

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume II, Issue 4

October 2007

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

Web site www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

Phone 610.323.8675

Commissioner's Comments

As one of your Township Commissioners I have had the opportunity and pleasure to meet many of you and have formed many wonderful friendships. As you may or may not be aware, I have decided not to run for office again and to focus my energies between my family and my church. I have served both you and the Township over the last 20 years and have worked closely with our residents and other state and local elected officials. I have served as Civil Defense Coordinator, (back when we had yellow hard hats and Geiger counters!), Emergency Management Coordinator, on the Planning Commission, and almost 15 years as Township Commissioner. I have represented the Township on many committees from our local C.O.G. (Council of Governments), to the Regional Planning Commission (which I helped form), the M.C.A.T.C. (Montgomery County Association of Township Commissioners), the E.A.F.C.T. (Eastern Association of First Class Townships), the P.S.A.T.C. (Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners), and have sat on both Federal and State P.A.C Boards.



Jackie and Ken latesta

With the construction of the '422 by-pass' and the mandates given to us by the Pennsylvania State Government, our Township has grown and we are slowly losing our farms and open space. Between changing our ordinances and the Regional Planning Commission we have tried to preserve as much land as possible. I am happy to say that I supported the Open Space Initiative that was voted on and accepted by you, the residents, to purchase and preserve some of our "open space" for both ourselves and future generations to enjoy. Times and the Township are changing! Support your elected officials and attend the meetings so that you can be heard. Most importantly, do not forget to vote. I thank you and my family for the support given to me over the years and the opportunity to serve you. God Bless!

Did You Know???

While many Township-sponsored projects and activities do not routinely MAKE THE HEADLINES, they do MAKE THE DIFFERENCE in our community's well-being.

HUNDREDS GET SAFE DRINKING WATER

After hundreds of TWP residents learned that their well water came from sources contaminated with cancer causing TCE, Township officials stepped in to coordinate a comprehensive effort to provide them with a safe alternative. Working with the DEP, extensive testing was conducted to determine the full scope of the problem. During this study, either bottled water or carbon filters were provided free of charge to all homes that registered unhealthy levels of TCE. Ultimately it was determined that extending public water lines to the homes within the contamination zone would be the most practical way to permanently protect all the homeowners. To date, Township Officials, working together with our State Representatives, have acquired almost 3 million dollars from the State to connect over 200 homes to a public water supplier at no cost to the TWP or its residents. Many homeowners who were facing both health and financial jeopardy can now safely enjoy their properties.

SMOOTH SAILING ON FARMINGTON AVE

After years of inconvenience, Farmington Ave, has recently been remade and resurfaced, and now provides smooth travel through the heart of the Township. Residents now enjoy a more pleasant ride home, while local businesses can look forward to improved and more inviting access to their properties for potential patrons. The Township's Public Works Crew worked very closely with road contractors during construc-

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Board of Commissioners

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

Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Company #1

As many of the township residents have already noticed; the Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Company #1 is celebrating the 2 year anniversary of re-opening its' doors in November! For new residents and those who don't know; the fire company and the offices of the township officials share the building at the intersection of Farmington Avenue and State Road.

Since the doors were reopened, the perseverance of the members to rebuild the financial status, membership and township relations has greatly paid off. The members have been able to secure grant funding for necessary equipment, such as:

- New hose for all of the trucks
- New Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AED's) for each truck
- Up-to-date first aid kits for each truck
- New high pressure air packs with integrated pass alarms for each truck
- 18V cordless tool kit for Engine 3, along with other various tools

A three-tag accountability system has been purchased and incorporated into the company's emergency procedures. Each grant is written specifically for the needed piece of equipment to ensure the company receives the correct equipment required to perform the diverse tasks that face the firefighters each time they are called out.

