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FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

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ESTATE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary or of administration have been granted to the following estates. All persons indebted to said estates are required to make payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the administrators or executors named.

Third Publication

HENRY A. BASHOUR, a/k/a HENRY

ALBERT BASHOUR, late of Redstone

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) Personal Representative: Joanne Bashour c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, Pa 15401 Attorney: James Davis

JANICE M. BOCK, a/k/a JANICE MARIE

BOCK, late of Brownsville, Fayette County, PA Executor: Debra M. Bock, a/k/a Deborah Bock Davis P.O. Box 623 Brownsville, PA 15417 c/o 76 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Douglas S. Sholtis (3)

TERESE BURKETT, late of Wharton

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Administrator*: Robert Burkett c/o 42944 National Pike Road P.O. Box 245 Chalk Hill, PA 15421 *Attorney*: Charles C. Gentile

LOIS J. DAVIS, a/k/a LOIS JEAN DAVIS,

late of Henry Clay Township, Fayette County, PA Administrator: Todd Bowser (3) c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Gary J. Frankhouser

WESTLEY T. DOMASKY, a/k/a WESTLEY DOMASKY, a/k/a WESTLEY TIMOTHY

DOMASKY, late of Bullskin Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Christina M. Augustine 212 Main Street Addison, PA 15411 c/o Moore Becker Smarto & Ciszek, P.C. 121 West Second Street Greensburg, PA 15601 Attorney: Gregory C. Moore

BERNARD A. KAPINUS, a/k/a BERNARD

ANDREW KAPINUS, late of Perryopolis Borough, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Darren A. Kapinus c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, Pa 15401 Attorney: Jeremy J. Davis

GERALDINE M. NICHOLS, a/k/a

GERALDINE NICHOLS, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) Personal Representative: Donna L. Kowalsky c/o John & John 96 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Simon B. John

SHIRLEY OPEL, late of Uniontown, Fayette

County, PA (3) *Executor*: Lois Griffin P.O. Box 175, Dilliner, PA 15327 c/o Sykes Elder Law 615 Washington Road, Suite 304 Pittsburgh, PA 15228 *Attorney*: Shelley Newlin

ARMANDO VENICASA, late of German

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) Personal Representatives: Rosella Snyder and Marcella Hyunyady c/o Higinbotham Law Offices 45 East Main Street, Suite 500 Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: James Higinbotham BETTIE J. WHITE, late of Vanderbilt, Fayette County, PA (3) *Executrix*: Elizabeth Giles c/o Molinaro Law Offices P.O. Box 799 Connellsville, PA 15425 *Attorney*: Carmine V. Molinaro, Jr.

MARGARET M. WYATT, late of Redstone

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) Personal Representative: Paul K. Wyatt, Sr. c/o Riverfront Professional Center 208 South Arch Street, Suite 2 Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Richard A. Husband

Second Publication

THELMA A. ANGELINE, late of Redstone

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) Personal Representative: Thomas Ray Angeline c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: James T. Davis

MARTHA D. BROWNFIELD, late of South

Union Township, Fayette County, PA (2) Personal Representative: Todd A. Brownfield c/o Watson Mundorff & Sepic, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Charles W. Watson

SAMMY LEW BURNWORTH, a/k/a SAMMY L. BURNWORTH, late of Luzerne

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Co-Executor*: Davey Lee Burnworth 116 Gwynn Road Jefferson, PA 15344 *Co-Executor*: Candy Ann Rogers 358 Buckingham Road Fredericktown, PA 15333 c/o 189 West High Street P.O. Box 792 Waynesburg, PA 15370 Attorney: Gregory C. Hook

ROBERT M. BYBEL, late of Connellsville,

Fayette County, PA (2) *Executor*: Cheryl E. Anderson c/o 17 North Diamond Street Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666 *Attorney*: Marvin D. Snyder

MILDRED L. CLARK, a/k/a MILDRED

LOUISE CLARK, late of Masontown, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executor*: Emory E. Clark c/o Webster & Webster

51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Webster & Webster

JOSEPHINE E. GERBA, late of North Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executrix*: Charlene G. Swenglish c/o Webster & Webster 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Webster & Webster

