

# The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume II, Issue 2

May 2007

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

Web site [www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org](http://www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org)

Phone 610.323.8675

## Commissioner's Comments



My first year as an Upper Pottsgrove Commissioner has been eventful and positive. As I look back on the changes that have occurred, I am pleased to say that although not always easy, they have been good for the township. On the surface, much of what we see as change in Upper Pottsgrove involves construction of new sewer and water lines, new homes being built or the purchase of open space, but other important things have been happening behind the scenes.

### Inside this issue:

*Newsletter Correction* 2

*Emergency Operations Center* 2

*Going on Vacation* 2

*Meeting Dates & Times* 3

*No Place for Hate* 3

*Library News* 4

*Building Permits* 4

*American Flag* 5

*Parks & Rec Survey* 5

In the spring of 2006, we had a change in township managers with Jack Layne joining our team. His upbeat, caring nature and many years of experience with city government has helped bring a new perspective to our community. Under his leadership our administration has completely reorganized accounting systems to make them more user friendly for both officials and residents. We have seen new grants come to Upper Pottsgrove that have been used for such projects as a new roof for our firehouse. As we work toward new goals for 2007 and beyond, I expect to see additional positive input from our manager.

At about the same time, we hired our new police chief, Bryan Ross, and not only has he brought strong leadership to our police department but he too has helped us make Upper Pottsgrove better administratively by scouring our files, policies and procedures to make sure we are up to date with all current best practices.

Our office staff, as always, handles anything that comes their way, no matter what. We are currently updating our Web page, software and our accounting systems, and we have completed the first year of "No Place for Hate" training. As Administrative liaison, I was very concerned about keeping the lines of communication open to our residents. With the reintroduction of the township newsletter we hope to keep you up to date on the latest issues and happenings in Upper Pottsgrove. If you have anything you think we should be sharing with our residents, please be sure to drop us an email or give us a call. We encourage your input as it helps us to better serve our community. I look forward to working with many of you as we work towards more positive changes for our township. I am proud to be part of this vital, caring and forward-thinking community.

### Board of Commissioners

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

## **Farmington Avenue – "Temporary Inconvenience / Permanent Improvement"**

Beginning in the Spring of last year, our community broke ground on the most massive and important construction project we have seen since RT#100 sliced through our township a generation ago. Three separate and necessary infrastructure improvement projects to water, sewer, and gas lines, required digging up Farmington Avenue from Pottstown to the Halfway House. This work extended beyond to some side streets and across RT#100 to *cont'd. on page 3*

## Oops—Newsletter Correction

Renee Spaide was inadvertently omitted from the Fire Committee in last month's Newsletter. Therefore, the Fire Committee consists of:

Russell Noll, Chairperson  
 Robert Sloss, Vice Chairperson  
 Jack P. Layne, Jr., Treasurer/Secretary  
 Kenneth Iatesta  
 Stanley Hildenbrand, President  
 Tom Mattingly, Chief  
 Renee Spaide

## "Your Community Needs You Now!"

As of last fall, our Township became compliant under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template which allows Federal, State, tribal and local governments and private sector and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to work together effectively and efficiently to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity, including acts of catastrophic terrorism. NIMS benefits include a unified approach to incident management; standard command and management structures; and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management. It applies to all elected and appointed officials all the way down to the individual citizen.

## Emergency Operations Center



The township Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was recently staffed by 17 professional and volunteer responders participating in an annual statewide PEMA Severe Weather Simulated Emergency Exercise. Several more positions are needed to be filled. Interested parties should contact the Township Office.

NIMS integrates emergency management practices, procedures, and systems utilized by emergency management professionals across the country into a national framework for incident response. The benefit of NIMS is most evident at the local level, when a community as a whole prepares for and provides an integrated response to an incident, which brings us to the purpose of this article.

