

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume III, Issue I

April 2008

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

Web site www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

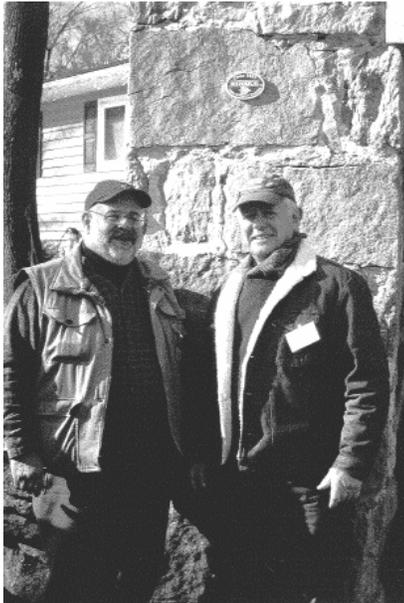
Phone 610.323.8675

Historical Committee Hits the Road

What's new in **Upper Pottsgrove Township** you ask? Well, what's new is really about what's *old*; specifically, buildings in our community that are more than 100 years old that have been preserved.

Our ad hoc **Historical Committee**, headed up by Herb Miller of Mauger's Mill Road, has identified several homes and barns, some dating back to the 1700's that

are just marvelous examples of local historic architecture. These structures are being cited as **Upper Pottsgrove Township Historical Buildings** with an attractive plaque showing the year of construction which the Historical Committee has been busy installing recently during Phase One of this project.



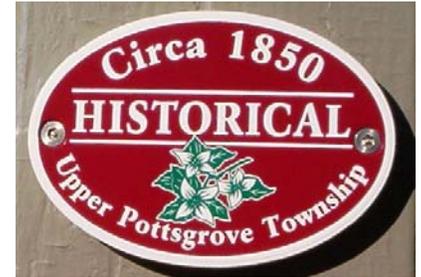
Michelle O'Conner's barn made into a beautiful house—Circa 1851

Unlike other communities that have an historical outreach program, Upper Pottsgrove does not involve the home owner in any red tape, covenants or restrictions to participate. However, we prefer to recognize those homeowners that appreciate preservation and exhibit pride in ownership. If you would like to have your home considered for historical recognition, simply contact the Township administration office at: 610-323-8675, ext. 200 and give us your name, address and telephone number and the best time to call you. There are no fees and the Historical Committee installs the attractive 3.5" x 5" oval plaque for you.

Phase One of this project has taken more than a year. Starting in 2006, Herb Miller, Scott Miller, Susan Lopez and Ruth Spaide began surveying the township for qualifying listings. Homeowners needed to give their authorization. Then there was the approval of the design and manufacture of the plaques. As the installation team of Herb Miller, Gary Novack and Reg Leister began to navigate around the township in January, it became very apparent that many more beautiful properties would be eligible to be identified as "historical" if they would only contact us for this designation. It is apparent now that there are just too many for us to solicit individually. We will need your help.

Homes and barns built before 1901 will be considered. As soon as we have enough structures to fill an order, we will begin installation.

Phase Two will consist of those homeowners who desire historical recognition. Homes and barns built before 1901 will be considered. As soon as we have enough structures to fill an order, we will begin installation.



Historical Plaque composed of PVC, with a double UVA/UVB protected coating

Did You Know???

STORM WATER POLLUTION

Storm water pollution is a serious problem in every community. Upper Pottsgrove Township is working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to educate our community about storm water and everyone can get involved to keep our water clean and pollution-free.

What is storm water?

Storm water is all water from precipitation, such as rain and snow that flows over the ground and pavement. This water seeps into the ground or drains into our storm sewer system. The draining water is called storm water runoff.

Why do we need to control Storm Water?

Storm water becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and pollutants as it flows. It travels through a system of pipes and eventually flows directly into streams, rivers and lakes. All of the pollutants the storm water carries along the way empties into our waters.

Board of Commissioners

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

(Cont'd on page 3)

Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Company #1

Hello Upper Pottsgrove Township Residents! The last time you heard from us, we were getting ready to send our yellow Engine out to be painted red. We brought it to D & D Collision on March 15th to begin the transformation. Thank you to all of the residents and businesses that donated to our Fund Drive this year! We raised just under \$12,000, a few hundred dollars more than we needed to pay for painting and lettering the truck!

This year's Easter Egg Hunt, held at Heather Place on March 22nd, was a great success! The snow slowed down just in time for the beginning of the hunt and all of the kids seemed to have a wonderful time! We held a

contest to guess the amount of Jelly Beans, and our winner was Lily Guerette, with a guess of 1710. The actual number was 1961, and we're sure she and her family enjoyed each and every one of them!

As our company is growing, we're planning more events to get out into the community! We definitely hope to see you there!

If you live alone, please provide your name and address to the Township Administrative Office so that Emergency Personnel is aware of that. Also, if you live next to a vacant building, please let the Township know. A list will be provided to our firefighters so that they do not go into a vacant building to save someone. Thank you.