ELIZABETH GUZY, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executor*: Cortney Kezmarsky c/o Adams & Adams 55 East Church Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Jason Adams

NORMAN W. HELLER, late of Bullskin

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executrix*: Donna Heller c/o Casini & Geibig, LLC 815B Memorial Boulevard Connellsville, PA 15425 *Attorney*: Jennifer M. Casini

RUTH E. HOLLIS, late of Dunbar, Fayette County, PA (2)

Executor: Milton Hollis, Jr. c/o Casini & Geibig, LLC 815B Memorial Boulevard Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Jennifer M. Casini

HOMER L. MCCABE, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) Personal Representative: Jeffrey W. McCabe c/o Watson Mundorff & Sepic, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15401 Attorney: Charles W. Watson

CECILIA A. NEIGHBORS, a/k/a CECILIA

ANN NEIGHBORS, late of Dunbar, Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representative: Carl L. Neighbors c/o Watson Mundorff & Sepic, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 *Attorney*: Charles W. Watson

SANDRA L. PAPKE, late of North Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executrix*: Tammy L. Papke-Wilson c/o Webster & Webster 51 East South Street Uniontown, Pa 15401 *Attorney*: Webster & Webster

ERNEST A. RISHA, JR., a/k/a ERNIE

RISHA, late of Uniontown, Fayette County, PA *Executrix*: Elizabeth A. Brownfield (2) c/o Zebley Mehalov & White, P.C. 18 Mill Street Square P.O. Box 2123 Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Daniel R. White

AUDREY ROBERTSON, late of Perry

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executor*: Dana Baccino 866 Layton Road Dawson, PA 15428 c/o 4 North Beeson Boulevard Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Sheryl Heid

EDWARD SUCHEVITS, a/k/a EDWARD E.

SUCHEVITS, late of South Union Township,

Fayette County, PA (2) Administratrix: Carol Ferencak 2285 Menoher Boulevard Johnstown, PA 15905 c/o Goodwin Como, P.C. 108 North Beeson Boulevard, Suite 400 Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Benjamin Goodwin

First Publication

MARTHA D. BROWNFIELD, late of South

Union Township, Fayette County, PA (1) Personal Representative: Todd A. Brownfield c/o Watson Mundorff & Sepic, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Charles W. Watson

ROY D. DAYTON, a/k/a ROY FRANKLIN

DAYTON, late of South Union Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executor: Bryan H. Dayton c/o Webster & Webster 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Webster & Webster

HELEN J. DUDGEON, late of 927

McClintock Avenue, Fayette County, PA (1) *Executor*: Cary E. Dudgeon 1107 Fayette Avenue Belle Vernon, PA 15012 c/o France, Lint & Associates, P.C. 308 Fallowfield Avenue Charleroi, PA 15022 *Attorney*: David N. Lint

PATRICIA LAYMON, late of Upper Tyrone

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) Administrator: Willard Laymon, Sr. 121 Woods Road Scottdale, PA 15683 c/o Ainsman Levine, LLC 310 Grant Street, 15th. Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219 Attorney: Charles P. Sapienza, III

MARY KATHRYN PETKO, a/k/a MARY K.

PETKO, late of German Township, Fayette County, PA (1) *Executor*: Mary Ann Luick c/o P.O. Box 622

Smithfield, PA 15478 Attorney: Charity Grimm Krupa

GLORIA ANN SUTTON, late of Georges

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) *Administrator*: Glenn Sutton c/o P.O. Box 622 Smithfield, PA 15478 *Attorney*: Charity Grimm Krupa

ORVILLE UMBEL, a/k/a ORVILLE

FRANKLIN UMBLE, late of North Union Township, Fayette County, PA (1) *Executor*: Sharon Joann Lawson c/o Higinbotham Law Offices 45 East Main Street, Suite 500 Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: James Higinbotham, Jr.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that a hearing is scheduled for **Thursday**, **May 23**, **2019**, **at 1:30 p.m.**, **before The Honorable Nancy D**, **Vernon, in Courtroom No. 4**, **of the Fayette County Courthouse**, for the sale of the Clifford N. Pritts Elementary School by the Connellsville Area Board of School Directors.

