

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume I, Issue 2

October 2006

Office Hours Monday—Friday, 8AM—4:30PM

Web site www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

Phone 610.323.8675

Commissioner's Comments



It has been my privilege and pleasure to be your representative during the last 15 years. My service began on the Township Planning Commission at a time when there was little controversy, and where a busy meeting might involve a homeowner's request to expand a deck or build a fence. We took advantage of this slack time to review our Zoning Code and Subdivision Ordinances. We then made recommendations that would give our township better control over the inevitable growth and development that had already begun impacting our neighboring communities. The ordinances we crafted then, not only reduced housing density, but are now also helping us better manage development, so that open space and woodlands are preserved, ground water and stream corridors are protected, and adequate infrastructure is constructed.

Even so, now that we are in the midst of the anticipated growth spurt, residents are still frustrated with the changes that are taking place around their neighborhoods. It is said that, "we all love progress, but hate change". To be sure, the building of new homes for the families that come to share in our community results in 'growing pains' - but longtime neighborhoods also bring other 'aches and pains' that arise as their aging infrastructure begins to fail and then requires expensive repairs or replacement.

The law only goes so far in providing practical solutions for the 'pains' of communities that are 'growing up' and 'growing old' - but it does establish the basis for doing so fairly and with accountability. While "you can't please all the people all the time", I am confident that your township representatives and staff have acted creatively and within the guidelines of the law to successfully meet the challenges of both growth and rehabilitation we face today. I believe that understanding and being patient with our township's 'growing pains' will go a long way in reducing the frustrations they cause.

Open Space Referendum in Upper Pottsgrove

I am Stephen Ailes, township resident and chairman of "UP FOR OPEN SPACE" - a local committee dedicated to preserving OPEN SPACE in our community. We believe that it is important to VOTE YES for the OPEN SPACE referendum in the township's upcoming election this November 7th. I want to share accurate information with you about this public referendum, in hopes that you will also agree that this is our best chance to take control and be responsible stewards of our community's natural land resources.



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Board of Commissioners

- Elwood Taylor, President
- Russell Noll, Vice President
- Megan De Lena
- Peter Dolan
- Kenneth Iatesta

Booster Seats

Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Department has purchased child open-end booster seats as part of our ongoing Community Service Program

These seats are available at a cost of \$10.00 each.

This department also has a free program available to parents to instruct them in the installation and purchase of child safety seats. This service is available by contacting Child Safety Seat Specialist Officer Jason Zoski at 610-326-8446 for an appointment



Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Car Safety Tips

Booster Seat Information

WHAT IS THE LAW CONCERNING BOOSTER SEATS?

Children under 4 years of age are required to use a child restraint device. Non-use is a primary offense. Children 4 to under 8 years of age are required to use a booster seat. Non-use is a secondary offense. The fine is a sliding fine up to \$100.00. The money will continue to go into a fund to purchase child safety seats for loaner programs that distribute child safety seats across Pennsylvania. Charges may be dismissed by the District Justice if proof of purchase or loan of a child passenger safety seat/booster seat is introduced into evidence.

Drivers and passengers 8 to 18 years of age are required to be restrained anywhere in the vehicle. This is a secondary violation. The fine is \$10.00.



IS YOUR CHILD READY TO RIDE WITHOUT A BOOSTER SEAT?

Take this 5-step test to find out.

Remember - By Law - Children 4 to under 8 years of age are required to use a booster seat.

- 1) When the child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat back does his/her knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
- 2) Does the shoulder belt cross between the child's neck and arm?
- 3) Does the lap belt cross the child's body as low as possible? Does it cross the child's thighs?
- 4) Is the child able to sit comfortably in this position for the length of the trip?
- 5) Is the child 8 years of age or older?

If the answer to any of these questions is:

NO - Then your child needs to remain in a booster seat in order to ride safely in the vehicle.

YES - Then your child is ready to graduate from the booster seat to a lap and shoulder belt.

Other Facts

Children restrained in seatbelts instead of child safety seats or booster seats are 3.5 times more likely to suffer serious injuries in a crash. (2001, State Farm Insurance, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia).

Booster seat use for children under 7 years of age reduces the risk of injuries by 60% compared to children using adult seat belts. (2001, State Farm Insurance, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia).

In 2000, there were 1,406 children under the age of 4 injured, 14 killed and of children 4 to 7 years of age, there were 2,143 injured and 10 killed in motor vehicle crashes. (PA Dept. of Transportation).

It costs \$25 or less for a backless booster seat. The average cost for care of a child injured in a car crash is approximately \$24,000. (1999, PA Dept. of Health,).

95 PERCENT OF CHILDREN WHO ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 4 TO 8 ARE RIDING AT RISK

There are two types of booster seats to use depending on your vehicle and your child's weight.

