



The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume VI, Issue I

April 2011

Office Hours Monday—Friday, 8AM—4:30PM New Email: administration@uptownship.org www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org Phone 610.323.8675

30% TAX INCREASE! (not)

Real estate tax rates in Upper Pottsgrove could have been increased 30% above what they actually were during each of the last 4 years, costing residents hundreds of more dollars annually. Instead, the Township aggressively searched out and funded its budget with non-tax revenue from several different sources. In fact, since 2008, over one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) has been received from outside Upper Pottsgrove through public and private grants, developer contributions, commercial fees, and employee reimbursements. Examples of funding received for specific projects include, \$261,200.00 from PennDot for reconstruction of State St., \$65,000.00 from the Pottstown Health and Wellness Fund for trail planning and construction, a \$3,700.00 grant for emergency operations equipment, and a \$32,000.00 grant for police technology equipment. Funding that supported the general fund included \$34,000.00 in recycling grants, \$232,700.00 in cell tower revenues, \$5,200.00 for advertising, \$255,300.00 in payments for police services, and \$326,700.00 contributed by the Upland Square Shopping Center.

In addition, the Sewer Fund also benefited as costs for the DEP-mandated replacement of the Regal Oaks Treatment Plant were minimized when the Township won a very competitive State grant of \$389,221.00 and qualified for a low interest, 2.5% loan, to cover the balance of the project.

Over \$180,000.00 in recurring non-tax revenue is already budgeted for the current year. The Township will continue to seek out additional grants, project funding, and commercial opportunities to support vital government services while minimizing their cost to local residents.

DON'T BE GYPED BY THE GYPSIES

As this is written the temperature outside is inching upwards towards 70 degrees and the window is cracked open just enough to enjoy a whiff of fresh air. Yet there remains the stark reminder of the frozen tundra that was created just a week or two ago. Could it be that Spring is just around the corner? And just what does that muster up in the form of images---gardening, home improvements, baseball spring training, going for walks or jogging and polishing those golf clubs?

Well springtime (and summer) is also time for the return of gypsies---and not the moth type. These are the ones who come knocking on your door offering to pave or repave your

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Primary Election Day

May 17, 2011 is the date to vote. Please mark your calendar so that you remember to come out and vote at the Township Administration Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

DOING LITTLE THINGS TO FIGHT LITTER

You may be contributing to the litter problem in our community without even knowing it. "Littering is what other inconsiderate people do", you say. Here are some small ways you can help keep our community litter-free.

On trash day, make sure that your trash and recycling containers are covered and secure. On windy days especially, unless it is covered or in tie-bags, loose trash at the top of your container could scatter around the neighborhood making an unsightly scene. You could also consider placing heavier cans and bottles at the top of your recycling bin to cover the lighter plastic items and keep them from blowing out onto the ground.

When you're on the road, especially if you are driving a pickup truck, be aware of loose items in the bed of the truck that may be caught up in the swirling wind and blown from your vehicle. If you drive with the windows of your car open, loose papers can be swept from your vehicle as well.

Even if you yourself are careful not to litter, the disappointing fact is, that there are many others who do not share your concern. Fast-food bags and cups, cigarette butts, as well as beer cans and bottles, are routinely thrown from vehicles and quickly deface the roadsides of our community. Municipal workers alone cannot keep up with this steady stream of refuse – so that duty falls to citizen volunteers. However, you do not need to wait to be asked to join a special, volunteer clean-up crew. Much of this unsightly litter can be removed by regularly picking up what comes to fall on your own property and neighborhood. One of the best "little things" you can do to keep unsightly litter at bay is to simply police up your own roadside frontage each week when you take your household trash to the curb.

Board of Commissioners

- Elwood Taylor, President
- Reneé 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.

Positions 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. There is also an opening for a **MEMBER** on the **Fire Committee**. Volunteer Committee Applications are available (under **Forms**) online at: <http://www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org/FormsAndPermits.html> or at the Township Office.

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#>

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Family Block Party

Sat., June 11th

(Rain Date June 18)

11am-2pm @Heather Place Park

(@Upper Pottsgrove Municipal Bldg. on Rt. 100)

Have fun and fellowship with your neighbors.

