



# The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume V, Issue I

April 2010

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

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

Phone 610.323.8675



Your **Emergency Management Team** has joined forces with the **Montgomery County Department of Public Safety** to provide a single-point **Special Needs Registry** for our residents. This is especially important in the event of an evacuation so that we can provide proper notification and, if necessary, transportation services. If we do not know who you are, we are not able to be of assistance. Even if you have filled out Information Cards in the past or even recently, we recommend that you register with the County Service, as they will have the means to maintain a more up to date profile for us in the township. Of course this information is strictly confidential. We appreciate your cooperation. Just click on <https://specialneeds.org> and you will be taken to a completely secure site. It will take just a few minutes to complete.

We are also very pleased to announce that the **Pottsgrove Middle School** has been certified by the **American Red Cross** as an **Evacuation Shelter**. Until now, we had no such local facility available to us in the event that our community ever has an extended power outage usually associated with a severe weather event or wide area disaster.

## PECO Helps Customers Pay Their Utility Bills

Assistance programs include:

- The Customer Assistance Program (CAP): A discounted rate for low-income customers. (800.774.7040)
- The Matching Energy Assistance Fund (MEAF): A program funded by voluntary contributions of citizens and matched dollar for dollar by PECO for up to \$1000 in total assistance for those who qualify. (610.277.6363)
- Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP): A program that provides year round conservation and weatherization assistance for qualified households. (800.675.0222)
- Customer Assistance and Referral Evaluation Services (CARES): A referral and information service designed to assist customers who have temporary personal or financial

*Continued on Page 2*

## Ten things you and your community can do to protect water resources.

1. **Maintain open, forested floodplains.** (Filling floodplains shortchanges the filtering power of natural areas and increases flooding elsewhere.)
2. **Plant trees and maintain streamside buffers.** (Streamside trees and native vegetation help filter stormwater run-off and help hold streambank soils in place.)
3. **Promote clustering where new development is likely.** (Clustered developments require less pavement for roads and sidewalks and keep more of the overall parcel as natural open space.)
4. **Disconnect your downspout from the street drain.** (Rainwater from your roof is just as damaging to creeks and streams as run-off from a parking lot. Let your yard help filter out impurities and infiltrate stormwater back into your aquifer.)
5. **Convert large yards or public spaces from mown grass to meadows.** (The typical suburban lawn is nearly as impervious as a parking lot! Native meadow grasses infiltrate stormwater better and provide critical habitat for grassland birds.)
6. **Convert a corner of your yard to a rain garden.** (A wet area in your yard can be considered a nuisance or an amenity, depending on how you manage it. If its wet, look for native plants that like "wet feet" and create a visual focal point.)
7. **Maintain a naturally vegetated edge between creeks and pastures or cultivated fields.** (A naturally vegetated stream buffer will filter out excess fertilizers and pesticides from adjacent farm fields.)
8. **Cut back on lawn fertilizers and pesticides.** (Much of the fertilizer you apply in the spring flows directly into the local creeks because the grass is not ready to absorb it. Set your mower height at 3 inches and use a mulching mower to create a healthy, *organic* lawn. Fertilize only in the fall!)
9. **Pick up after your pets and keep livestock out of streams.** (Pet and animal wastes carry many harmful bacteria and possible diseases. They make creeks less amenable to native critters and require expensive water treatment for human uses.)
10. **Keep your paved surfaces at a minimum.** (Patios and parking spaces can be created with attractive *pervious* materials that allow stormwater infiltration to the soils below.)

## Board of Commissioners

- Elwood Taylor, President
- René Spaide, Vice President
- Peter Dolan
- Herbert C. Miller, Jr.
- Russell Noll

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

**MEETING DATES & TIMES**

Board of Commissioners-1st & 3rd Mon., 7 PM  
 Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 6 PM  
 Open Space & Recreation Board-2nd Wed., Odd Mos.,  
 7 PM  
 Sewer & Water Committee-4th Mon., Odd Mos., 5 PM  
 Fire Committee-3rd Thurs., 7 PM  
 Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand  
 Web Link to Calendar:  
<http://upperpottsgrovetownship.org/index.html#>