Interested persons may appear at the aforementioned hearing to offer testimony in favor of or in opposition to the proposed sale.

Connellsville Area Board of School Directors (1 of 2)

MARSHAL'S SALE: By virtue of a Writ of Execution issued out of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and to me directed, I shall expose to public sale the real property located at 159 Half King Colony Road, Chalk Hill, PA 15421, with a mailing address of 159 Half King Colony Road, Farmington, PA 15437, more particularly described at Fayette County Deed Book Volume 2889, Page 511.

SAID SALE to be held in the Favette County Courthouse, 61 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 10:00 a.m. prevailing, standard time, on May 28, 2019. All that certain tract of together with the buildings, land. and improvements erected thereon described as Tax Parcel No.42-05-0024 recorded in Favette County, Pennsylvania. Seized and taken in execution as the property of Patrick R. McCracken, at the suit of the United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, on behalf of United States Department of Agriculture, to be sold on Writ of Execution as Civil Action No. 2:18-CV-01344. TERMS OF SALE: Successful bidder will pay ten percent (10%) by certified check or money order upon the property being struck down to such bidder and the remainder of the bid within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale and in the event the bidder cannot pay the remainder, the property will be resold and all monies paid in at the original sale will be applied to any deficiency in the price at which the property is The successful bidder must send resold. payment of the balance of the bid directly to the U.S. Marshal's Office c/o Sheila Blessing, 700 Grant Street, Suite 2360, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Bidder must have deposit funds immediately available and on his person in order to bid, bidder will not be permitted to leave the sale and return with deposit funds. Notice is hereby given that a Schedule of Distribution will be filed by me on the thirtieth day after the date of sale, and that distribution will be made in accordance with the Schedule unless exemptions are filed thereto within ten (10) days thereafter. Purchaser must furnish State Realty Transfer Tax Stamps, and stamps required by the local taxing authority. Marshal's costs, fees and commissions are to be borne by seller. Michael Baughman, Acting United States Marshal. For additional information, please contact Cathy Diederich at 314-457-5514 or the USDA foreclosure website at www.resales.usda.gov. (3 of 4)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL ACTION - LAW ACTION TO QUIET TITLE No. 96 of 2019 G.D. JUDGE CORDARO

BRADLEY C. LONG, Plaintiff, v

RICHARD MEYER and MELINDA MEYER, husband and wife, their successors, heirs, personal representatives, and assigns, generally. Defendants.

TO: RICHARD MEYER and MELINDA MEYER, their heirs, successors and assigns, generally,

You are hereby notified that Bradley C. Long has filed a complaint at the above number and term in the above-mentioned court in an action to quiet title wherein it is alleged that they are the owner in possession of that certain lot of land situate in Saltlick Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania having a mailing address of 3 Winter Way, Champion, Pennsylvania.

Title to the above described property was conveyed to Bradley C. Long, by a deed from Richard Meyer and Melinda Meyer, his wife being recorded at the Recorder of Deeds Office at Deed Book 1300, Page 516.

Said complaint sets forth that the plaintiff is the owner in fee simple of the abovedescribed premises. The complaint was filed for the purpose of barring all of your right, title, and interest, or claim in and to all or a portion of said premises.

NOTICE

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claim set forth in the complaint and in the within advertisement, you must take action within twenty (20) days after the last advertisement of this notice by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claim set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so, the case may proceed without you and a judgment may entered against you by the court without further notice or any money claimed in the complaint, or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS NOTICE TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GOT TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION PENNSYLVANIA LAWYER REFERRAL 100 SOUTH STREET P.O. BOX 186 HARRISBURG, PA 17108 1-800-932-0311

Jason F. Adams, Esq. Adams & Adams 55 E. Church Street Uniontown, PA 15401 (724) 437-2711

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Act 295 of December 16, 1982, P.L. 1309, that a Certificate was filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on or about May 2, 2019, to conduct a business in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, under the assumed or fictitious name of O3 Auto Sales with the principal place of business at: 161 Connellsville Street, Uniontown, PA 15401. The name or names and addresses of persons owning and interested are: Jeremy John Denny

SEARCH UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Fayette County has unclaimed property waiting to be claimed.

