

HALLOFFAME

Over the past four-plus decades, **Donald "Scott" Allar** has devoted his time and energy to serving and protecting the residents of Frailey Township in Schuylkill County. Whether in his capacity as a township supervisor and secretary-treasurer or as a member of the Donaldson Fire Company, Allar puts the public first and works tirelessly to make the township a great place to live.

'Hard to Replace'

Donald "Scott" Allar
 Frailey Township, Schuylkill County
 45 years of service

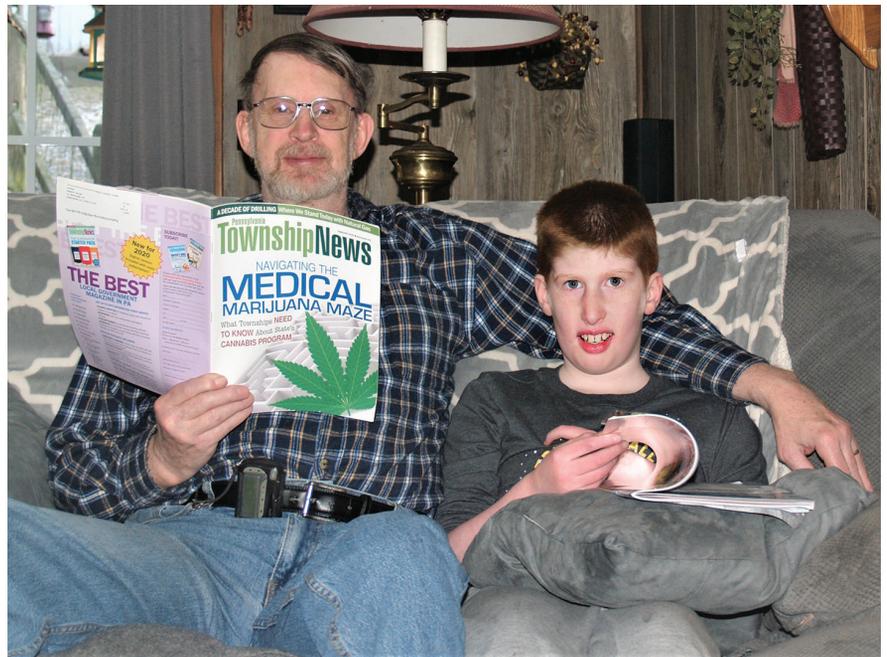
BY **BRENDA WILT** / ASSISTANT EDITOR

Frailey Township in Schuylkill County may be small (*its population was just 429 in the 2010 census*), but thanks to a local landfill and the financial savvy of supervisor and secretary-treasurer Donald "Scott" Allar, the community is doing very well.

The rural township has a lot of land, but most of it is owned by coal companies and the county. One small village, Donaldson, has about 170 homes. There is very little commercial development, and the township doesn't have much tax revenue.

Still, it manages to do at least one road project every year, hold an annual free spring cleanup, provide free trash hauling, pay for police coverage from Tremont Borough, and offer residents six months of free sewer service every fall and winter.

"Fortunately, we get a hosting check from the landfill," Allar says. "It's not located in our township but the company bought land here 10 years ago. Part of the agreement was that we would get a \$1 per ton tipping fee, which amounts to quite a bit. If it weren't for that mon-



Donald Allar, a supervisor for Frailey Township in Schuylkill County, digs into the Township News with his grandson, Eoin Burgess. Eoin has been enjoying PSATS' flagship magazine since he learned to read at two years of age. (Photo courtesy of Tricia Burgess.)

ey, we'd have nothing."

Allar's brother, Keith, who is also a supervisor and the roadmaster, says that his sibling's financial acumen maximizes the windfall.

"Whenever Scott decides to leave, he's going to be very hard to replace as the secretary-treasurer because he is very good with money and how to save it," he says. "For a small township, we're

wealthy. He knows how much we have to save from the landfill money to pave roads and do drainage work and routine maintenance. After our paving project this year, all the roads will be pretty much brand new."

A lifelong resident of Frailey Township, Scott Allar has been working for the municipality in one way or another for 45 years. He began as the

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secretary-treasurer and decided to run for supervisor when a seat opened up. After serving a while, he left the board but continued as secretary-treasurer, all while working full-time as a department supervisor at a local manufacturing plant. Township government was not done with him, though.

“One year, two of the supervisors were forced to resign,” he says. “I got back on the board and have been there ever since. It’s a small township and no one wants to run for office. If I didn’t run, the seat would probably be empty.”

After retiring from his manufacturing job in 2015, the township hired Allar to work about 15 hours a week to help his brother with public works projects.

“I hurt my back and had surgery about 10 years ago,” Keith Allar says. “My brother helps with the heavy lifting.”

Helping with road projects has given his brother more exposure to the public that he has been serving for more than four decades, Keith says,

“He’s always been good with the public, but he’s probably better at it now that he helps me,” he says. “I’ve been the worker all these years and whenever there was a problem, people came running to me because they knew me. Now they come running to both of us.”

Serving the community

The siblings are both lifetime members of the Donaldson Volunteer Fire Company. Although Keith’s back issues keep him from filling his past role as the tank truck driver, Scott, at age 70, still drives a truck.

“About 1991, the fire company president and vice president both passed away within a few months of each other,” says Mike Scheib, a volunteer firefighter and long-time friend of Allar. “Scott stepped up and became our chief engineer [the president had filled the role previously] and then fire company secretary the following year. He’s in charge of our fundraisers, including four chicken barbeques every year.”

Not surprisingly, the township’s landfill revenue also supports the fire company.

“It is very handy to have Scott sitting in both seats, at the fire company and the township,” Scheib says. “Whenever the fire company needs something, he says, ‘Come to the township and we’ll see what we can do.’”

Over the years, Allar and his fellow supervisors have always focused on improving the lives of their residents. Currently, the township is set to begin the second phase of a playground project that will include a pavilion on a concrete slab, a swingset and other play structures, a paved drive, and accessibility features.

When Frailey was forced to get public sewer, the officials secured a loan through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and oversaw the installation. The Schuylkill Municipal Authority in Pottsville eventually took it over.

The township officials also led the effort to get public water from the authority to address acid mine drainage.

“Before we got it, all the water came from the mines,” Scott Allar says. “The water was orange when you turned on the faucet.”

Looking to the future

Allar and his brother aren’t the only family members interested in township affairs, however. Scott’s grandson, Eoin (*a Gaelic name that is pronounced Owen*) is an avid reader of the *Township News* magazine. Allar and Audrey, his wife of 48 years come this May, used to babysit Eoin before he started school.

“He learned to read very early, by age two,” Allar says. “Every day, he liked to read the *Township News*, especially the ads in the back, which he read out loud. Even now, if he is here on a Sunday, he always reads the magazine.”

Perhaps Eoin may fill his grandfather’s and great uncle’s shoes some day on the board of supervisors but for now, the Allar brothers intend to keep serving.

“My current term is up the end of next year,” Scott says, “and I will probably run for reelection. If someone stepped up to run against me, it might be a different story, but no one is likely to step up.”

“My brother and I are concerned about what’s going to happen in the future when we’re not able to do this anymore. The younger people don’t seem to want to get involved.”

Although the future is uncertain, the people of Frailey Township can rest assured that at least for now, the community is in good hands with Scott Allar at the helm. ♦

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Please send us any job descriptions that your township has updated since 2010 and that you think could be helpful to another township.

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