There will be food, drinks, music, fire trucks, a moon bounce, pony rides, clowns, face painting & games for kids of all ages.

Everything is free. Hope you can make it!

Sponsored by **Hopewell Community Church** – 610-326-8450.

Contact: Diane Fillman

Heather Place Park Pavilion

Need a place for a party or a special get-together? Please consider making a reservation for the pavilion @ Heather Place Park, 1420 Heather Place. The fees are \$30.00 for residents and \$50.00 for non-residents. Contact the township office @ 610-323-8675 to reserve.

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Protect Yourself & Babies Around You

Quite a bit of notoriety has been generated recently by several healthcare organizations and the Centers for Disease Control about getting vaccinated against the Pertussis bacteria. It is better known as Whooping Cough due to severe spells of coughing, vomiting and disturbed sleep. It can also cause incontinence, rib fractures, passing out and hospitalization from complications including pneumonia. More concerns are that you can easily pass this on to newborns and babies, who have no immunity, just by casual contact.

There is a vaccine known as **TDaP** that was licensed in 2005. It protects against Tetanus, Diphteria and Pertussis. It is recommended for all adults 19 and older, healthcare workers who have direct patient contact and adolescents 11-18 under certain conditions. Expectant mothers are advised to obtain this vaccination as soon as possible after delivery.

The vaccine is very expensive and some insurances do not cover it. But the good news is that while supplies last, the Montgomery County Health Department will provide the vaccine free of charge to all Montco residents on Wednesdays from 2-6 PM by appointment (610-970-5040). They are located at 364 King Street. For further information about Pertussis you can go to: <http://health.montcopa.org>, click on **Pertussis** or for info about their entire immunization program, click on **Immunizations** at the top.

DON'T BE GYPPED BY THE GYPSIES (Continued from Page 1)

driveway “for a very good price because they have some material left over from a job in Allentown.” They have an uncanny ability to seek out their “marks.” They are fast talkers and just the friendliest folks you would ever want to meet. But wait! Did you notice that their license plates were from New Jersey? And what about that story that “they just happened to be in your neighborhood?” And they always try to get the work done before the other spouse gets home---“Won’t they be surprised!” You are darn sure they will be. And let’s understand why.

These paving “contractors” are soliciting in our township without a permit. That permit is your first line of protection! Next, they don’t have a PA Contractor’s License. Only legitimate businessmen will display that license and the Attorney General’s office has them registered. And lastly, all driveway work requires a Permit from the township. That is YOUR final protection that the work is being completed according to recognized construction standards inspected to our township ordinances. In other words, no quickie in-and-out in an hour job. These gypsies work very fast with the precision of a drill team, from off-loading their equipment to grabbing your money and heading to the bank. The materials and workmanship are sub-par and they charge much too much for the work as completed. They seem to seek out senior citizens mostly. People, who once they realize they have been “duped”, are often too embarrassed to report the incident.

If you are approached, do not let them in your home and call the township office or police department immediately. They have been preying on local residents for over 2 years and despite confrontations keep coming back. Why? Because they continue to get away with their profitable enterprise. Remember the old adage: If it sounds too good to be true. It probably is.

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

Trash pick-up is every **Wednesday**. If you see litter in the vicinity of your property, please pick it up and dispose of it properly. Beginning **April 1** through **December 15**, 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.



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 Monday, April 18th through Friday, May 27th during normal business hours. These Flags will then be delivered to the Vietnam 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 5th 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.

U.P.T.F.C. Auxiliary (Upcoming Events)



Upper Pottsgrove Auxiliary / Fire Company Easter Flower Sale

The Auxiliary & Fire Company will once again be selling Easter Flowers at the firehouse. The dates are **Friday, April 22nd & Saturday, April 23rd** from 9 am to 7 pm. Shop early for the best selection. Some of the flowers we will be featuring are hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, azaleas, and mums. We appreciate your support in helping us to raise funds to purchase some of the necessary equipment to help save lives in our community.