For information about the nature and value of the property, or to check for additional names, visit www.patreasury.gov

Pennsylvania Treasury Department, 1-800-222-2046.

Notice of Names of Persons Appearing to be Owners of Abandoned and Unclaimed Property

.

Fayette County Listed in Alphabetical Order by Last Known Reported Zip Code

For information about the nature and value of the property, or to check for additional names, visit: www.patreasury.gov | 1.800.222.2046

Fayette County

15012

Baker Jesse A Barbesr David Bellard Mattie L Bergen John V Bowden E June Bowers Jeffrey Bujdos Deborah C Harper Autoplex Carini Kenneth W, Sophia Carlson Norman R Est Decoster Anna M Est

Derosa Phyllis Dewitt Amelia N Dezardo Rochelle M Est Dutko Catherine E Estate of Mary J Bordt Evans Mary L Evans Ruth Est Favette Parts Service Fisher Patricia A Foster Timothy Gaver Kinik Gillingham Dorothy Haag Elizabeth A Halgas Brian J Holbrooks Exxon 70 Shop Hudson Nancy J Dr Hufford Michael Hughes William Est Hutchinson Helen Hysmith John M Igoe Thomas Jugan Andrew, Joan Klinlegarrd Mary S Knapp David J, Shauna Kubira John Laux James C Long Jerome Ludwig Helen Lynch Rosalie Margaret Luzanski Mcfeely George Mctighe Patricia D Meli Sandra J Misenko Edwrd R **Odyssey Communications** Orthopedic Group Premier Rehab Enterprises Seals John F Sellers Samuel Sepitko Evelyn N, Myron N Simpson Jaquae Smereczniak Richard N Sobek Lawrence Solar Power Industries Soutter Kristen

Svrcek Sara Taylor Richard S Temak Tara N Toth Angeline Trozzo Rose Vesio Rosann Walsh Joceylyn Warner Bellon Judith A Weldon Kevin M

15401

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15410

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15413 Brumley Raymond Louis Settles Anthony V Tejeda De Rubalcaba Maria

15416 Fayette Co Cattlemen Assoc

15417	1542
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Bayles Daniel E Bunch Michael	1542
Comfort Michele Est	Abraham Shawn
Cramer Heather	Allen Enterprises An
Delgado David G	Autumn S Leaf Inc
Dixon Carlisa	Binh V Lieu
Garden Sylvester Jr	Boskovich Timothy
Holmes Amber	Brinker Barry
Hough Rachel L	Brooks William
Hunyady Charles	Burton James L
Irene Pryor	Clarke Caroline C
Jackson Charles	Cossell Robert E
Johnson Anne	Cramer Melissa A
Marinucci Victoria J	D & S Associat
Mcmaster Charles	Davies Ford Inc
Monroe Linda	Demiere William G
Parks Elizabeth Est	Dempsey Gary
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Porter Richard	Fenany Mary Rene Es
Richards Flora	Ferris Edward J
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Wheeler Roy L	Lincoln James B
White Loise Reichard	Linney John C
Wible Bernadine, Charles R	Luckey Grace L
Zuzak Lawrence	Mcclintock Thomas E
	Mcmanus Eileen

15420

Illar Sheila Madison William L Mckulka Phyllis M

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st Е Mcmanus Eileen Medved Sophie R Ohler Richard Oppman Mercedes R Pletcher James Pratt Kathleen R, Walter F Pringle William L, Fanchon

Rauschmayer Steve Reed Janice Rinker Zelda Fay Est Rock Starz Fpc Llc Rose Judith Ruby Sean Michael **Rutherford Alice** Scarry Michael C Schorr Kady Monet Shartzer John W Shepler Anita L Shrover Alfred A Sperry Evelyn Stallion Automotive Equip Stern Jay, Mary Widener Timothy Wiggins Elizabeth Witt Ralph C Zolbrod Stephanie Zoracki Jerome J, Jason J

