

# The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume II, Issue I

January 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 wife and I, with our two boys, have been living in Upper Pottsgrove since the summer of 1995. We moved here because of the rural nature of the township and we also wanted our boys educated in the Pottsgrove School District. Since we did not plan on moving anywhere for a long time, I

decided to learn more about the township we chose for our home. I volunteered for the Zoning Hearing Board and was an alternate in 1999. The following year I was appointed as a Commissioner to fill a vacancy on the Board. I have been fortunate to remain on the Board of Commissioners since January of 2000. I was most recently elected to my second full term which will allow me the opportunity to serve Upper Pottsgrove for 10 consecutive years - an experience that has been very rewarding and educational.

During my time on the Board, I have been the Commissioner liaison with our Administrative Staff and, more recently, our Fire Company and Police Department. This also includes over-seeing our Emergency Services which requires the dedicated service of many staff and residents.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve the people in this township and I have met so many new residents. It has also been a wonderful experience meeting so many established residents who have lived here almost all their lives, raising their families here, as I am today. I learned so much about the history of this township, the ways of the past and how we became a First Class Township.

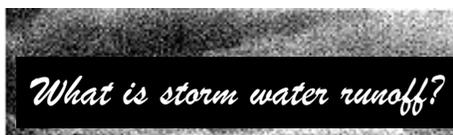
You learn so much when you get involved in our township and the workings of local government. I am truly grateful for the opportunities to interact with you and encourage all residents to communicate with the elected officials in Upper Pottsgrove.

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## Storm Water Management—Commitment to Education



Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

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### Board of Commissioners

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

## Officials

### The PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Elwood Taylor, Chairperson  
 John Ungerman, Vice Chairperson  
 David Daniels, Secretary  
 John Bealer  
 Herbert C. Miller, Jr.

### OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Chairperson  
 Dennis Elliot, Vice Chairperson  
 Peter Dolan  
 Scott Miller  
 Marie Novack

### PARKS & REC BOARD:

Stephen Ailes, Chairperson  
 David Crock, Vice Chairperson  
 Jill Ludy  
 Herbert C. Miller, Jr.  
 Susan A. Thompson

### FIRE COMMITTEE:

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

### VACANCY BOARD:

Dennis Elliot

### ZONING HEARING BOARD:

John P. DahDah, Chairperson  
 Henry Shontz, Vice Chairperson  
 Scott Newton  
 Richard Mitchell, Alternate

### SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE:

John Bealer, Chairperson  
 David Crock  
 William Loux  
 Edward O'Brien, Jr.  
 Robert Sloss

### CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

Helen Brandel, Chairperson  
 Gilbert Duncan, Vice Chairperson  
 Reginald Leister, Secretary  
 Anthony Vitacco, Alternate  
 Gary Novack, Alternate

### POTTSTOWN AREA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Elwood Taylor  
 Megan De Lena

### POTTSGROVE REGIONAL RECREATION COMMISSION:

Jill Ludy

## **Township Police Alert Residents to New Traffic Regulations that Become Effective this Month (January 2007)**

First, new motor vehicle regulation requires motorists to turn on their headlights anytime their vehicle windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to weather or other atmospheric conditions such as fog or mist. Motorists that fail to comply with this law could face a fine of \$25.00, but with additional fees and costs imposed, the traffic citation will cost in excess of \$100.00.

Motorists must remove snow and ice from vehicles before traveling. This new regulation will impose severe fines if ice or snow should fall from their vehicle causing injury or death to other motorists or pedestrians. Drivers in violation of this section are subject to a fine of \$200.00 to \$1,000.00 for each offense.

Lastly, drivers will be required to move to the outside lane when they approach a stopped emergency vehicle including police, fire trucks or tow trucks. It is reported that the law will also cover highway workers and others who deal with roadside emergencies. The department has not yet been informed of the effective start date for this proposed regulation. Please look for additional press releases for additional information on this regulation.

## **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.



## Commissioner's Comments

*continued from page 1*

As a direct result of my experience serving you as a Commissioner and working with my fellow colleagues, it has opened doors to serve our area at a County and State level as well. Over the past years I have served as the Treasurer and Secretary of the Montgomery County Association of First Class Townships. This organization represents the interests of all the first-class townships in Montgomery County

and works directly with other counties to promote policy and legislation at the State level that is in the best interest of townships of the first class, like Upper Pottsgrove. I was fortunate last year to be elected as the President of this Montgomery County Association and look forward to working with our neighboring Commissioners.

Through my work with our County organization, I have developed working relationships with other townships throughout the state. This opportunity has allowed me to become the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President of the Pennsylvania State Association, which has direct contact with our Representatives and Senators in Harrisburg. I am excited about the opportunities I have at this level to attempt to promote positive changes that could improve our local situation here in our township. We have so many changes creeping our way locally, that it is very important we come together and work as a team to keep Upper Pottsgrove that quiet, friendly community, with that "rural nature" we all appreciate.

Please work with us and communicate your thoughts and ideas. We need you, and your commitment to this township, to improve our quality of living. This is why we are sending you this Newsletter and we hope you find it most helpful and educational.

Hope to see you soon.

Best Regards, Russell F. Noll, Vice-President, Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners



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

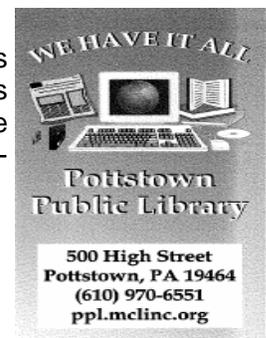
2006 was a busy year for the Pottstown Public Library. Library use was up in all areas with 2,637 new borrowers registered, 21,321 computer use sessions, and 118,482 items checked out. Upper Pottsgrove residents borrowed 5,370 items from the library. There were 6,186 people who attended the 298 programs offered throughout the year for children, teens, and adults.