During a recent meeting of township emergency response planners in conjunction with *continued on page 3*

## Township Police Alert Residents Who are Going on Vacation

- Don't leave a note anywhere announcing your absence and when you will return.
- Cancel all deliveries of newspapers or mail (or arrange with someone to pick up these things everyday) to prevent accumulation of such items – it is a dead giveaway that no one is home.
- Install an automatic timer to turn on lights in the house every evening you are away. If you do not have a timer the police department has loaners available that you can borrow.
- Do not pull the curtains or drapes while you are away – leave the window treatments the way they always are when you are there.
- Make sure that all windows, doors and other points of entry are locked or secured.
- Ask a neighbor you trust to watch the place and alert the police department if they see anything suspicious.
- Residents should contact the Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Dept. (610.326.8446) prior to your departure and complete a **Vacation Check Request Form**. The police department will check the residence while you are away. This form should indicate the date of departure and return along with contact information, etc.
- Make sure you do not leave tools, ladders, etc. outside the house or garage.
- Make sure you arrange to have the grass mowed or snow shoveled while gone...this too is a giveaway that no one is home.
- Do not leave your keys or other forms of identification in your vehicle if you have parked it anywhere while away (including if you park it at an airport parking lot); this is a great place for burglars to learn who isn't home.
- If you have a navigation system in your vehicle and it is removable, lock it in the trunk. Don't program your actual street address into the device as a thief stealing this item can use it for directions to your front door step.
- Enjoy your vacation and if you completed a vacation check request, contact the police department promptly upon your return home.

**Farmington Avenue** *continued from page 1*

the whole Greengate Subdivision. When completed later on this Spring, over 200 homeowners, living in an area where the ground water is contaminated with cancer-causing TCE, will be connected to **safe public water supplies**. Over 90 other homeowners will be able to connect to public sewer service and **eliminate the many failing on-lot septic systems** that created a health hazard and nuisance in their neighborhoods. And the public at large will be assured that the PECO gas supply lines have been upgraded to enhance safety.

Coordinating and scheduling the many different private contractors, public entities, and funding streams, has been a major project in itself. Our Township Manager and Public Works Department have made every effort to keep the work and traffic moving along, but **some amount of inconvenience has been inevitable**. Work continued throughout the winter season and we all had to contend with navigating over or around the patchwork quilt of temporary paving that had been left in the wake of the various work crews. However, we will all be shortly rewarded for our 'sacrifice' as Farmington Avenue gets its own "EXTREME MAKEOVER" with a full-depth reclamation and final surfacing that will make it better than new.

You should be happy to know that, for the most part, the cost of this significant and expensive undertaking, with a **price tag in excess of 4 million dollars, did not require any general tax increase**. The water line installation, including lateral hookups to each individual house, is being paid through State funds acquired through the Department of Environmental Protection. The upgrades to the sewer line, which included vital and cost-saving inflow and infiltration remediation, are being subsidized primarily by private developers, which reduces the impact on customer sewer rates. And the gas line installation was financed entirely by PECO.

With the completion of this project, hundreds of township homeowners and their families, who were facing potential health hazards, **will now be able to enjoy their property without fear of environmental contamination**. Also, homes that had become unmarketable will once again become secure investments. The whole community will benefit as the troubles of our neighbors are relieved.

**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

**"Your Community Needs You Now!"** *continued from page 2*

the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP), it became evident that our present Emergency Response Plan (ERP) needed to be updated. Why?

Emergency management best practices require all key personnel and staff be assigned to specific jobs involved in their area of expertise directing and performing their frontline duties. They CANNOT be manning our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) performing clerical and communications roles, as well as conducting the business of the municipality. Police, Fire, and Public Works must be "out on the street" where they are expected to be in times of need. That essentially leaves our Township Manager /Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and 3 employees to man the EOC! There are no provisions for a Deputy EMC, nor any specific back-up for any "official" designated assignments and redundant

back-ups or relief for them!  
 Every two years all municipalities within the 10 mile **Limerick Plume Zone (LPZ)** must participate in a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) mandated simulated emergency test (SET). The ability of each community to pass this SET is **significant!** It is something that everyone involved in takes VERY seriously and so should YOU! The way in which a community handles emergency and disaster management affects every one of its members. The Township is asking you to embrace a personal responsibility to volunteer in support of our local emergency response, disaster relief, and community safety activities. **For this Limerick Drill on AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup> we need people NOW!** Are any of these jobs hard? NO! Most are clerical and administrative in nature. If you like to use a telephone, operate a FAX machine or send *continued on page 5*



**No Place for Hate—www.adl.org**

The PA House of Representatives is declaring **Tuesday, May 1st**, as Official No Place for Hate® Day! For more information, please contact Michelle Reddick at 610.323.8675 x203.