15428

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15440

Cramer Jennifer

15442

Johnson Dean King Lori L Rowan Richard L Jr Williams Lisa

15443

Saxton John E Jr Shea James Est

15444

Campagna Irene L Miller David W

15445

Adams James S Boskovich Sara L Kilkenny Bethany L Menarcheck Janet Pallini Amerigo P Varndell Douglas D Wolfe Michelle L

15450

Dascenzo Jennie Harvey Dana Lutz James W Rios Michael Rochek Stephen Thomas Marc

15451

Moser Tricia R Sanders Grayling L Sapic Patrick S Wade William L

15456 American Broadband Inc Pa Baker Lawrence Burlock Laura Lea Capan Sheryl Costolo Alice F Cramer Eliabeth Crayton Michael Davison Gerald E Dolan Denise D Hamlin Kenneth B Nixon Paul B Swink Tyler Wilgfong Dylan Wayne

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Neiderhiser Amy

15464 Miller Dawn E Miner Tammy Sue Sankey James, Winona Smith Ronald J Steyer Lucinda G

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Galway Bay Corp

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Manos G W Mcfarland Deborah P

15468

Meucci Brain G Turner John Est Vonfradenburgh Jennifer R

15469

Burton Sherri Campbell Donna R Coffman Esther Miles Lynn A Niderstros C M Pritts Dolora

15470

69 Main St Frey Charles R Holt Margaret E Twardesky Tonya L

15472 Commercial Miscellaneous Sales Guy Harry E

15473

Black John E Hess Kay Lynn David L Lynn Violet Paternoster Jason T Rock David Schwartz Carole A Stewart Gerald Est Traynor Thelma M

15474

Covey Charlotte Crigler William Fox Elizabeth Est Friend Clay Mari Richard

Reynolds Marian

15475

Durant George L Kapral Andrew Kovach Jennifer Tinsley Loretta

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15489

Brown Corey R Smith Beatrice F

15492

Thompson Todd J

15631 Brink Katherine Falla Ashley L, Cheryl V Miller Dave L Stickel Vawn W Williams Theresa A

JUDICIAL OPINION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL DIVISION

ANDREW SABATINI,	:	
Appellant,	:	
VS.	•	
THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,	:	
Appellant.	•	No. 2434 of 2017, G.D. Honorable Nancy D. Vernon
LL		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

OPINION AND ORDER

VERNON, J.

Andrew Sabatini filed a Notice of Land Use Appeal, docketed at Case Number 2434 of 2017, G.D., from the notice of decision of the Fayette County Zoning Hearing Board, rendered on October 16, 2017, which denied Sabatini's appeal from an Enforcement Notice issued for his keeping of chickens in a residential R-1 zoning district in violation of the Fayette County Zoning Ordinance. Thereafter, the Zoning Hearing Board issued Resolution 17-11 from which Sabatini filed a Revised Notice of Land Use Appeal, at Case Number 2711 of 2017, G.D. By Order dated May 23, 2018, the Honorable President Judge John F. Wagner, Jr. consolidated the appeals at the instant case number.

In his Revised Notice of Land Use Appeal, Sabatini argues that the action of the Zoning Hearing Board was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, a violation of due process and Sabatini's constitutional rights, and contrary to law in that:

a. The Resolution fails to set forth a valid basis for the Board to conclude that Article II §1000-203 and Article III §1000-301.1 Agriculture were violated by Sabatini.

b. The Resolution has no finding that the Fayette County Office of Planning, Zoning, and Community Development presented any evidence at all in support of its violation citations.

c. The Resolution uses the testimony of Sabatini and his family about their pets to make the board's case and there is no evidence whatsoever about agricultural use and the Board has no basis to conclude that there was.

