

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume VI, Issue 2

August 2011

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

“Comcast Cares”

Comcast Cares Day comes to Upper Pottsgrove on Saturday, April 30, 2011.

When Commissioner Russell Noll was contacted by “Comcast Cares” local coordinator, Jack Powell, about organizing this year’s event in Upper Pottsgrove, Russ immediately thought of our Sproglers Run Trail project beginning in the recently-acquired Sunset Park,



Comcast Cares Meeting

as well as existing trails at Hollenbach Park and along Goose Run, that needed to be cleaned up and readied for hikers this summer.

Commissioner Noll worked with Comcast Cares Project Leaders, Jack Powell and Nicole Spangler, to bring over 75

volunteers to our township to remove litter, trim brush and spread mulch in all three parks. The volunteers removed old barbed wire fencing from around the pond in Sunset Park, removed



Comcast Cares shoveling mulch

trash and litter from all trails and abundantly spread mulch on all walking trails.

It was a very productive day that greatly improved the parks and trails in our township. We invite you to take a relaxing walk along one of the trails and enjoy the natural beauty of these parks. Take note of the freshly mulched trails and litter-free parks that are the result of the hard working volunteers.

A special thank you to Township Manager, Jack Layne, who was instrumental in bringing together all the loose ends. Also, thanks go to our Highway Department for supplying the heavy equipment and expertise. It was a well-organized work day with a diverse range of volunteers.

We want to thank Comcast for choosing Upper Pottsgrove Township as this year’s location for their annual event.



Election Day

November 8, 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.

SEWER PROJECTS NEAR COMPLETION

It has been three years in the making, but the western end of Farmington Avenue and a portion of the Regal Oaks subdivision now have public sewer service. The PA Department of Environmental Protection had mandated that public sewer service be extended to these areas due to failing on-lot systems along Farmington Ave. and the failure of a private treatment plant servicing the Regal Oaks subdivision. Although the Township had little recourse in either case, it complied in the interests of the health and welfare of the residents, as well as the environment.

In total the project achieved:

- Installation of over 21,500 feet of new sewer mains
- Installation of 51 new manholes
- Construction of 2 Pump Stations
- Upgrading of the Pine Ford Road Pump Station
- Restoration of paving on Gilbertsville Road
- Restoration of paving on the western portion of Farmington Avenue

When this project was originally envisioned, the estimated construction and project costs were \$5.8 million. By modifying the scope and consolidating some of the efforts, the final loan for the project will be approximately \$3,515,000. It should also be noted that due to the diligence of Township officials and staff, the projects received over \$380,000 in grant funding.

In general the project:

(Continued on Page 5)

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.

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#>

The Sprogels Run Trail – Now Open for Your Enjoyment!

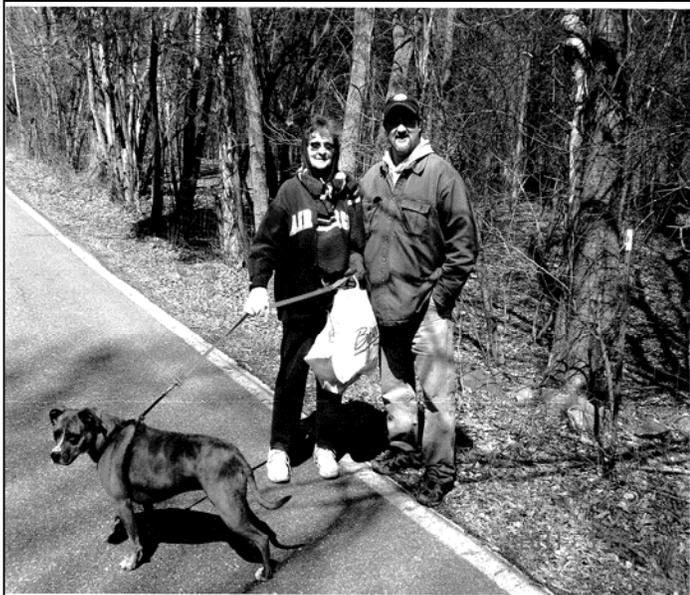
Upper Pottsgrove Township recently utilized resident volunteers, corporate support, and Township officials and staff to provide for the development and expansion of the Sprogels Run Trail. Although more work remains to be done, a large segment of the initial part of the Sprogels Run Trail (Trail) has

been constructed. The Township coordinated the cleaning up of much of the debris and other items from the proposed Trail area. Seven dilapidated sheds and structures were demolished and removed, and wood chips were placed along the newly cleared Trail.

