelion cookies, pumpkin tarts, cucumber sandwiches, fruit salad, tomato/cucumber salad and mixed berry nettle tea.



Please don't miss our June events:

Woodville area is circled on the map



**Juneteenth Day, June 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm-7:30pm at Wagner Farm Park, 4 Baird Road  
Registration Required, info available on QR code**

Join the Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties as we celebrate Juneteenth, honor the Conover and Fitzpatrick families, and unveil a new the sign commemorating the historic freed African American community of Woodville.



### Stars and Stripes Agriculture Fair

June 28, 2025

Thomas Baird Homestead

24 Baird Road, Millstone

9:00am to 4:00pm

First Seasonal NJ Agriculture Fair is here in Millstone

Many NJ Ag fairs are famous for food and carnival rides. Stars and Stripes Ag Fair is famous for livestock. Competitors come from as far away as Arkansas to show their livestock for a day of fierce but friendly exhibition. The tent will be filled with sheep, goats, cattle, rabbits, poultry, guinea pigs and even a few reptiles. Parking and admission are free.

For the second year, the fair includes a unique tent filled with animals and their handlers who welcome youth with mental, physical, and/or emotional special needs to learn about animals in a relaxed atmosphere. Each youth will have the opportunity to handle one animal or all seven and receive a ribbon. This is the only livestock show for children with special needs in the country and we are proud to be able to bring smiles. Join us for a day of fun.

**Public welcome, registration not required**

# New Jersey Farmland Preservation News

State Agriculture Development Committee

[www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc)

## NJ Next Generation Farm & Farmer Program



The SADC has been actively developing a “Next Gen” Program to identify what the State of New Jersey and the SADC can do to assist the next generation of farming operations and farmers address the challenges they face with improving or navigating the succession of an existing operation, or establishing a new operation. The program is not intended to duplicate existing efforts, but rather collaborate with partners to support farmers.

The SADC has conducted extensive research and outreach to gather input from the ag community on the issues next-generation farmers face in New Jersey, and ideas for addressing these challenges. This is included in the recently published report, “The Next Generation of Farming in New Jersey: Report on Cultivating the Future of Farming in the Garden State,” intended to help create a strategic path for supporting the next generation of farmers and farm businesses in the Garden State. For more information and to read

the report, visit [www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/nextgen/](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/nextgen/)



Applegate Acres, ~36 acres preserved

### Millstone Twp

1,220 Acres Preserved  
25 Farms Preserved  
2 Active Applications

### Monmouth County

15,599 Acres Preserved  
216 Farms Preserved  
5 Active Applications

### New Jersey

*Total Statewide*

252,979 Acres Preserved  
2,890 Farms Preserved  
178 Active Applications



Follow Us On Social Media!

@New Jersey Farmland Preservation

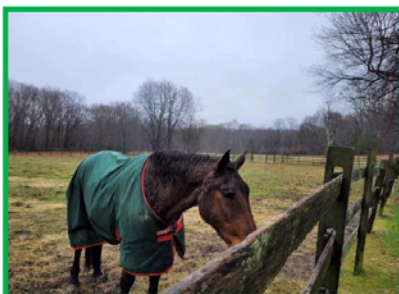
## Statewide Farmland Preservation Formula

Have you or someone you know thought about farmland preservation? All landowners who apply for farmland preservation will be offered a value determined by the new Statewide Formula, adopted on April 7th. The Formula enhances payment based on the agricultural and natural resource characteristics of the property, as well as factors that make the property important to the local community. Interested in learning more about farmland preservation? Contact Cindy Roberts at [cindy.roberts@ag.nj.gov](mailto:cindy.roberts@ag.nj.gov) or 609-913-6582.



Receive email updates and news from the SADC!

Scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.office.com/g/H4tXRy6HTY>.