High-back Belt-Positioning Booster

If your vehicle's seat back is lower than your child's ears, use this seat to PROTECT your child's head and neck. Some booster seats have a harness system for children under 40 pounds. The harness is removed at 40 pounds and then used as a belt-positioning booster.

Backless Booster Seat

If your vehicle's seat back is higher than your child's ears, use this seat. Prices for booster seats range from \$20 - \$65.

Vehicles must be equipped with lap/shoulder belts in order to use a booster seat.

Farmington Avenue Construction Update

We thank you for your patience during the prolonged construction effort on Farmington Avenue. What has occurred to date?

- Phase I of this endeavor has been completed and it consists of the laying of 18" sewer pipe from 1186 Farmington Avenue to 1320 Farmington Avenue.
- Phase II consists of 10" sewer pipe being laid from 1320 Farmington Avenue to the Pine Ford Road crossing.
- Phase III will be the laying of 18" sewer pipe from Roosevelt Street crossing to 1186 Farmington Avenue.
- And, Phase IV that involves the laying of 18" sewer pipe from 824 Farmington Avenue to 892 Farmington Avenue, has been completed.

We trust that you will agree that this comprehensive and necessary project will benefit our community for generations to come!

MEETING DATES & TIMES

Board of Commissioners-1st & 3rd Mon., 7 PM
 Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 6 PM
 Park & Recreation Board-2nd Wed., 7 PM
 Sewer & Water Committee-4th Mon., 7 PM
 Open Space Committee-2nd Tues., 7 PM
 Fire Committee-3rd Thurs., 7 PM
 Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Please remember to come out and vote.
Tuesday, November 7
All Upper Pottsgrove Township residents vote at the
Fire House, 1409 Farmington Avenue.
The polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

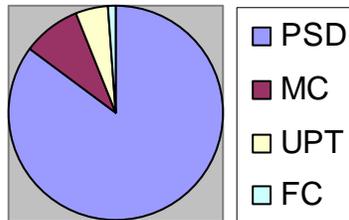
Where Do Your Real Estate Tax Dollars Go?

33.776 mills in Real Estate Taxes are collected in Upper Pottsgrove. Here is the distribution:

Pottsgrove School District
28.781 mills [85%]

Montg. County
2.89 mills [9%]

U. Pottsgrove Twp.
(1.73 mills) &
Fire Co. (0.375 mills) =
2.105 mills [6%]



The Township's 1.73 mills produce approximately \$407,000 funding on an annual basis.

A property assessed at \$100,000 pays less than \$17 per month for Township Police, Highway and Code Enforcement services.



No Place for Hate—www.adl.org

Earlier in the year, the Upper Pottsgrove Board of Commissioners signed a resolution to begin the steps necessary to become designated as a No Place for Hate® community. During a township meeting, the Board voted unanimously to move forward with the program, publicly asserting their dedication that Upper Pottsgrove be inclusive of all people.

In the near future, the Township will be holding a meeting for anyone interested in joining the No Place for Hate Committee. For more information, please contact Michelle Reddick at 610.323.8675 x203.



Open Space Referendum in Upper Pottsgrove (Continued)

The ballot question asks, "Do you favor adopting an earned income tax of ¼ of 1% in order to finance the acquisition of open space from willing sellers in Upper Pottsgrove Township?"

1. SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WILL NOT BE TAXED.

Being an "earned income tax", it will not be a financial burden for our retired residents who depend on Social Security income for their living expenses.

2. BANG FOR THE BUCK

While ¼ of 1% is a relatively modest commitment (about \$13 a month), it allows us access to hundreds of thousands of dollars from government and private resources. The township will then use these funds to purchase land and easements for public use, and to create permanent OPEN SPACE that will enhance the value and livability of our neighborhoods. Montgomery County has already set aside over ¾ of a million dollars for such purposes in Upper Pottsgrove Township. If we do not provide the required 20% in matching funds, the money that the County has already collected from taxpayers will be sent to other communities rather than being spent here in Upper Pottsgrove. This referendum also assures that the money will be spent only for acquiring OPEN SPACE. If we can use the funding that this referendum recommends, it will free up resources within our operating budget that will allow for even greater opportunities in the years to come.

3. EMINENT DOMAIN IS NOT THE ISSUE

The money raised through this referendum will only be used to preserve OPEN SPACE being offered by **WILLING SELLERS**. Some people have raised concerns about government land grabs for questionable purposes. However, our elected officials are not considering any such use for these funds. Defeating this referendum out of fear that the government is planning to use it for eminent domain purposes will also defeat the township from being able to buy OPEN SPACE from the many land owners who have already agreed to volunteer their land if funding becomes available. The existing OPEN SPACE in the township is disappearing at an alarming rate, and missing the opportunity to preserve it now may mean missing the opportunity for good. That would be a shame when there are land owners who want us to take control of the land to preserve it for the future.