The Township utilized grant funding procured from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation and the PECO Green Region Program. Township Public Works personnel, residents, contractors, and Comcast employees and volunteers provided the labor to clean and construct the Trail. It is worthy to note that there were 75 Comcast employees and volunteers who provided materials and labor in support of this endeavor during their 10th Annual Comcast Cares Day on April 30, 2011.

The Trail begins in Sunset Park, just beyond a large parking area, which is located at 1401 N. Charlotte Street. Although the Trail is now ready for use, plans are in the works to further improve and beautify the Trail by developing the areas surrounding the two ponds located in Sunset Park, clearing the overlook and bench areas, preparing the pond areas for sitting benches, installing a foot bridge and expanding the Sprogels Run Trail throughout the Township. The Township encourages you to enjoy the picturesque views and health benefits obtained by walking along this beautiful pedestrian Trail!

Volunteerism



In late May, Rich Wood, Regional Manager for Trails in Montgomery County was inspecting with our officials on Sprogels Run Trail when he ran into Upper Pottsgrove resident, Barb Miller, and her dog who were enjoying a Saturday walk on Township roads. Barb is one of our volunteers who weekly walks several of our roads and picks up trash (note the plastic bags full of trash). Rich thanked her on behalf of Montgomery County for her long-time commitment to her volunteerism.



Each year we are pleased that our Brigade, who twice annually pick up roadside litter, continues to add new volunteers. Many of those volunteers walk specific assigned roadways on a frequent basis as litter is an ongoing menace.

The Township is fortunate to have these residents who sincerely care about our local community and we acknowledge them for their ongoing commitment.

Should you be interested to sign on and help for an hour or two please contact Linda Coleman at the Township Office.

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This September.....



This September will mark the ten year anniversary of 9/11; we will remember those lost, honor our first responders, and renew our commitment to prepare and plan for emergencies. The Emergency Management Team of Upper Pottsgrove Twp. is pleased to announce that Upper Pottsgrove Township is again joining the *Ready* Campaign, as a Coalition Member, founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness throughout all communities in the U.S., and taking an active role in helping Upper Pottsgrove Township prepare for emergencies. Among municipalities, Upper Pottsgrove was the first in the Commonwealth to support this initiative several years ago.

What does it mean to be prepared?

It means households have an emergency supply kit so they can be self-reliant for at least three days in case of emergency, and they have a plan for how they will respond and reconnect after an emergency. For information on creating a supply kit and writing a plan, and more free resources and information visit Ready.gov.

Being prepared means employers have planned for how they will survive a disaster: they've backed up critical information, developed a plan for assisting employees on site, established a call tree to account for employees, and identified back-up sources of power and supplies. See *Ready Business* at Ready.gov/business for more information.

Being prepared means schools and districts have developed, implemented, and communicated crisis plans. See the U.S. Department of Education's Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center at <http://rems.ed.gov>.

Being prepared means staying informed, knowing how to get information and alerts from local state, and federal emergency management agencies, and understanding the specific risks in your community and preparing against them. Meet or join with community resources such as first responders to coordinate planning in your community.

We're taking steps as an organization to become better prepared and informed, and we urge you to take time to do the same at home and in our community.

Did you know?

Only 57% of people report to have Readiness items set aside in their homes for use in a disaster.

Just 34% of people have Readiness supplies stored in their cars.

Less than 50% of households have an Emergency Plan, and yet;

43% of individuals report that they would need help in a disaster!

Reflecting on the hundreds of tornadoes that have ravished our country this Spring in areas not usually affected by these severe weather phenomenons or the thousands of acres devastated by wild fires, imagine being faced with having to evacuate at a moment's notice. Would you be **Ready**?