The membership has been growing steadily, as new mem-



The modernized compartments with some of our new and necessary tools

bers are being voted in each month. New members are always welcome because it is difficult to staff an all volunteer fire company. The Fire Chief, Tom Mattingly, is doing an outstanding job leading, teaching and participating in everything that happens with the company. He takes time to listen to and teach the firefighters how to correctly perform the necessary tasks, whatever the situation - be it on the scene of a call or at the station during training. Stan Hildenbrand, the township Fire Marshal, pulls double duty as UPTFC's President. He can usually be found working closely with the township, both as a Fire Officer and as a Township Official. Other members, ranging in age from 17 (as part of the Junior Program) to

early 70's, and ranging in occupations, from Receiving Manager, to Cashier, to Bus Driver, to Diesel Technician, have been necessary in the growth and successful operation of the "new and improved" Upper Pottsgrove Twp. Fire Co. #1.

As a stipulation to the fire company's reopening, a Fire Committee was established. It is comprised of both Township and Fire officials. Each month, the Committee meets to discuss the state of affairs between the township and the fire company.

Before the closure in 2005, Upper Pottsgrove Township purchased a 1981 Mack Engine from North End Fire Company in Pottstown for UPTFC to use. It was refurbished in 2000, bringing it back to "new" status. The truck is serving the fire company well, holding 1100 feet of 5" hose and 500 gallons of water. Tailored to meet the needs of UPTFC, there is only one thing that is keeping the satisfaction of the fire company at bay - the color of the truck. It is still painted "North End Yellow," much to the membership's discontent. This is why they have started vigorous fundraising efforts to raise enough money to paint the truck red to match the rest of UPTFC's trucks. After receiving many estimates, ranging from \$11,000 upwards to \$16,000 to paint the truck, a fundraising committee is in the process of creating different fundraising events to help raise the necessary funding to paint the truck. The members have created a "thermometer" showing how much funding has been raised, and it accompanies the trucks when they make public appearances. Residents of the township are encouraged to help by contributing to the fundraising efforts of the UPTFC.



The thermometer so far

Growing each day with the perseverance and knowledge of its members, Upper Pottsgrove Twp. Fire Co. #1 has recovered and is better than ever! Each call that is dispatched, be it an automatic fire alarm, a vehicle accident, or a working fire, you'll see the members responding once again!



A shot of Engine 3... painted (for now) in "North End Yellow"



Rouse Chamberlin Homes Partners with Upper Pottsgrove Township and Local Residents to Sponsor "Tree Planting Day"

On October 20, 2007 Rouse Chamberlin Homes invited local groups and area residents to participate in a "Tree Planting Day". Volunteers planted trees and bushes in the community open space, dedicated to Upper Pottsgrove Township by Rouse Chamberlin Homes, located along the twelve (12) acre "Goose Run" community greenway connecting

the Summer Grove and Chestnut Grove communities. This event was made possible by a \$7,200 grant to Upper Pottsgrove Township by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners has put into place several initiatives to promote greenway creation and preservation. "Goose Run" is the first example of this initiative with the acquisition of the twelve (12) acre greenway from Rouse Chamberlin Homes this past fall. "Goose Run" has entered the next stage of implementation with a preservation grant from "TreeVitalize" to restore and enhance a previously cleared area of the open space.

Future plans include the construction of a nature trail connecting the two neighborhoods as part of a larger effort to create pedestrian links throughout the township. Rouse Chamberlin Homes is pledging \$30,000 toward the design and construction of this trailway.

MEETING DATES & TIMES

Board of Commissioners-1st & 3rd Mon., 7 PM

Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 6 PM

Parks & 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

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tion to ensure that individual property owner's concerns, including storm water run-off and driveway access issues, were satisfactorily addressed.

EXTREME MAKEOVER FOR GREENGATE COMMUNITY

Greengate, one of the original subdivisions in our community, has recently undergone a Township-sponsored revitalization of its aging and failing infrastructure. Because much of the underground sewage collection system had become cracked and was leaking, both the main sewer lines and lateral connections to each home were repaired or replaced. Since many of the homes drinking wells had become contaminated with cancer-causing TCE, a clean and safe public water system was installed. A more visible improvement was the repair and repaving of the entire community's road network. Most of this work was completed without cost to the residents, as Township Officials arranged funding through private developer contributions and State grants. With this EXTREME MAKEOVER, homeowner's property investments have been protected and the neighborhood is a more desirable place to live.