**Peace and Quiet is Right Around the Corner at Beaufort's Run Sanctuary**

It all began with the death of my beloved Standard Poodle, Beaufort, March 7, 2001. He died unexpectedly from cancer, and through the pain came my vision of Beaufort's Run Sanctuary. We all suffer losses, whether human or animal, and our spirit is broken, and we need a place to retreat where there is peace and solace - a place to go to have our questions answered. We need to go into the woods where we can bond with nature, and try to understand the meaning of it all. Watching a hawk soaring above us, or deer poised quietly on a trail, or the red fox slyly watching us from behind tall grass - this is what Beaufort's Run Sanctuary is all about. Our 10-acre property on Detweiler Road is surrounded by a trail that has already become a popular destination for walkers and their dogs, birdwatchers, geocachers, and for those who are simply looking for a quiet place to be. With the tremendous help from my daughter Sue, our sanctuary has been a "work in progress" for the past five years. After reading an article about "healing gardens" in *Birds and Blooms* magazine, I knew what had to happen. We had to create woodland trails and gardens open to the public as a destination for those seeking solace and healing. What better use for this beautiful habitat than to offer it as a sanctuary for the community. We want residents to feel comfortable walking the magnificent trails or planting healing gardens in honor of loved ones, or merely for their own relaxation and enjoyment. We also want to be able to educate children in forest stewardship--teach them how to honor and appreciate the natural landscape while having fun amidst the beauty. We intend to attain non-profit status for Beaufort's Run Sanctuary early in 2010, and then we will host, through Penn State University, a 4-H Club for homeschoolers named "Just Get Out!", a timely push to get kids outdoors and away from video games and television. The various habitats that make up the property present an ideal location to teach kids about ecology and the natural environment. Thank you to all of you who have been there to help us---the Boy Scouts, Ullman's Tree Service, neighbors and friends who have donated plants and their time---and thanks to you Herb Miller. With great appreciation, you were the first one here to listen to "my vision", and help me get it out there. For more information on Beaufort's Run Sanctuary and a list of upcoming events including the annual Spring birdwalk led by Valley Forge Audubon Society, visit [www.beaufortsrn.com](http://www.beaufortsrn.com).

**PECO Helps**

*Continued from Page 1*

hardships that prevent the payment of their utility bill. (800.774.7040) PECO customers who are not eligible for low and fixed income assistance but are having trouble managing their energy costs should also consider taking advantage of other programs including budget billing. Budget billing makes short-term fluctuation in monthly bills much easier to handle by dividing annual energy costs evenly throughout the year. For energy saving tips, rebates on energy efficient appliances, 20 percent discounts on energy efficient products and the store locations to purchase PECO discounted CFL light bulbs visit [www.PECO.com/SAVE](http://www.PECO.com/SAVE).

**Position Available**

The **Upper Pottsgrove Township Civil Service Commission** currently has an opening for the position of **ALTERNATE**. Candidate must be a registered voter residing in the township and willing to take training. Alternates must be available for occasional evening meetings, hearings, hiring procedures and otherwise assume all the responsibilities of a regular Commissioner. Volunteer Committee Applications are available (under **Forms**) online at: <http://www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org/FormsAndPermits.html> or at the Township Office.



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## Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLING HOTLINE @ (610) 278-3618 OR VISIT [www.montgomerycountyrecycles.org](http://www.montgomerycountyrecycles.org). 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:

**Indian Valley Middle School—April 24, 2010**  
Harleysville, PA 19438

**Temple Univ. – Ambler Campus-June 19, 2010**  
Butler Pike Entrance ONLY, Student Parking Lot

**Mont. Co. Community College-July 17, 2010**  
Enter near 473 Cathcart Rd., Blue Bell, PA 19422

**Abington Junior High School-August 12, 2010**  
Rear Faculty Parking Lot, Abington, PA 19001

**Spring-Ford Flex School-August 21, 2010**  
Royersford, PA 19468

**Lower Merion Twp Public Works-October 23, 2010**  
Penn Valley, PA 19072

- This program is a community service to the residents of Montgomery County and the 4 Southeastern Pennsylvania County Region (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia) ONLY and is NOT open to businesses, institutions or industry.
- All collection events will accept HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) and Electronics.

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## “Take 10” and Help Upper Pottsgrove Township Get What it Needs for the Next 10 Years

In March 2010, more than 130 million addresses will receive a 2010 Census form by mail or hand delivery. The 2010 Census will document the changes in our nation since the last decennial census in 2000, and tell us how we’ve evolved as a country. Because census data affect how more than \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to tribal, state and local governments, the census also will frame the future of our country and our community for the next 10 years.

During Census 2000, the mail participation rate was 72 percent as of the April 2000 cut-off. About \$85 million is saved for every one percent increase in mail participation. For these and many other reasons, we must work to encourage everyone’s participation in the census.

Here’s what you should know about the 2010 Census:

**It’s easy.** One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. The individual in whose name the housing unit is rented or owned should complete the form on behalf of every person living there, both

relatives and non-relatives.

**It’s important.** Census data are used to reapportion seats in Congress and ensure proper district representation in state and local governments. Information from the census helps determine locations for child-care and senior centers, new roads, hospitals, schools and community centers.

**It’s safe.** By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents’ answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Finally, the most efficient way to respond to the 2010 Census is to complete the form as soon as it arrives and return it in the postage-paid return envelope. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take the count in person.



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**Beginning April 1, 2010 through December 15, 2010, Township Trash Hauler, J. P. MASCARO, will include weekly curbside collection of yard waste, grass and leaves in an unlimited amount. Yard waste may be placed in compostable bags, open containers or bundled, but in no event larger than 3 feet by 3 feet.**



## ***Community Day***

Our 2010 Upper Pottsgrove Community Day plans are underway!!!

The date is Saturday, October 2, 2010 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.