Mazzucco Farm, ~53 acres preserved

## Order A Farmland Preservation Sign!

All preserved farmland owners/operators are eligible to receive a FREE farmland preservation sign for your farm! To order a sign, please fill out and submit this short form:

[www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/documents/signorderform.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/documents/signorderform.pdf)



## HIGHLIGHTING A NEW FARM IN TOWN

Welcome to **Two River Gourmet Mushrooms**, a true agricultural gem located at Mighty Dare Farm, at 145 Stillhouse Road, a tranquil 25 acre preserved farm in Millstone Township! Created by KC Sullivan in an exciting collaboration with farm co-owners Kurt Cavano & Scott Szegeski, the farm has become a mecca for those seeking the freshest and finest of mushrooms. Their vision statement echoes boldly “The vision of the dual enterprise between Two River Mushroom and Mighty Dare Farm is to create a unique setting where we not only produce organic gourmet mushrooms but also complement each other in a biodynamic, regenerative relationship”. Since its formation, Two River has grown in leaps and bounds sourcing their USDA Certified Organic mushrooms to boutique local markets, statewide retailers and restaurants and now onto a national level networking with fine food distributors. However, Two River maintains a goal to keep their mushroom products accessible to local customers with an on site farm market barn **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 6 days a week...Monday through Saturday, Hours 10am – 4pm.** Millstone residents and surrounding have a unique opportunity to shop and source fresh mushrooms in a multitude of delectable varieties such as King Trumpet oysters, Shiitake, Maitake, Lion’s Mane, Chestnut & more. Mushrooms truly take center stage at this farm with the varieties being incorporated into recipes and finely curated menus of top chefs in the restaurant industry. Mushrooms are known for their versatility in cooking to bring out unique flavors in a myriad of dishes --- such as pairing with soup, pasta, omelets, meats, stir fry & more. In addition, this multi-purpose farm grows a variety of traditional vegetables such as heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, herbs and even blueberries. The vegetable farming is an extension of the mushroom production or “regenerative” farming in which byproducts of the mushrooms such as stems or other pieces are composted into the soil. Innovation is a driving force at Two Rivers which has led to a conceptually new product – mushroom broth – which is already receiving rave reviews, so popular that a national product launch is on the horizon. The mushroom broth is made with organic Lion’s Mane and Shiitake mushrooms to create a distinctive, savory flavor. Thank you Two River Gourmet Mushrooms for showcasing your spectacular mushrooms & mushroom products – it is an honor to experience such an innovative farm in Millstone Township! For more information on touring this incredible farm, visit: [www.tworivermushroom.com](http://www.tworivermushroom.com)



**TOWNSHIP OF MILLSTONE**

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
470 STAGE COACH ROAD  
MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ 08510

PRSRRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**Agricultural Advisory Council**

Amy Butewicz, Chairperson  
Pat Butch, Vice Chairperson  
George Asprocolas    Kate Posten  
Randy Peck            Brianna Coppinger  
Chris Morris Twp. Committee Liaison

**Millstone Township Committee**

Al Ferro, Mayor  
Chris Morris, Deputy Mayor  
Eric Davis  
Tara Zabrosky  
Jeff Ziner

**Open Space Preservation Council**

Christine Harper, Chairperson  
Mark Blackwell, Vice Chairperson  
Amy Butewicz            Suzanne Ming  
Sara Leineek            Tom Pado  
Gene Madeam            Victoria Talyansky  
Mark Mamrega  
Tara Zabrosky Twp. Committee Liaison



JUNE  
**1**  
SUNDAY

AT WAGNER FARM PARK  
4 BAIRD RD. WAGNER BLDG.  
Eat In or Take Out

1<sup>st</sup> seating      2<sup>nd</sup> seating  
1:00PM - 3:00PM    3:30PM - 5:30PM

**TICKETS**

Adult - \$60  
choice of 4

child - \$15  
choice of 2  
EXCLUDES LOBSTER

**SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025**  
**WAGNER FARM PARK**  
Dine In or Take Out  
Adult - \$60.00 (choice of 4)  
Child - \$15.00 (choice of 2 –excl. lobster)

- Lobster with ear of corn
- 6 Shrimp Cocktail
- 6 Roasted Clams
- 6 Clams on 1/2 shell
- Hot Dog
- Hamburger
- BBQ Pork Sandwich with coleslaw
- Beef Kabob

Tickets must be purchased in advance by May 24<sup>th</sup>

To purchase tickets, contact:

Julianna Tesar, 470 Stagecoach Rd. Millstone Twp. NJ 08510  
Phone: 732-446 4249 X1401 Email: [secretary@millstonenj.gov](mailto:secretary@millstonenj.gov)  
Make Checks Payable To: MILLSTONE OPEN SPACE TRUST