April 29, 2019

d. The legal authority cited by the Board in the Resolution relating to chickens do not relate to the two zoning matters before the Board but relate only to private covenants (contracts), mercantile tax cases relating to definitions of manufacturing which are exempt from said tax, and larceny involving chickens which is illegal regardless of the zoning district in which the larceny occurred.

e. The provisions of Article III §1000-301.1 Agriculture relate only to define use of "Agriculture" and that use and provisions relating to the keeping of animals for commercial purposes do not restrict the keeping of pets.

f. Setbacks and sideyards for single family dwellings are determined by Article III §1000-300 which expressly exempts setback provision found elsewhere in Article III for free standing accessory structures.

g. The Resolution admits that chickens are not livestock and not an issue before the Board but improperly utilizes the threat of keeping raging bulls in a residential zone as justification for banning birds, a common household pet from the same zone.

h. There is no commercial intent to raising chickens as pets and the keeping of chickens as pets is not agriculture under the Fayette County Zoning Ordinance.

i. There is no limitation in the Fayette County Zoning Ordinance as to the number of chickens that may be kept as pets.

j. Under the definitions in Pennsylvania Law, chickens are not livestock and chickens as pets are no different than other birds routinely kept as pets.

k. Pets are a normal, ordinary, permissible, accessory use in an R1 Zoning District, and no additional approvals are necessary.

l. The Fayette County Office of Planning, Zoning, and Community Development did not prove any violation as required by the MPC.

m. The MPC requires that in the case of ambiguity, the property owner should get the benefit of the doubt which the Board acknowledges in paragraph 15 of the Resolution.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Andrew Sabatini is the owner of 1.85 acres located at 120 Fawn Lane, Acme, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, zoned R-1 moderate density residential. N.T., 5/10/2017, at 10-11. On March 16, 2017, Andrew Sabatini was served an Enforcement Notice by the Fayette County Office of Planning, Zoning and Community Development wherein it alleged a violation for "[k]eeping agricultural animals on property that is zoned residential" under Article II §1000-203 (permitted uses and uses by special exceptions by zoning district) and Article III §1000-301.1 Agriculture. Andrew Sabatini lodged an appeal of the Enforcement Notice with the Fayette County Zoning Hearing Board.

The Sabatini family owns animals, including cats, one dog, 17 chickens, a rooster, a lizard, a gecko and a fish. Id. at 11. Andrew Sabatini testified regarding the chickens that his family, being his wife and children, treats the chickens as pets and eat the eggs. Id. at 13. The chickens have names. Id. at 15. The chickens are not used for any commercial purpose such as selling the eggs, feathers, or meat. Id. at 13. The Sabatini's also have one rooster that "make[s] noise any time of the day." Id. at 15. Andrew Sabatini's wife, Theresa, introduced photographs of her children with the chickens and testified about the layout of their property. Id. at 25.

The Sabatinis maintain a chicken coop, but the chickens are also permitted to roam free. Id. at 14. Andrew Sabatini testified that he attempts to keep the chickens on his own property, yet the chickens have gone on neighbors' property. Id. at 14. An incident occurred where the dogs of their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Sosko, came onto the Sabatini property and killed six chickens resulting in the Soskos receiving a citation from the "dog warden." Id. at 42-43. Since then, Andrew Sabatini testified that he does not let the chickens out of his sight and has installed a fence bordering the Sosko property. Id. at 44.

The Zoning Hearing Board also accepted statements by children Matthew Sabatini and Claire Sabatini who testified that the chickens are named animals and treated like pets. Id. at 50-5

Sabatinis further presented the testimony of Steven Stanish, the President of the Uniontown Poultry Association and a certified poultry technician for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who opined, without being qualified as an expert, that the Sabatini family's chickens are pets and not used for any other purpose. Id. at 55-56.

Next-door neighbor Judy Sosko, the initial complainant, made a statement to the Zoning Hearing Board that she opposes the Sabatini family's chickens, that the chickens defecate on her land and that her property is served by well-water, that she is concerned the feces will contaminate her water, that her children and grandchildren play in the yard, and that she does not want to tolerate chickens on her property or on her porch. Id. at 63-64. Although the Sabatinis were not cited for noise violations, Sosko stated the chickens are noisy and the rooster crows all night long. Id. at 65.

