

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume IV, Issue I

April 2009

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

Web site www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

Phone 610.323.8675

Civil Service

There is an opening on our Civil Service Commission for an Alternate. The CSC is responsible for recruiting, testing, and certifying all candidates according to qualifications and fitness for paid, uniformed positions and promotions within our Police Department.

Any interested resident that is a registered voter is eligible to apply for this appointed position. For further information, please contact Mr. Leister, Commission Secretary, at:

rleister@upperpottsgrovetownship.org



MEETING DATES & TIMES

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

Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 6 PM

Parks & Recreation Board-2nd Wed., Odd Mos., 7 PM

Sewer & Water Committee-4th Mon., Even Mos., 5 PM

Open Space Committee-2nd Tues., Odd Mos., 7 PM

Fire Committee-3rd Thurs., 7 PM

Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand

Web Link to Calendar:

<http://upperpottsgrovetownship.org/index.html#>

Happy Spring from the Fire Company!!

We hope all is well with you, as everything is going amazingly for us!

We have many fundraising events coming up this year:

April 10th & 11th - our Annual Easter Flower and Bake Sale

May 9th - Mother's Day Brunch

June 6th - Ice Cream Social

June 20th - Father's Day BBQ

Among these, we will also be holding Boot Drives and Car Washes throughout the summer into early fall!

Also, Thank You to all those who have donated to our Annual Fund Drive, it is going strong and every little bit helps!!

Our membership is growing steadily and each of us is going to classes and trainings to learn more and get better at what we do! Stop out on Thursday nights and watch if you see us!

And last, but definitely not least... our new Marion Engine (a water foam pumper) is well on it's way to being built and delivered this year!! Chief Tom Mattingly and President/Asst. Chief Stan Hildenbrand recently visited the manufacturing plant in Wisconsin to make sure everything was perfect and ready to go. We look forward to seeing it through the process and wait anxiously for it's delivery late this year!!

Recent Open Space Acquisition



L to R: Marcia Slade, Donald Hoffman, Shelia Walsh and Herbert C. Miller, Jr.

Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Open Space Chair, on behalf of the citizens of Upper Pottsgrove, personally thanks Marcia Slade, Donald Hoffman and Shelia Walsh for adding their property at the corner of Gilbertsville and Moyer Roads to the growing catalog of public spaces within our Township.

Hoffman Field will be utilized for various sports activities.

Board of Commissioners

- Elwood Taylor, President
- Russell Noll, Vice President
- Megan De Lena
- Peter Dolan
- Reneé Spaide

Please support our Newsletter sponsors and all businesses in the Township, both new and existing.

2009 Household Hazardous Waste & Computer Collection Program

Upper Perkiomen Valley High School

April 11, 2009

9 am – 3 pm

Montgomery Co. Community College

June 13, 2009

9 am - 3 pm

Spring-Ford School District

July 11, 2009

9 am – 3 pm

Abington High School

Aug. 8, 2009

9am—3pm

Lower Merion Transfer Station

October 24, 2009

9 am - 3 pm

For More Information and Directions Call (610) 278- 3618 or Visit our Website www.wsaemc.org and click on the Recycling and HHW links.



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- Mixing prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and putting them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, will further ensure the drugs are not diverted.
- Flush prescription drugs down the toilet **only** if the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs doing so.



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Is It Time to Retire your American Flag?

The Upper Pottsgrove Township Administration Building, 1409 Farmington Avenue, will once again be a collection center for tattered and soiled American Flags of any size from April 15th until Friday, May 29th during normal business hours. These Flags will then be delivered to the



Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial, on the island in Pottstown's Memorial Park where the Veterans and Boy Scouts will retire the Flags at a very impressive and patriotic ceremony on Sunday, June 7th-starting at 1 PM. The public is encouraged to attend and participate, especially the school-aged members of our community. Bring your cameras & favorite lawn chair.

From the Historical Committee Files

This past summer while installing plaques on historical homes, we discovered a small, seemingly old, steel-fenced and well-manicured Jewish cemetery in the 1100 block of State Road. Area residents and our office staff could not shed any light on its origins and little was known, except that . . . "someone always came and cut the grass." This called for further investigation since there were no signs or other postings. The only thing evident was that all of the tombstones bore the Star of David on them owing to their origins. But we wanted to learn more.

An e-mail to the Congregation Mercy and Truth on North Keim Street led us to Jack Wolf, Esq., former president of the Pottstown Borough Council. Mr. Wolf was very accommodating in sharing his knowledge about the plot which has a fascinating history right here in our community. The name of the cemetery is Congregation Hahawas Achem which translates from the Hebrew as "Brotherly Love." According to the history of Montgomery County, the cemetery is the oldest Jewish institution in the county, with the first burials around 1890. In the middle 1920's the Congregation Hahawas Achem was reconstituted as a cemetery company.

This was accomplished by Benjamin Wolf, Esq. (uncle to Jack Wolf). At that time Adolf Wolf (Jack's grandfather) was elected President. When he was no longer able to carry on this task, it was continued by Benjamin and then, Harold Wolf (Jack's father). When he passed away in 1996, Jack took over the duties. For 88 years this has been a family affair.