**BUILDING PERMITS**

**Call LTL at 888.987.8886 for add'l. info.**

Below is a list of Building Permits required in **Upper Pottsgrove Township**. If you are planning on doing anything that is not clearly identified below, please call LTL Consultants at 888.987.8886 Monday through Friday 8AM-5PM. Call early in your planning process to avoid time-consuming delays when you are ready to start your project. Permit forms are available at the Township offices.

**Building Permit Required**

- Storage sheds
- New homes and additions
- Swimming pools, in and above ground
- Chimneys
- Replacing windows or doors when reducing or expanding the opening size
- Replacing structures destroyed by weather, fire, or other natural causes
- Interior wall relocation or other structural modification
- Dormers and porches
- Interior or exterior stairs and railing
- Adding bedrooms or baths
- Farm buildings including open sided sheds
- Decks and patios
- Basement finish

**No Permit Required**

- Replacing windows or doors with same opening dimension
- Reroofing
- Insulating
- Installing drywall to unfinished rooms
- Painting or replacing siding

**Other Permits Required**

- Driveways, paving a gravel drive or creating a driveway
- Wells, any drilled well - contact Montgomery County
- Installation, replacement, or modification of sign
- Temporary signs for events
- New businesses
- Change in type of business
- Home occupation
- Installing fences, requires zoning permit



**Is Your Contractor Registered?** Upper Pottsgrove requires contractors to register with the Township to help ensure that your contractor has minimal worker's compensation and liability insurance. As a result, before hiring a contractor to perform any of the work detailed above, please check their registration. The registration process is simple and the fees are low. Registration costs \$25 for contractors and subcontractors. To verify your contractor's registration, **Call 610.323.8675**.

**Yard sale signs are to be removed by the persons erecting same at the conclusion of the sale - Yard Sale signs should not be posted for more than two days.**

**Residents Connected or Being Connected to Public Water**

**Please note: Be careful when working around curbing and meter pits - property owners are responsible for their repair.**



**Library News [www.ppl.mclinc.org](http://www.ppl.mclinc.org)**

Family history buffs will find two new genealogy resources now available from the Pottstown Public Library website at <http://ppl.mclinc.org>. **HeritageQuest Online** can be accessed in the library or from home by entering your library card barcode number. Searchers will find several paths to information – the U.S. Federal Census collection, over 20,000 family and local history books, an index to nearly 2 million magazine articles with genealogical information, or a database of Revolutionary War era records. The second database, **Ancestry Library Edition**, is available only from library computers and contains a vast selection of U.S. census data, birth, marriage, and death records, World War I draft registration information, Social Security death records, and immigration lists. It also includes an extensive collection of information from the U.K. dating back to the 1500s.

**Spring Programs:**

“Learn eBay the Right Way” on Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 p.m. with eBay-trained instructor Drew Griffin. Learn about researching items to buy or sell, using a PayPal account, avoiding costly mistakes, and more.

Back Door Book Sale, Friday and Saturday, May 18 & 19, a used book sale sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Be sure to check the library’s website for ongoing programs for children and adults including Story Time programs, tai chi fitness group, and book discussion programs.

You can help support the library in a small way by recycling used inkjet printer cartridges using the plastic postage-paid mailing bags available at the library. The library receives payment for the recycled cartridges.



**“Your Community Needs You Now!”**

*continued from page 3*

email (or can learn) —WE NEED YOU !  
 The Deputy EMC position is a different situation. This calls for some one skilled in Emergency Management. Perhaps having had previous (or retired from) the fire service or Incident Command experience and is willing to take the necessary FEMA/DHS courses to become state-approved by the Governor’s Office.  
 As Township Manager Jack Layne is oft to say, “It takes a

team effort to makes things work around here.” Nothing could be truer when it comes to creating an emergency response team. And every one of these jobs will play a key role in our community’s future security in time of need.

This is a perfect “low-time demand” opportunity for just about anyone with a desire to help out!  
 Won’t you call the Township Administration office (610-323-8675, ext 200) today and let us know of your immediate interests to assist us in this project?  
 We really need to hear from you **NOW**—and while you are at it, why not tell a friend!