Following the receipt of briefs on the issue, the Zoning Hearing Board issued Resolution 17-11 finding the Sabatini property is zoned Residential R-1 and there is no provision to permit any agricultural uses in a R-1 zoned property. Further, finding that although the Fayette County Zoning Ordinance does not specifically define agricultural uses, there is reference to poultry within Article III §1000-301.1 Agricultural. The Board determined that the reference to poultry in connection with livestock required the Board to treat the keeping of poultry on property in the same way it would treat the keeping of livestock.

DISCUSSION

In zoning cases such as the instant matter where the trial court does not receive any additional evidence, the scope of review is limited to determining whether the Board committed an error of law or a manifest abuse of discretion. In re Petition of Dolington Land Group, 839 A.2d 1021, 1026 (Pa. 2003). The Court does not substitute its own interpretation of the evidence for that of the Board. Pietropaolo v. Zoning Hearing Bd. of Lower Merion Twp., 979 A.2d 969, 976 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2009). "A conclusion that the governing body abused its discretion may be reached only if its findings of fact are not supported by substantial evidence." Sulliff Enterprises, Inc. v. Silver Spring Twp. Zoning Hearing Bd., 933 A.2d 1079, 1081 n.1 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2007). Evidence is substantial when a reasonable mind could accept it as adequate to support a conclusion. Cardamone v. Whitpain Twp. Zoning Hearing Bd., 771 A.2d 103, 104 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2001).

Moreover, the Board's interpretation of the zoning ordinance it is charged with enforcing is generally entitled to a great degree of deference. Ruley v. W. Nantemean Twp. Zoning Hearing Bd., 948 A.2d 265, 268 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2008). The basis for this deference is the specific knowledge and expertise the Board possesses to interpret said zoning ordinances. Willits Woods Assoc. v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment City of Philadelphia, 587 A.2d 827, 829 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 1991).

In the present case, substantial evidence existed to support the Zoning Hearing Board's determination that Andrew Sabatini was in violation of the Fayette County Zoning Ordinance by keeping chickens and a rooster on his property zoned Residential R-1 and thereby Resolution 17-11 upholding the Enforcement Notice issued by the Office of Planning, Zoning and Community Development. The Zoning Hearing Board held an extensive hearing on this matter and permitted Sabatini and the County of Fayette to submit briefs on the issue.

It is undisputed that agriculture is not a permitted use in areas zoned Residential R-1. Accord, Fayette County Zoning Ordinance Article II §1000-203. The issue for determination is whether the Zoning Hearing Board abused its discretion or committed an error of law in determining that the keeping of chickens and a rooster are agriculture uses of the land.

Sabatini argues that the Fayette County Zoning Ordinance requires a landowner to be engaged for a "commercial" purpose to deem the use to be agricultural. Agriculture is defined as,

"The commercial production and preparation for market of crops, livestock and livestock products, harvesting and preparation for market or use of agricultural, agronomic, horticultural, silvicultural, and aquacultural crops and commodities. The term includes production practices and procedures or types of crops, livestock, livestock products or commodities produced consistent with practices and procedures that are normally engaged by farmers or are consistent with technological development within the agricultural industry. The term shall not include the raising and care of exotic animals, including, but not limited to lions, tigers and/or bear."

Article I, §1000-108.

The Court cannot agree with Sabatini that only commercial uses of chickens are prohibited. Rather the plain reading of the definition illustrates that the word "commercial" applies only to the "production and preparation for market of crops."

Sabatini next argues that his chickens and rooster are a permitted accessory use in a residential district. The Fayette County Zoning Ordinance defines accessory use as, "[a] use customarily incidental and subordinate to a lot's principal use." Article I, §1000-108.

The term "customarily incidental," as used in zoning ordinance definitions of term "accessory use," is best understood as invoking an objective reasonable person standard. Aldridge v. Jackson Tp., 983 A.2d 247 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2009). The accessory use doctrine is an acknowledgment that certain general types of real estate usage have a natural and reasonable tendency to lead to certain other, more specific uses. McGeehan v. Zoning Hearing Bd. of Springfield Tp., 407 A.2d 56 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 1979). Once something is defined as accessory use, it is allowed by right. AWACS, Inc. v. Zoning Hearing Bd. of Newton Tp., Delaware County, 702 A.2d 604 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 1997), affd, 739 A.2d 159 (Pa. 1999). In order to establish a right to an accessory use, a petitioner must prove that the use sought is secondary to the principal use and is usually found with that principal use. Mitchell v. Zoning Hearing Bd. of the Borough of Mount Penn, 838 A.2d 819, (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2003).