It's not too late to sign up for one of four weekly Story Time programs!

- Open Stories on Mondays at 10:30, all ages
- Snacktime Stories on Tuesdays at 4:00, all ages
- Infant Stories on Thursdays at 10:30, ages 8 mo. to 2 yrs.
- StoryJam with Mr. Mike and his guitar on Thursdays at 2:00, ages 3-6

March is Family Reading Month. Children who read 20 minutes a day for 20 days with a family member will earn a prize. Register in the library to receive a reading calendar and cool stuff.

Ongoing adult programs include two monthly book discussion groups: the Reading Club on the next to last Tuesday evening at 6:00 and Mystery Readers on the third Tuesday morning at 10:00 each month. Tai Chi sessions, sponsored by a grant from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation, have been a popular program on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Check the library website at [ppl.mclinc.org](http://ppl.mclinc.org) for upcoming programs on gardening, financial planning, and genealogy.





## Storm Water Management—Commitment to Education (Continued)

*Why is storm water runoff a problem?*



Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into the storm sewer system or directly to the stream, wetlands or creeks.

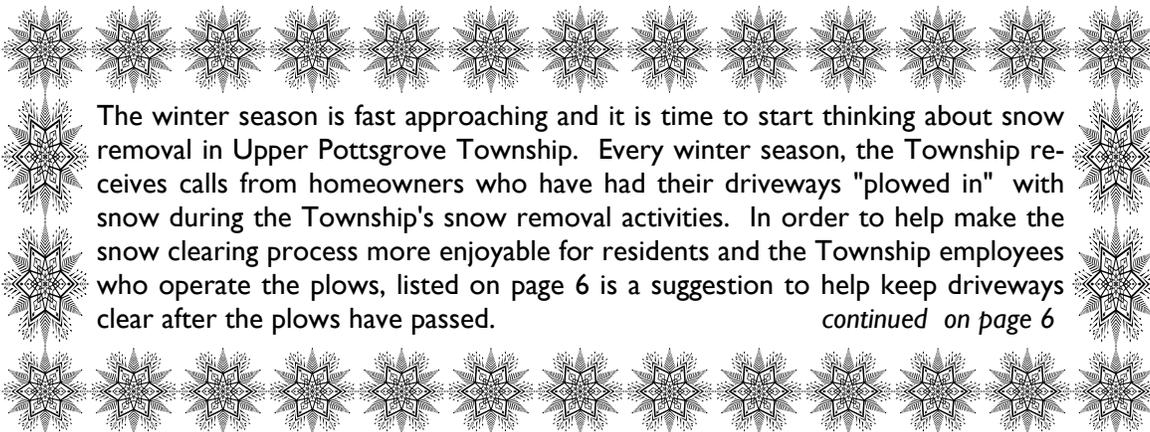
Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.

*The effects of pollution*



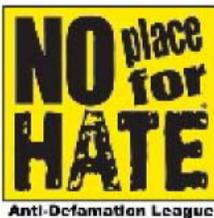
- Polluted storm water run off can have adverse effects on plant life, fish, animals and people.
- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult for aquatic plants to grow.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic life cannot exist with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Household products like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other automotive fluids can pollute drinking water. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

## 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 page 6 is a suggestion to help keep driveways clear after the plows have passed.

*continued on page 6*



### No Place for Hate—[www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)

Upper Pottsgrove Township and Pottsgrove School District, along with the Walnut Street Theatre Freedom Riders, are sponsoring a No Place for Hate® program on March 2 at 7:00 PM at the Pottsgrove Middle School. For more information, please contact Michelle Reddick at 610.323.8675 x203.



# WHAT DOES YOURS LOOK LIKE?



## CHILD FINGERPRINT PROGRAM

UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONDUCTING A CHILD SAFETY DAY. THE EVENT WILL OCCUR ON

**\*APRIL 7, 2007 11:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. \***

**AT**

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
1409 FARMINTON AVE**

**PARENTS WILL RECEIVE A LAMINATED CARD CONTAINING PERSONAL DATA ALONG WITH A FINGERPRINT AND PHOTOGRAPH OF THEIR CHILD.**



**ALONG WITH FINGERPRINTING, THERE WILL BE A CERTIFIED CHILD SAFETY SEAT SPECIALIST TO INSTRUCT PARENTS IN THE PROPER METHOD OF INSTALLING CHILD SAFETY SEATS.**

**WE WILL ALSO HAVE BOOSTER SEATS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FOR \$10.00**



**WWW.FAMILYWATCHDOG.COM**

*A company dedicated to keeping home computers safe and secure.*

National Alert Registry, Inc. is an information services company specializing in providing data pertaining to the identification and location of registered sex offenders. A search provides approximate locations of registered sex offenders based on zip code.

**Upper Pottsgrove Township**  
**1409 Farmington Avenue**  
**Pottstown, PA 19464**

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*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)  
Montgomery County Dispatch 610.327.1441\*  
Administration 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)  
\*Use this number for non-911 calls.



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

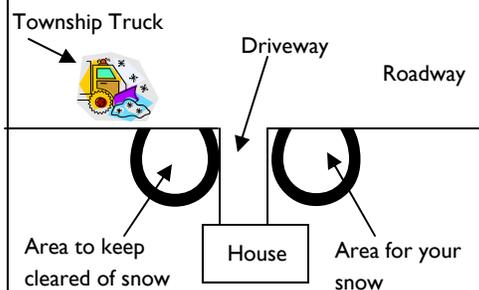
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**CLEARING SNOW FROM DRIVEWAYS**

**"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."