OPEN SPACE CLOSED (to private development)

The combination of County grants, developer contributions, and local funding has energized Upper Pottsgrove's OPEN SPACE acquisition program and public use planning. Before the end of this year, purchases and agreements will add even more acres to those already preserved under the Township's stewardship. The Goose Run OPEN SPACE corridor, donated by Rouse/Chamberlin Builders and located between Pineford and Chestnut Grove Roads, will shortly boast a mile-long woodland trail financed primarily through private contributions. The woodland area surrounding the 'Sure Catch' fishing hole just off Mauger's Mill Road was recently purchased using County funds. Combined with the OPEN SPACE property recently transferred from the Turnberry subdivision, it will become the gateway to the envisioned Sprogels Run OPEN SPACE corridor and trail currently being designed using county grant funds.

HEATHER PLACE PARK REPLACED

The playground at Heather Place Park had been so well used over the years that it wore out! Recently, our Township's Parks and Recreation Committee coordinated the efforts of our Public Works Department and a private contractor to remove the old apparatus and install new, up-to-date play equipment. Kids and parents alike agree that it is a big improvement, and parents especially appreciate that most of the cost was paid through a private contribution.

A Message from the Parks & Rec Board

During the course of the summer, the Parks and Recreation department was able to complete a renovation of Heather Place Park (on the West side of Route 100 at 1420 Heather Place). Thanks in part to the support of Rouse Chamberlin Homes, we replaced all of the playground equipment with up-to-date, safe and ADA compliant equipment. The new equipment consists of slides, tunnels, and tubes for everybody. We also added police cars and airplanes (for those who always wanted to be in charge), a "sky runner", and an "accelerator" (for those who may have the will for a little more hearty ride). We added electricity and water supplies to the pavilion at the park. These upgrades, combined with the new grills, will make family get-togethers more fun than ever. Keep in mind the pavilion can be reserved for exclusive functions by calling the township office @ 610-323-8675.

Special thanks for supporting the project goes out to Rouse Chamberlin, the Public Works department, and our Commissioners.

Stephen Ailes, Chairman, Parks & Rec Board

ELECTION DAY

November 6, 2007

Polls open at 7 AM and close at 8 PM

Voting will take place at the
Township Administrative Offices
1409 Farmington Avenue
The Township Office will be
closed for business on that day.

Pottstown Public Library Fall Programs & Events (ppl.mclinc.org)

Events

Wine Tasting Annual Fall Fundraising Event – Saturday, Nov. 3, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of fine wine accompanied by hors d'oeuvres and desserts donated by area restaurants. Wine experts Rob Peters and Rich Untie, featured in the Fall issue of "Montgomery County Town and Country Living Magazine," will lead the group through tasting and discussion of the selected wines. Tickets are \$35.00 and must be purchased in advance.

"Poems and Stories from the Road" with guest poet and writer Michael Czarnecki – Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:00 p.m. Mr. Czarnecki's reading will be followed by an open reading for those in the audience who would like to share their works. Czarnecki, at home in upstate New York, has given readings, writing workshops, and talks at colleges, libraries, and other locations throughout the country.

Back Door Book Sale – Friday 9-5:30 & Saturday 9-2, Nov. 16-17.

Used book sale by Friends of the Library.

Friends Night at Friendly's Family Restaurant – Tuesday, Nov. 20, 4-9 PM.

Dine at Friendly's at Rt. 100 & Shoemaker Road and they will donate a percentage of the bill to the Friends of the Library.

Children's Storytime

Open Stories, all ages – Mondays 10:30 - 11 AM, begins Nov. 5.

Snacktime Stories, all ages – Tuesdays 10:30 - 11 AM, begins Nov. 6.

Infant Stories, ages 8 months through 2 years old – Thursdays 10:30 - 11 AM, begins Nov. 8.

Adult Programs

Crafts: Knitting – Join one or both of our knitting groups which meet evenings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. or afternoons on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1:00 PM. The groups are currently working on holiday projects and gifts.