The Sabatinis testified credibly that they treat and consider their chickens and rooster to be family pets and argue that the keeping of pets is a customary and incidental use of residential property.

Although not binding in our determination of this zoning decision, the Court finds instructive the term "pet" as defined in Pennsylvania's Agriculture law as "[a]ny domesticated animal normally maintained in or near the household of the owner thereof." 3 Pa.C.S.A. § 5102.

The record is devoid of evidence that the keeping of chickens and a rooster would meet the requirements of an "accessory use" being a use that is "clearly incidental to and customarily found in connection with" the primary residential use of this property. One's intent for owning a chicken or rooster is irrelevant in the classification of an animal as pet or agriculture. In determining a similar zoning issue, the now Honorable President Judge John F. Wagner opined that the keeping of horses and chickens on property zoned Residential R -2 was "the harboring of farm animals in a residential zone" in violation of the same Fayette County Zoning Ordinance. See, Krupa v. Fayette County Zoning Hearing Bd., Case Number 810 of 2007, G.D., 2007 WL 5471591 (Pa.Com.Pl. June 22, 2007) affirmed in unpublished panel decision, No. 1111 C.D. 2007, 2008 WL 9397251 (Pa. Commw. Ct. Jan. 30, 2008).

Here, the Sabatinis self-declaring the animals as a pet does not overcome the stringent requirements of zoning ordinances. The keeping of chickens or a rooster is not an accessory use for property zoned residential.

The Court echoes the sentiment of the Zoning Hearing Board in finding that this "particular family genuinely love their chickens and have no reason not to believe that this particular family considers each and every one of these chickens as a family pet."

As the Board neither abused its discretion nor made an error of law, and this Court is constrained by its narrow scope of review, the Zoning Hearing Board's decision is affirmed.

WHEREFORE, we will enter the following Order.

ORDER

AND NOW, this 29th day of April, 2019, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED that the Fayette County Zoning Hearing Board Resolution 17-11, is AFFIRMED and that the Revised Notice of Land Use Appeal of Andrew Sabatini is DENIED.

BY THE COURT: NANCY D. VERNON, JUDGE

ATTEST: Nina Capuzzi Frankhouser Prothonotary

Southwestern PA Legal Aid Opening

Attorney – Southwestern PA Legal Aid seeks a full-time attorney in its Washington County office to primarily handle housing matters, including enforcement and education of the Fair Housing Act. Responsibilities will include client representation and community outreach and training about housing rights. An active license in Pennsylvania is required, as is a demonstrated commitment to advocate for low-income clients and a passion for civil rights and social justice. Minority applicants are encouraged. Send resume and at least two references to brian.gorman@splas.org.

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

FCBA LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

The Fayette County Bar Association's next presentation in its Lunch & Learn Series will be:

- Date: Wednesday, May 15th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Location: Courtroom No. 1 of the Fayette County Courthouse
- Discussion topic: Pennsylvania's Medical Cannabis Law
- Presenter: Patrick K. Nightingale, Esquire

CLE Credit

1.5 hours of Substantive CLE credit for the program. The fees are as follows: Members of the FCBA

- No charge for attendance without CLE Credit
- \$10 fee for attendance with CLE Credit

Attorneys admitted to practice in Pennsylvania after January 1, 2012

• No charge for attendance with CLE Credit

Non-members of the FCBA

- \$10 fee for attendance without CLE Credit
- \$20 fee for attendance with CLE Credit

** All fees to be paid at the door ** A light lunch will be provided.

If interested in attending, please call Cindy at the Bar office at 724-437-7994 or by email to cindy@fcbar.org on or before Monday, May 13th.

-Professional Ethics/CLE Committee





& ASSOCIATES



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