Jack goes on to say that the Congregation is quite unusual from the perspective of Jewish history in that membership included Jews who arrived in Pottstown in the 1860's and

the Eastern European Jews that came here in the mid-1880's. The German families included the Weitzenkorns, Millers (S. Miller & Son Men's Shop), and the Mosheim's, who also ran a men's shop at 207 High Street. The descendants of these families still reside in the area; but only the Weitzenkorn's retain their Jewish identity.

The Eastern European families included the Wolf's, the Weiss's (Atty. Alvin Weiss), the Estreicher's and others. There is still a small membership who pays dues and several families who pay an annual maintenance fee.

An interesting sidebar to this story: The congregation's synagogue that is now situated on North Keim Street was originally located at High and Warren Streets in Pottstown from 1920 until the 1960's when it was razed.

It is brief stories (like this) about our Culture, Community's History, Businesses, Homes and Families that **Upper Pottsgrove's Historical Board** wants our friends to submit to the Township Office for archival safe-keeping. We also need volunteers who wish to donate some time in researching information to this effort. Again, contact the Township Office of your availability. Please don't let our township's rich legacy die with the generations that created it for all of us. If you enjoy genealogy or just have an investigator in you wanting to break out, we need your help! High Schoolers, you can sit, record (and learn first hand) the recollections of older citizens about the history of our community (and maybe even gain extra credit at school as part of a special project—talk to your teachers). And then submit your efforts to the Township to become part of a compendium. Let this become part of your legacy!

Fire Company Auxiliary

The Auxiliary from the Upper Pottsgrove Fire Company had a great year last year. We raised money for the Company while getting to know the many residents of our Upper Pottsgrove Community. This year is no different. The Auxiliary has many great things planned, so look for us up and about.

Calendar of Events:

- April 10 (9:00am – 7:00pm) & April 11 (9:00am - ?), Flower Sale

Note: Peanut Butter eggs will be available for purchase on

a first come first serve basis and they are \$6.00 per pound.

- May 2 (8:00am – 2:00pm), Flea Market & Used Book Sale We have 8 ft. spaces available to rent for \$10.00. Please call 610-441-1064 to reserve your space for the Flea Market. Tables are available but limited to first come first serve basis.

We are always looking for new members, so feel free to call us at 610-441-1064 and we would be happy to tell you about it. Get involved today with this great Auxiliary.

Emergency Management



Our Emergency Management Team is composed of township staff, commissioners and volunteers, some of whom are seen here during the recent PEMA state-wide exercise deployment. Several more volunteer positions need to be filled. Please call the Twp. Office @ 610-323-8675, Ext. 200.

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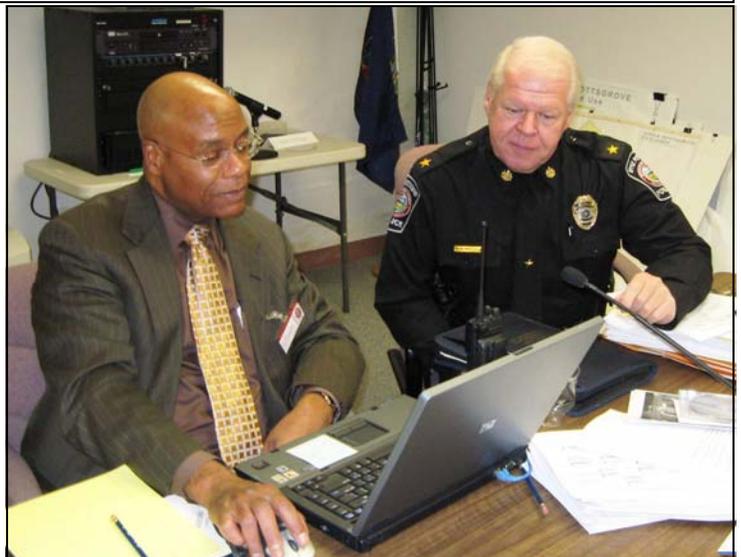
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Our Emergency Mgr Jack Layne & Police Chief William Moffett review Montgomery County communications over the computer during the recent annual PEMA Severe Weather Exercise. All participating municipalities must demonstrate their ability to respond to simulated local weather-related disasters and coordinate those actions at the local, county and state levels.



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

PARKING VIOLATION WARNING NOTICE

Be advised that parking a vehicle against traffic (facing wrong direction) on a two way roadway is a violation of Title 75, PA Vehicle Code Section 3354 (a).

Effective April 1, 2008, vehicles found to be in violation of this section will be issued Parking Tickets carrying a \$20.00 fine.

Any questions about this regulation, please contact the Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Department at 610-326-8446.



Community Day

Our 2009 Upper Pottsgrove Community Day plans are underway!!!

The date is Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 11am to 4pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to have your business get exposure in our Upper Pottsgrove Community!

Are you a local artisan, crafter, tradesman, professional service, retail business?

Do you have a local club such as volleyball, table tennis, soccer, baseball, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts?

Are you a food vendor and wish to set up your "stand" at this event?

Call the Township office at: 610.323.8675 to reserve your space at our next Community Day