



# The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume I, Issue I

July 2006

## Commissioners' Corner

We hope you find this newsletter helps keep you informed about some of the important activities taking place around our community. Over the past several months, we have appointed a new Township Manager and a new Police Chief, as well as the township's first Code Enforcement Officer. The construction of hundreds of new housing units is moving forward in the Township. While at the same time, efforts are proceeding along to protect and purchase dozens of acres of beautiful open-space. Beginning with this first issue of *The Township Herald*, we will make a concerted effort to provide you with constructive information regarding our Township!



## New Police Chief Hired

At the May 15, 2006 Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners' meeting, Bryan D. Ross, 51 years old, of Kutztown, was sworn in as the Township's new Police Chief. Mr. Ross has served as a police officer for 28 years and has served as a Chief of Police for 21 of those years. He is a graduate of Kutztown State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

Chief Ross began his law enforcement career in Berks County where he served as a patrol officer with the Boroughs of Topton and Kutztown. He was subsequently appointed the Chief of Police for the Topton Borough Police Department in 1985. This department grew into the Berks-Lehigh Regional Police Department where Chief Ross supervised officers and provided police services for 24,000 residents residing in four separate municipalities in two counties.

Chief Ross keeps current with the latest policing strategies and technologies and has attended numerous police management courses, such as the F.B.I. National Academy and Northwestern University Staff and Command Schools.

Chief Ross believes that police officers and private citizens should work together in creative ways to solve contemporary community problems related to crime, fear of crime, quality of life and neighborhood conditions.

## Upper Pottsgrove Fire Company #1

The UPTFC#1 has a new Fire Chief, Tom Mattingly, and a new President, Stanley Hildenbrand, who are providing the momentum for new growth and leadership in the fire company. A newly appointed Fire Committee, growing membership and updated equipment are encouraging trends for our reorganized fire company.

Volunteers are needed for firefighting, fire police, fund-raising events and our Emergency Operations Center. If you have any desire to volunteer, please contact the fire company or township office. You are invited to visit the Fire Company any Thursday evening at 7:00 pm to get more information or just meet the firefighters.

## Inside this issue:

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Farmington Avenue</i> | 2 |
| <i>Public Works</i>      | 2 |
| <i>Open Space</i>        | 2 |
| <i>Don't Get Scammed</i> | 3 |
| <i>Litter</i>            | 4 |
| <i>Volunteers Needed</i> | 4 |
| <i>Library News</i>      | 4 |
| <i>Recreation Board</i>  | 5 |

## Board of Commissioners

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



## Farmington Avenue Construction

Anyone who has traveled on Farmington Avenue this month has seen the detour signs and excavation equipment. During construction, at least one travel lane will be kept open for local residents and for access to your favorite businesses.. When completed later this year, all township residents should find that the project’s benefits were worth the inconvenience! These improvements are the following:

- Farmington Avenue will be smoothed and newly paved from the Township Building south to Wilson Street.
- A public water system will be installed to provide an alternative for residents whose wells have been contaminated by TCE.



*continued on page 4*

## Public Works Department Updates

Our Public Works Department strives to provide a quality level of services for our community. Major projects that this Department has or will be involved with include the following:

- The replacement of sanitary sewer laterals and building sewers in the Greengate Development during January 2006
- In the early Spring, professional landscapers and paving contractors completed lawn and street restoration in the Greengate Development
- The Snyder Road Drainage Improvement Plan eliminated hazardous gutters and provided for positive drainage in this area
- Recommending the purchase of a new dump truck that will have a snowplow and salt spreader
- The start of the Wolf Run project which will provide public water for the residents impacted by TCE contamination

**All municipal planners agree that moderating residential development through OPEN SPACE initiatives is cost effective.**

## Open Space Referendum

Upper Pottsgrove Township residents have consistently supported community leaders who have worked to manage residential development and contain “suburban sprawl”. This support has allowed us to jointly plan with neighboring municipalities in the Pottstown Area Regional Planning Committee and enact our own specialized zoning regulations in an effort to preserve OPEN SPACE for the enjoyment of current and future genera-

tions. Besides preserving the natural beauty and rural character of our community, OPEN SPACE reduces the need for costly infrastructure, lessens the burden on the school district, and limits the need for expanding government services. All municipal planners agree that moderating residential development through OPEN SPACE initiatives is cost effective. In the upcoming November election, residents will be

given the opportunity to again confirm their long-standing support for OPEN SPACE preservation. Approving the OPEN SPACE referendum will make possible the purchase of particularly sensitive properties for permanent public protection and use. Members of the Open Space Committee, the Parks and Recreation Board, the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners, as well as many other concerned citizens,

look forward to discussing this important issue with **you**. Without prompt action, we will lose the opportunity to protect our dwindling OPEN SPACE resources for everyone that enjoys making Upper Pottsgrove their home.

