



The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume XI, Issue 3

December 2016

Office Hrs Monday—Friday, 8AM—4:30PM 1409 Farmington Ave., Pottstown, PA 19464

www.uptownship.org

Phone 610.323.8675

Board of Commissioners

- Elwood Taylor, President -
etaylor@upperpottsgrovetownship.org
- Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Vice President
- John Bealer
- France Krazalkovich -
fkrazalkovich@upperpottsgrovetownship.org
- Martin Schreiber -
mschreiber@upperpottsgrovetownship.org

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

Snow Removal on Sidewalks ~ The property owner shall, within 24 hours after the cessation of any snowfall, clear at least a two-foot-wide path on any sidewalk on or abutting their property, but when the snowfall results in the accumulation of 12 or more inches of snow, then the deadline shall be extended to 48 hours after the cessation of the snowfall. In the event snow and/or ice on a sidewalk becomes so hard that it cannot be removed without likelihood of damaging the sidewalk, the owner shall cause enough sand or other abrasive to be put on the sidewalk to make travel reasonably safe, and as soon thereafter as the weather permits, the owner shall clear at least a two-foot-wide path on any sidewalk on or abutting their property.

Cul-de-Sac Parking ~ Any time our crews are called out to clear snow and ice from our roadways, residents will be required to remove their vehicles from cul-de-sacs for the duration of such snow emergencies. During declared emergencies, no vehicle will be permitted to park within the bulb of the cul-de-sac or within 25 feet of the entrance to the bulb. Thank you for helping us make a better job of clearing snow from our streets.



Clearing Snow from Your Driveway ~ Facing the street, clear an area to the left of your driveway. As a result, all of the snow that you clear should be placed to the right of your driveway. This cleared area will help "catch" plowed snow that would otherwise land in your driveway. 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."

MEETING DATES & TIMES
 Board of Commissioners-3rd Mon., 7 PM;
 1st Mon. as needed
 Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 7 PM
 Open Space & Recreation Board-2nd Tues., 7 PM
 Sewer & Water Committee-4th Mon., Odd Mos., 5 PM
 Fire Committee-2nd Thurs., 7 PM
 Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand
 Web Link to Calendar: <http://uptownship.org/index.php>

News from GreenAllies and the Althouse Arboretum

The arboretum is growing! Our Family Night Hike was attended by more than 800 people and the Haunted Woods by nearly 200. Our next event will be a Winter Solstice Festival on Saturday, December 10th. Families can come anytime between 10 am and 2pm. Come into our warm "snow globe" for crafts, food and fun. Take a hike in our woods to look for hidden surprises. Help our wildlife friends and more! A family fun event.

Providing FREE service to the community:

1. Christmas Tree Recycling on Saturday, January 7th from 9am to 4pm Drive up with your tree and local students and volunteers will remove them for recycling.
 2. Appliance Recycling on Saturday, February 4th from 9am to 4pm. GreenAllies will be collecting FREE of charge appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, stoves, dehumidifiers, microwaves, etc... We can NOT accept TV's or computer equipment. Also: donate your old cell/smart phones to help GreenAllies maintain the arboretum!
- Questions? Contact the arboretum by email at aevents@green-allies.org or call 267-371-2288. You may also visit our webpage at www.althousearboretum.org. The Althouse Arboretum is a project of the 501c3 nonprofit GreenAllies organization and Upper Pottsgrove Township. The arboretum is open every day from dawn to dusk for walks and hikes.

Ken Hamilton, Executive Director
 GreenAllies
 Director, Althouse Arboretum
ken@green-allies.org

Please support our Newsletter sponsors and all businesses in the Township.



POLICE DEPARTMENT Upper Pottsgrove Township

1420 Heather Place § Pottstown, PA 19464-1707

www.uptownship.org



Francis X. Wheatley
Chief of Police

Ph: 610-326-8446
Fax: 610-326-8337

A Message from Chief Wheatley:

Now that the cold weather has arrived, I feel it is timely to remind residents of some safety precautions that can be taken in the event of a storm that causes power outages. The past few years we experienced some significant weather effects that caused power to be off, in some cases for several days. We all need to be even more vigilant about the dangers of being without power.