The **2007 Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste Collection** program will be held at the following locations:

**Site - Hatboro-Horsham High School**  
 899 Horsham Road - Horsham, PA—May 26

**Site - Norristown Area High School**  
 1900 Eagle Dr. - Norristown, PA—June 30

**Site - Perkiomen Valley Middle School (East)**  
 For more information call 610.278.3618 or [www.wsaemc.org](http://www.wsaemc.org)

**IS IT TIME TO RETIRE YOUR AMERICAN FLAG?**

Upper Pottsgrove Township will once again be a collection center for tattered and soiled American Flags until Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. These Flags will then be delivered to the Viet Nam Veteran’s Memorial where the Veterans and Boy Scouts will retire the Flags at a very impressive and patriotic ceremony on Sunday, Jun 3<sup>rd</sup>- 1 PM. The public is encouraged to attend and participate. Bring your cameras & favorite lawn chair.

**American Flag**



The management and maintenance of the American Flag by the Township Building is the responsibility of the cell tower owner. The Township is aware of the sometimes disrespectful handling of this duty and is pursuing appropriate legal action to enforce contractual obligations.

**Parks & Rec**

The Parks & Rec Department of Upper Pottsgrove is requesting your help. In an effort to improve and expand our park facilities in the future, we are requesting that you take the time for yourself and your community to complete a short survey. This survey is your opportunity to be a participant in planning our parks and recreational facilities’ enhancement and growth. It is extremely important to our township that the current and future needs of our Park and Recreational Facilities meet the needs of our community. **Surveys are available at the Township Admin. Bldg. or they can be faxed or emailed to you. The DEADLINE is SATURDAY JUNE 30, 2007.**

**Pottsgrove Rec Bd. Activities:**

Men’s Basketball, Thursday, 9:30 PM, Middle Sch.  
 Women’s Volleyball, Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Ringing Rocks Elementary  
 Women’s Exercise, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6:00 PM, Middle Sch.  
 Table Tennis, Monday & Thursday, 7:00 PM, Auxiliary Gym, High Sch.  
 Community Band, Monday, 7:30 PM, High Sch.  
 Summer Playground, July 5<sup>th</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 AM- Noon, School Aged Children, All Elementary Schools  
 Registration takes place at each location during the class time. Please visit our website for further information [www.pottsgroverec.com](http://www.pottsgroverec.com)



*Mocharniuk Meadows*

**HOW TO RETURN YOUR SURVEY:**

**Mail this survey to:**

Township of Upper Pottsgrove Admin. Office  
 Attn: Parks and Recreation Board Survey  
 1409 Farmington Avenue, Pottstown, PA  
 19464-1829

**Drop off this survey at the Township Office at:**

1409 Farmington Avenue, Pottstown, PA  
 19464-1829

**Fax this survey to:**

610-327-1967

**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

**Upper Pottsgrove Township**

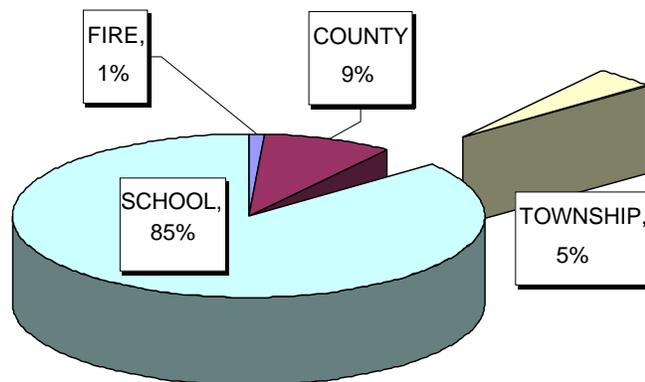
1409 Farmington Avenue  
Pottstown, PA 19464

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



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



**OUR TOWNSHIP'S PIECE OF  
THE PROPERTY TAX PIE**

Upper Pottsgrove Township Residents with property assessed at \$100,000 pay less than \$17.00 per month for:

- POLICE PROTECTION
- HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE, and
- ADMINSTRATIVE SERVICES