## Homeowners – Don't Get Scammed

Homeowners should be aware of scam artists who use high pressure tactics to sell unneeded and over-priced contracts for "home improvements." Often these scam artists charge more than their quoted prices or their work does not live up to their promises. When the homeowner refuses to pay for shoddy or incomplete work, the contractor or an affiliated lender threatens foreclosure on their home.

Not all contractors operate within the law. Here are some tip-offs to potential rip-offs. A less than reputable contractor:

- solicits door-to-door;
- offers you discounts for finding other customers;
- just happens to have materials left over from a previous job;
- only accepts cash payments;
- asks you to get the required building permits;
- does not list a business number in the local telephone directory;
- tells you your job will

be a "demonstration";

- pressures you for an immediate decision;
- offers exceptionally long guarantees;
- asks you to pay for the entire job upfront;
- suggests that you borrow money from a lender the contractor knows. If you're not careful, you could lose your home through a home improvement loan scam.

Homeowners should take the following basic steps to prevent problems:

- Never deal with any itinerant handyman who comes to your door. If they are insistent, ask them to leave. Call the police if they don't do so.
- Be sure the work is really necessary. Don't take the word of someone who comes to your door.
- Do not permit itinerant handymen to examine your house so they can give you an estimate. This is often the set-up to a scam or burglary ... or worse. Ask them to leave immediately. Call the police if they

don't.

- Ask neighbors and friends to recommend a good handyman or contractor. Don't rely on leaflets stuffed in mailboxes or posted on bulletin boards.
- When interviewing a contractor, get a written list of work he or she has done in your area. Then go examine those projects or contact the previous customers.
- Draw up a written contract, including the work to be performed, the time frame and the agreed-upon cost of supplies and labor.
- Don't let the contractor finance your project. This almost always results in unnecessary charges. If you need financing, contact a bank or credit union.
- Demand to see the contractor's city or county business license and insurance certificate. Do not take no for an answer. Refuse to deal with anyone who will not provide this information.

Always be certain you have the contractor's complete name, business name and his or her street address. Don't settle for a post office box.

Please feel free to contact the Township Office at 610.323.8675 or the Police Department at 610.326.8446 if you have any questions about high-pressure contractors who come to your door.

**When interviewing a contractor, get a written list of work he or she has done in your area. Then go examine those projects or contact the previous customers.**



## Litter An Eyesore

Our open spaces of rural farmland, intersections of roadways, and township parks are the life blood and "golden egg" of Upper Pottsgrove Township. Responsible stewardship can have positive effects on our daily lives and the future of our Township.

When you walk to your mailbox daily, look around your property (and your neighbor's) at what has been deposited across the roadway. We all need to make the litter problem disappear. Do your part and pick up the can, newspaper, candy wrapper, beer bottle and construction materials on a daily basis. You are the government/stewardship of our Township. Help make us all proud! You will also feel much better that you did your part!

## Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste and Computer Collection Program

You can dispose of your household hazardous waste items and computers from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. on the following upcoming dates and locations:

- On Saturday, October 28, 2006 at the Lower Merion Transfer Station, 1300 Woodbine Avenue in Narberth, Pennsylvania

For information on this endeavor, please call 610.278.3618.

## Farmington Avenue Construction Cont'd.

*continued from page 2*

- PECO natural gas lines will be upgraded.
- Sewer lines will be repaired and expanded, making it possible to extend much anticipated sewer service to residents with failing septic systems along Farmington Avenue beyond the Halfway House and include Burden's Corner and Evans Road.

Local taxpayers should be pleased that this comprehensive and necessary project came about after years of planning and coordination, and will be funded primarily through State and private resources.

## Library News

Check the Pottstown Public Library website at [www.pplmclinc.org](http://www.pplmclinc.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
- Summer Reading program for children and teens runs from June 21st through August 9th with performers, special programs and prizes

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.



**YARD SALE NOTICE**  
At the conclusion  
of your yard sale,  
please remove your  
sign.  
Thank you.



*We are always  
looking for volunteers  
to serve on our many  
Committees and  
boards.*

**Do you have any  
historic pictures  
which we can use in  
our next Herald?**

## PLANNING

**Summer Grove Subdivision** – This property is a 77.11 acre site located on the east and west sides of Chestnut Grove Road with driveway frontage on Chestnut Grove and Pineford Roads. The developer, Rouse/Chamberlin Homes, has final approved plans, to construct seventy-three (73) single family dwellings, plus an estate lot. The project will be served by public water and sewer. The developer has already started the grading work for this project.

**Soco-Skarbek (Coddington View) Subdivision** – This property is a 43.44 acre site located on the east side of Farmington Avenue with driveway frontage onto Farmington Avenue and Master Street. The developer, Heritage Building Group, has final approved plans to construct 218 townhouses. T. H. Properties has recently purchased this property from Heritage Building Group and will be constructing the townhouses. The project will be served by public water and sewer.