One of the best ways any of us can be prepared for a power outage is pre-planning. Several years ago, Montgomery County published an [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#). The purpose of this publication was to help residents prepare for emergencies and how to keep you and your home safe. If you have never read the Emergency Preparedness Guide, I urge you to go to Montgomery County website, <http://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/7769> and read it. There are many good and simple ways to prepare.

It is also important to remember that during any emergency, you should remain calm and patient. I realize that it is difficult to be patient when your power has been out for a long period of time, but I assure you that Upper Pottsgrove Township officials are working hard to coordinate with PECO to have power restored so that we can all return to normal as quickly and safely as possible.

One of the steps we take during severe winter storms and related emergencies includes opening the Emergency Operations Center, EOC. We coordinate our efforts of street clearing and power restoration from within the EOC. Concerns regarding unplowed roadways should be reported to the Township at 610-323-8675.

Safety during storm-related emergencies, as with any other time, also includes checking on your neighbors. Some of our senior citizens live alone and could use a helping hand with clearing their drive and walkways.

Lastly, we encourage our residents to please report suspicious activity to the police department immediately by calling 911.

We cannot control natural disasters but we can prepare for them before they occur. Make certain your emergency supply kit is current and ready for use.

Have a safe winter!

Chief Francis Wheatley

NEWS FROM UPPER POTTSTGROVE TWP. FIRE CO. NO. 1

Our all-volunteer staff of the Upper Pottsgrove Twp. Fire Co. # 1 would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to the residents and businesses of Upper Pottsgrove Township for your continued support and contributing to our annual fund drive.

We would like to introduce the newest members of our fleet. Utility 79, is a 2012 Ford F150 and is used to respond with EMS on medical assist calls and can respond to assist fire police, as well as carry extra personnel when it responds to brush fires with the other new member, ATV79. This ATV79 was mostly paid for by grant money. ATV79 is a 2016 Polaris Ranger 6x6 equipped with 80 gallons of water and a Darley Davey pump skid unit. Its purpose is to respond to emergencies on the township's trail system, brush fires, technical rescues, and special events.

A friendly reminder as winter and colder weather approaches, please remember to have your chimney cleaned and inspected; please clear any nearby hydrants from obstructions. Don't forget to mark your calendar for December 17th.....Santa is coming to town!!!! (Snow/rain date of the 18th)



The newest members of our fleet~Utility, 79, a 2012 Ford F150 & ATV79

RULES FOR HUNTING

All of the following activities are prohibited within Township parks and open space:

Using firearms or other weapons, including, but not limited to, handguns, rifles, air rifles, spring guns, bow and arrows, slingshots, paintball guns, BB guns or rifles, darts or any other missiles or projectiles, unless a special permit has been acquired for Township-initiated animal control activities. Hunting, shooting, paintball and trapping are also prohibited.



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NEWS FROM UPPER POTTS GROVE HISTORICAL BOARD ~ GROWING UP IN UPPER POTTS GROVE

My parents built the family home 10 years before I was born. It was in the 1940's. My father found out about a good chunk of land that was for sale past the end of a rocky dirt road. He was an executive for a company in Pottstown and wore a suit to work every day. His determination brought him to check out the land in his suit and Florsheim shoes. There was also a few inches of snow on the ground when he decided to look at it on his lunch break. It was a large 13 acre piece of land that was an orchard. However, the orchard was in disarray and most of the trees had to be cut



NEW & IMPROVED HOLLENBACH PARK ON NORTH HANOVER ST. by EAGLE SCOTT RYAN VARGO



CAR SHOW AT THE PG MIDDLE SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 17



down. My father loved the land and the quiet that he experienced while walking the 13 acres. The man selling the property said he already had an interested buyer who would make monthly payments. My father asked him if that buyer signed any paperwork. The seller told him "no." My father handed the man \$3,000. in cash and said "I want the land now." Of course the seller was happy with the cash in hand.