Since we started this effort, we have happily discovered that there is a tremendous amount of support from the people in the community we have talked with. The Upper Pottsgrove population seems to realize that besides just giving us all a more beautiful and better place in which to live, preserving OPEN SPACE both increases property values and reduces the costs associated with the school district. If you decide to VOTE YES this November, you will be taking part in preserving the township's future by balancing sensible development with preservation of our valuable natural resources.

Any one desiring more information can go to www.OpenSpacelsOurCandidate.com or feel free to call me at 267.688.-8790.

Stephen Ailes

OPEN SPACE is our candidate



Library News www.ppl.mclinc.org

Check the Pottstown Public Library website at www.ppl.mclinc.org or call 610.970.6551 for upcoming programs and events. Membership to the Library is free to residents and is paid for by the Township.

- Story Time programs year round for ages 8 months through 6 years.
- Adult programs on a variety of topics, a monthly book club, movie night and Tai Chi series

Coming soon...downloadable audio books! Library patrons will soon be able to check out and download audio books to their home computers, which can be copied to CDs or an MP3 player.

We also provide the following services to our patrons:

Access to our collection of over 64,000 items • Access to the entire MCLINC catalog • Interlibrary loan • Reference and Reader's Advisory • Access to the PA POWER Library and other online databases • Paperback Swap • Newspapers and Magazines • Photocopy machine • Microfilm reader/printer with issues of local newspapers dating back to 1858 • Free Internet Access • Stand-alone computers with MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint • Children's CD-ROM computer with educational programs • Storytimes and films for preschoolers • Summer Reading Program for Children and Teens • Programs for Adults • Public Meeting Room for non-profit use • Passport Application acceptance (by appointment only!)

**Bike Safety Day—Saturday, November 4, 2006
11 AM to 3 PM at Heather Place Park
(Rain/Snow Date—Sunday, November 5, 2006)**

Currently, the law requires children 12 and under to wear helmets. The police department will provide these helmets free to township children on this day. The department will also administer a session on bike safety and a bike skill course in the parking lot. They are in need of volunteers to assist in this event and would be happy for your assistance. If anyone is interested, please contact the department at their non-emergency telephone number: 610.326.8446.

Also, Bike Line will be performing bike inspections on site that day.



Leaves and Grass Disposal

Remember, by ordinance, the blowing or sweeping of leaves and grass clippings into streets or gutters is prohibited, as they block storm water drains and ditches, promote growth along curbs and can create hazardous driving conditions.



Clearing Snow from Driveways

The winter season is fast approaching and it is time to start thinking about snow removal in Upper Pottsgrove Township. Every winter season, the Township receives calls from homeowners who have had their driveways "plowed in" with snow during the Township's snow removal activities. In order to help make the snow clearing process more enjoyable for residents and the Township employees who operate the plows, listed on the next page is a suggestion to help keep driveways clear after the plows have passed.

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Upper Pottsgrove Township
1409 Farmington Avenue
Pottstown, PA 19464

Presort Std
US POSTAGE PAID
Pottstown, PA
19464
Permit #156

Upper Pottsgrove Township

ETHICS in ACTION—Equity, Transparency, Honor, Integrity, Commitment, Stewardship

Upper Pottsgrove Township

1409 Farmington Avenue
Pottstown, PA 19464

Administration Building 610.323.8675
Fax: 610-327-1967

Police Department (Non-emergency)
610.326.8446

Fire Dept. (Non-emergency) 610.323.2424
E-mail: upperpottsgrovetownship@comcast.net
www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org



We're on the Web!
upperpottsgrovetownship.org

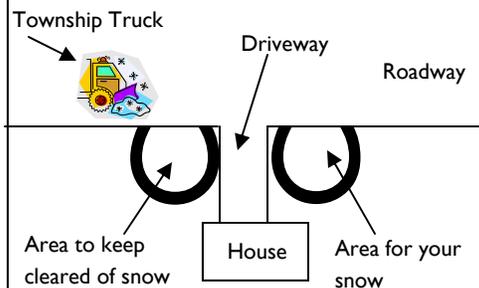
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**CLEARING SNOW
FROM DRIVEWAYS**

"Clip & Save"

*Call the Township at 610.323.8675
with any snow removal questions*

**HOW TO CLEAR YOUR
DRIVEWAY OF SNOW**



**INSTRUCTIONS FOR
HELPING TO KEEP
YOUR
DRIVEWAY CLEAR
OF SNOW AFTER
THE
TOWNSHIP PLOWS
HAVE PASSED**

- 1) Facing the street, clear an area to the left of your driveway.
- 2) As a result, all of the snow that you clear should be placed to the right of your driveway.
- 3) This cleared area will help "catch" displaced snow that would otherwise land in your driveway.
- 4) Please, note that clearing the snow to the left of your driveway will not keep all of the snow out of your driveway, but it will greatly reduce the amount that you will have to "re-shovel."