Library Reading Club – 7:00 PM the last Tuesday of each month beginning Oct. 30. We are pleased to have Cathy Redden, Associate Professor of English at MCCC West Campus, as the leader of this newly reorganized book discussion group. New members are always welcome. Please register to reserve a copy of the selected book.

Mystery Readers Book Discussion Group – 10:00 AM, 4th Tuesday of each month.

All are welcome; books will be reserved for those who register. The selection for November is Kathy Reichs' *Deja Dead*.

Tai Chi – 2-3, one-hour sessions per week. Instructor Julie Nieznay, a National titleholder, works with beginners and advanced students. Normal times are: Mondays & Tuesday at 6:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:10 AM. Check website for each month's schedule or pick up a flier in the Library. Made possible by a grant from by the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation.

Visit the library at 500 High Street, online at ppl.mclinc.org, or call 610-970-6551.

Community Day

The October 6, 2007 Community Day at Heather Place Park was "a good time had by all!". The new equipment at the park made the event fun, along with Balloon Magic, a Fish Pond, a Ball Drop and face painting available for children and adults. The Boy Scouts sold soft pretzels and other yummys. Alex's Lemonade stand earned a substantial donation for the foundation. The Bingo games were loads of fun! All Creatures Great and Small had a wonderful display on canine rescue. The Limerick K-9 unit gave a demonstration. (Our appreciation to Officer Hummer for his bravery.) Scott's T-Shirts were on hand to make our commemorative T-shirts. The Mede-Vac helicopter flew in for all to see.

We also had on hand two of our Congressmen, Senator John Rafferty and Representative Tom Quigley. Entertainment was supplied by a wonderful vocalist

Kendall Konrad and her talented friend, Sarah Christ, on electric guitar.

Upper Pottsgrove Fire Department brought fire trucks, put on a fire safety display for the children to act upon and let them operate a real fire hose!

A big "Thank You" goes out to Andy Weitzenkorn and the Pennsylvania Freemasons from the 40th Masonic District for their PA Child Identification Program. One hundred and fort-six children were identified.

Additional thanks to our volunteers: Nate Nadowski and Dara Gumbarge from Pottsgrove Rec Department, Christin and Ellen Entenman, Kari Ludy for her artwork and D.J. Ludy for helping out wherever he was needed, Robert Scott for his T-shirt design and donations, Rev. Dennis Millard for supplying and running the PA system for the event and Larry Kuzer from our Public Works Department.

Conserve Water / Save Money

You could be flushing money down the drain if you are still using an older toilet. More water is used for toilet operation than for any other water fixture in the typical home. A modern toilet uses two thirds less water and could reduce the monthly water bill for a family of four by \$15.00 for a total savings of over \$175.00 per year. A similar amount could be saved by replacing all the other water fixtures, including older faucets, showerheads, and washing machines, with modern low-volume models.

Pottsgrove Parks & Rec Board

The Board offers adult recreation programs throughout the school year. Men's basketball, women's volleyball, ping pong and women's exercise class are just a few. Check out our website at www.pottsgroverec.com or call 484-300-9637 for more information.



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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 140
Pottstown, PA 19464

Upper Pottsgrove Township

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

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Upper Pottsgrove Township

1409 Farmington Avenue
Pottstown, PA 19464

Administration Building 610.323.8675
Fax: 610-327.1967
Emergency: 911

Police Administration 610.326.8446
Montgomery County Dispatch 610.327.1441
Fire Dept. (Non-emergency) 610.323.2424
E-mail: upperpottsgrovetownship@comcast.net
www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

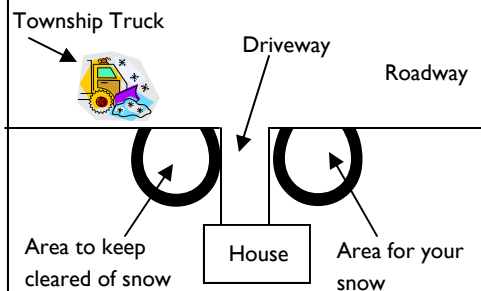
We're on the Web!
upperpottsgrovetownship.org

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."