My father went back to work. At the end of the day he went to his apartment, met with my mother and said, "I bought land today and we are building a house in Upper Pottsgrove!" My mother did not know where Upper Pottsgrove was. My father said it was on the other side of Pottstown, way out in the country. The cash came from my father's GI pay from World War II. My mother saved every penny my father sent home and that was the cash used to pay for the land.

My parents very quickly came up with a plan to build a house. The house was designed by my mother and built by my father and his Uncle John (who was a renowned builder in the area.) My father dug the foundation by hand with a shovel and wheelbarrow. The house was started in April and finished around Christmas. Mom designed all of the rooms and everything was completed to her specifications. In the 40's it was a big house ~ 6 bedrooms 2 and 1/2 baths.

By 1951, my oldest brother was born. The next brother was 1954, the next brother was 1956, I was 1958 and my sister was born in 1961. It was a large family, but a truly happy one. We supported one another through thick and thin. There was only 2 channels for T.V. And of course it was black and white television. Most of our happy times were spent outside with each other. We played war (which was something all kids did back then), King of The Mountain, football, basketball, baseball, hide and seek, rode bicycles everywhere and many other fun activities. In the winter we would strap on ski's and ski from one end of our property to below our property which was just open fields. And we can't forget our Flexible Flyers. We all had one of them and spent all day outside. We would wear the wool leggings that would weigh 80 pounds by the end of the day because they got saturated. Spring time came and we hiked everywhere in the township. We knew which areas in the township had the crayfish and

Continued on Page 6



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Upper Pottsgrove Township

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Pottstown, PA 19464
Administration Building 610.323.8675
Fax: 610.327.1967
Emergency: 911
Police Administration 610.326.8446
Montgomery County Dispatch 610.327.1441
Fire Dept. (Non-emergency) 610.323.2424
administration@uptownship.org
www.uptownship.org

ROAD BRIGADE CLEANUP

We thank you volunteers. The October 22 International Coastal Cleanup was an overall success. Upper Pottsgrove is just a small part of this huge campaign with 56 bags of trash collected. Our next cleanup will be in the spring of 2017.

2016 PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR
EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE
POTTSTOWN COMMUNITY
PRESENTED BY
THE POTTSTOWN ROTARY CLUB TO
KEN HAMILTON
GREEN ALLIES & ALTHOUSE ARBORETUM

Growing Up in Upper Pottsgrove

(Continued from Page 4)

peeper frogs. We would collect them and bring them back into the house. I am not sure how many times the frogs got out of the aquarium and months later we would find there carcass behind a piece of furniture. In the summer, my father decided after I was born that he would build a pool because he wanted to know where we were in the summer. Neighbors and friends would stop by and swim quite often. He was a little angry because he had to pay the same amount of money for the pool that he did for the property. Also in the summer we would listen to the music that was playing every Saturday night in Sunset Park. "Shorty Long" and the "Geeter with the Heater" would show up from time to time. We had such wonderful times and I miss the innocence from those days. We also, by my father's request, would push the mower to friends and neighbors and mow their grass for them.

My brothers attended Upper Pottsgrove Elementary School. Every teacher had a paddle and were never afraid to use it. Sometimes the teacher would just look at the paddle and we knew someone was in trouble.

Christmases in Upper Pottsgrove were also wonderful. There was a lot of snow and a lot of neighbors helping neighbors. We always got wonderful things for Christmas and oranges in our stockings. Everyone knew you by name. Many of our friends are gone. It was a happy time growing up here. We always felt safe. We still like to hike and I am so glad that much of the land has been preserved. Yes, it has changed but it still feels like we are out in the country.

Community Day
Community Day was a huge success this year. Thank you to all our attendees, volunteers and sponsors. There were lots of free giveaways, games and demonstrations.