Come to our website:

<http://www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org> for more helpful information or stop by the Township Office for several informative brochures.

Thank You!

Leaves and Grass Clippings

Remember, by ordinance, the blowing or sweeping of leaves and grass clippings into streets or gutters is prohibited, as they block storm water drains and ditches, promote growth along curbs and can create hazardous driving conditions.



Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLING HOTLINE @ (610) 278-3618
OR VISIT www.montgomerycountyclecycling.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:

Spring-Ford High School-August 20, 2011

350 S. Lewis Road, Royersford, PA 19468

Temple University—Ambler Campus-September 24, 2011

1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19468

Lower Merion Township Public Works-October 22, 2011

1300 N. Woodbine Avenue, 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.

Open Space and Parks & Rec

It's a wonderful thingSunset Park is beginning to develop into a beautiful place! There's been a lot of work done, and yet much to finish. With our recent grant from the PECO Green Region Award through Montgomery County Lands Trust, we have funding to do more improvements. We've been blessed to have many volunteers help us out to get to this point, and we would welcome anyone who is willing to put in a little time and sweat equity as a personal commitment to the township. Please call the Township office and let us know your contact information - we'll get in touch with you when projects are in the works.



HEADS UP !! Our Community Day is once again being held in October - Saturday the 1st with a rain date of Saturday the 8th. Would you consider being a vendor at the event? Last year we had many vendors, a petting zoo, activities and entertainment for the children (and the child in the adults!). If you are willing to help out, contribute monetarily, donate giveaways, please contact the Township office. I've been honored to be part of this fine township. I'd like to express just how grateful I am to be part of this community and it's caring, giving citizens.

Susan Thompson
 Chairwoman
 Open Space, Park and Recreation

SEWER PROJECTS NEAR COMPLETION (Cont'd. from Page 1)

- Eliminated a health and environmental hazard
- Freed Upper Pottsgrove Township from the escalating and ongoing costs associated with a failing private wastewater treatment plant
- Was constructed under budget
- Met all PA DEP schedules and requirements
- Was completely funded using grants and low interest PENNVEST financing

The Township greatly appreciates the patience and cooperation of all the residents affected by the project, especially those who offered easements through their property that allowed for the most efficient and cost-effective routing of the sewer collection lines. We realize that the construction process may have inconvenienced many in the project area, but now that the work is complete, we can be assured that our investments in our homes and property is more secure.

Got Ash? Be on the Lookout for Emerald Ash Borer.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a deadly woodboring beetle native to Asia. It was first found attacking ash trees in southeastern Michigan in 2002. Since then, EAB has been discovered in 14 additional states including Pennsylvania. Signs and symptoms of EAB infestation include crown dieback, epicormic sprouting, longitudinal bark splits, woodpecker damage, and D-shaped exit holes. Larval feeding under the bark disrupts the vascular system of the tree, resulting in tree mortality in 4-5 years. Tens of millions of ash trees have been killed in the infested areas. In Pennsylvania, EAB was first detected in Butler County in 2007. A total of 21 counties in the state are currently infested, including Cumberland to our west and Wyoming to our north. As a result, the entire state is under federal quarantine. **Moving of firewood and ash materials outside the quarantine is strictly prohibited.**



EAB Adult

The State Departments of Agriculture (PDA) and Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) are in charge of EAB detection and management in Pennsylvania. Thousands of purple panel traps have been



Purple Panel Trap

used to survey for this pest since 2008, with multiple new counties found infested each year. All communities within the Commonwealth should be prepared for this devastating pest. Once established, it will present economic and environmental challenges to the community and its residents. Current management options for this pest include tree removal,

chemical treatment, and biological control. No EAB has been detected in Montgomery County yet. However, concerned citizens are encouraged to call your County Cooperative Extension, PDA, and DCNR offices for more information. Contact **the extension office, the Hotline at 1-866-253-7189, or Badbug@state.pa.us** to report potential EAB infestations in your neighborhood.

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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Emergency: 911
Police Administration 610.326.8446
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.



Community Day

Our 2011 Upper Pottsgrove Community Day plans are underway!!!

The date is Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 11am to 4pm.
(The rain date is October 8, 2011.)

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.