**Boerner Tract Subdivision** – This property is a 17.4 acre site located on the north side of Chestnut Grove Road with driveway frontage onto Chestnut Grove Road. The developer, Danny Jake Corporation, has final approved plans for thirty-three (33) single family dwellings. The project will be served by public water and sewer. Construction on this project will commence in late spring or early summer.

**Sweetwater Subdivision** – This property is a 58 acre site located on both sides of Moyer Road east of Cross Road and Route 100, with driveway frontage onto Moyer Road. The developer, Rouse/Chamberlin Homes, proposes to construct fifty-eight (58) single family dwellings on this site. The project will be served by public water and sewer. Preliminary approval has been given to this project subject to several conditions.

**Althouse Tract Subdivision** - This property is a 17 acre site located on the south side of Snyder Road, with a driveway frontage onto Gilbertsville Road. The developer, Danny Jake Corporation, proposes to construct 22 single family dwellings on this site. The project will be served by public water and sewer. This project is currently being reviewed as a preliminary plan and does not have any plan approvals. However, Danny Jake has obtained special exception approval from the Zoning Hearing Board for various encroachments upon the steep slope areas, primarily utility easements and portions of driveways and roadways.

## 2006—2007 Pottsgrove Recreation Board

The Pottsgrove Recreation Board is the central recreational organization of the Pottsgroves. Its purpose is to provide recreation for the residents of the various Pottsgrove communities. Funding is provided by the three townships and the school district.

**SUMMER PLAYGROUND** - July 5 - August 4. Located at: West Pottsgrove Elementary School, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School, and Ringing Rocks Elementary School. Elementary and middle school aged children are eligible. Pre-kindergarten children are not eligible. \$15.00 first child and second child. \$40.00 for three children or more. \$6.00 per day non-residents.

**TEENAGE DANCE** - July 31 - 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. West Pottsgrove Township Building, Grosstown Rd., Stowe, \$3.00, D.J., outdoors, raindate August 1.

**COMMUNITY BAND** - Monday evenings, all year - 7:00 P.M. in the High School band room. All musicians are invited to participate. Call for concert dates.

**JOGGING** - All year at the High School track. Keys for the gate can be secured from the School District Office by adults for a \$2.00 fee. The intensity and frequency of using the course should be determined by a physician. Please do not park in the numbered spaces during the school day.

**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL** - Every available Tuesday evening at 7:30 P.M. during the school year at the Ringing Rocks Elementary School for women no longer in high school. \$20.00 residents, \$25.00 non-residents.

**WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASS** - Every available Monday and Wednesday and Friday at the Middle School all year. 6:30 P.M. \$20.00 per quarter residents, \$25.00 per quarter non-residents.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** - Every available Thursday at 9:30 P.M. during the school year at the Middle School, for men no longer in high school. \$20.00 residents, \$25.00 non-residents.

**LEARN TO SWIM** - A Pottsgrove program at the Y.M.C.A. for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade children. There will be two eight-session classes that will meet on Fridays at 4:30 P.M. The first class will begin in October and the second will start in March. Look for flyers coming from school. \$10.00 per child.

*continued on page 6*

**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](mailto:upperpottsgrovetownship@comcast.net)  
[www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org](http://www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org)



**We're on the Web!**  
[upperpottsgrovetownship.org](http://upperpottsgrovetownship.org)

*continued from page 5*

**SKI, BOARD, AND TUBING CLUB** - Friday Night bus trips to Bear Creek for high school students, middle school students, and families. Interested adults should contact the director.

**FREE ICE SKATING** - at the Hill School rink, 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Skaters should wear a hat or hood while skating. Call for dates.

**TABLE TENNIS CLUB** - Every available Monday and Thursday evenings at 7:30 P.M. all year at the High School. \$20.00 residents, \$25.00 non-residents. \$5.00 children.

**TENNIS INSTRUCTION** - 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade children. Group lesson by the Greater Pottstown Tennis Association. Classes begin in June and run through July. \$45.00 per child.

PREREGISTRATION IS NOT NECESSARY EXCEPT FOR LEARN TO SWIM; TENNIS INSTRUCTION; SKI, BOARD, AND TUBING CLUB. OTHERWISE, GO TO THE LOCATION OF THE ACTIVITY TO REGISTER.

THE POTTS GROVE RECREATION BOARD DOES NOT HAVE SOCCER, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, TEE BALL, WRESTLING OR YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAMS.

*All programs are subject to change. Times may vary according to the season. Announcements are made at the Middle School and the High School for programs involving those students. Flyers are distributed in the Pottsgrove schools for elementary programs.*