A Message from the Fire Marshal

Spring is around the corner and many of you will be cleaning up your yards of leaves and downed branches that accumulated over the winter months. However, Upper Pottsgrove Township Ordinance 236 (which was passed in 1992) prohibits open burning in the township. Exceptions are available with special permission from the Fire Marshal.

Domestic waste may be burned in approved burning barrels or other approved incinerators. An approved burning barrel is a solid, sturdy, steel cylindrical container with a sealed steel bottom with ventilation holes and an open top which, during outdoor burning, is covered firmly and completely by a steel, spark-arresting screen. Other approved incinerators are containers approved in writing by the Township Fire Marshal after review and inspection, with a volume no greater than a fifty-five-gallon drum with containment, ventilation and spark-arresting features similar to those of an approved burning barrel. Barrels will be more than 25 feet from any building, structure, trees, roadway or public walkway.

Residents shall not burn any plastic, rubber, petroleum products, flammable liquids, garbage, animal waste or anything that will cause an excessive amount of smoke.

Outdoor burning shall be attended at all times by a competent adult. Any outdoor burning shall be started after sunrise and be completely extinguished before sunset. There is absolutely no burning after sunset. No outdoor burning will be allowed during high winds or drought conditions.

Be considerate of your neighbors when burning.

The Fire Marshal has the right to inspect any outdoor burning and have it extinguished if necessary. Violations of this ordinance may result in fines.

You may contact the Fire Marshal, Stan Hildenbrand, at 484-919-6745 if you have any questions.

FIRE COMMITTEE VACANCY

A citizen representative is needed on the Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Committee. If you are interested, please fill out a Volunteer Application which can be obtained at:

1409 Farmington Avenue

or

**www.upperpottsgrove
township.org**

The representative will be selected at the next Fire Committee Meeting.



Emergency Coordinator Jack Layne and Commissioner Renee Spaide review Severe Weather reports.

PEMA Annual Severe Weather Exercise

Upper Pottsgrove's Emergency Management Team was activated for the Annual Statewide PEMA Severe Weather Exercise on March 13th. This event is designed to assist municipalities and emergency agencies to prepare, respond, coordinate and test their emergency operation plan (EOP). The exercise is intended to be challenging, requiring problem solving, management of resources and warning procedures.

Each county develops its own specific scenario to meet the exercise objectives to simulate responses to those storm event consequences. The role of the local municipality is the health, safety and welfare of its citizens--- which Upper Pottsgrove Twp. takes very seriously. Anyone who would like to join the Emergency Response Team or learn more should contact the Township Office: 610-323-8675, ext. 200.

Reduce, Reuse, Raise \$\$\$ Abitibi Paper Retriever® Community Recycling Program

Name a great fund-raising goal and chances are it's among hundreds that these organizations are already funding by collecting all types of clean, dry paper from their community. Abitibi-Consolidated Recycling Division provides this program and collection service at no charge to each location. Bright green and yellow containers - called Abitibi Paper Retrievers® - are placed in highly visible, convenient areas where residents can drop off their newspaper, magazines, shopping catalogs and mail. Usually, the majority of the paper is received from the surrounding neighborhoods. Even areas that already provide curbside recycling are successful in raising money by providing a convenient place to drop off paper when families know that your organization (Pottsgrove School District) will benefit from their donation. The Retriever is located at the Pottsgrove Middle School.

We need all your: •Magazines•Shopping Catalogues•Newspaper•Office & School Paper•Mail

Please do not include: •Plastic•Glass•Metal•Trash

For more information visit: www.paper.retriever.com

MEETING DATES & TIMES

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

Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 6 PM

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

Sewer & Water Committee-4th Mon., 7 PM

Open Space Committee-2nd Tues., 7 PM

Fire Committee-3rd Thurs., 7 PM

Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand

STORM WATER POLLUTION (Cont'd. from Page 1)

What everyone can do to help.

Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies, paint and pills & liquid medication – never pour them down any part of the storm water system or the toilet. They cannot be extricated at the sewer treatment plant.

Use pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff.

Install innovative storm water practices on your property, such as rain barrels or rain gardens.

Pick up after pets and dispose of the waste properly.

Store materials that could pollute storm water indoors and use containers for outdoor storage that do not rust or leak.

Report any discharges from storm water outfalls during dry weather.

Upper Pottsgrove Township has begun implementing a federally mandated program designed to reduce storm water pollution. The program called NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System), MS4 (Municipal Separate Water Systems) applies to all municipalities in designated urban areas.

From the Chief of Police Parking Regulations

Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Department wants to remind residents that by state law vehicles parked in violation of the PA Vehicle Code, Title 75 are subject to fines and in some cases towing. Below is a brief overview of some of the parking situations that may result in ticketing a vehicle.

PARKING

1. On a sidewalk
2. On a crosswalk
3. Within an intersection
4. Stand or park a vehicle in front of a public or private driveway
5. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
6. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk or intersection
7. Within 30 feet upon the approach of a flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign or traffic signal
8. Any place where an official sign prohibits standing or parking
9. Upon two way streets, all vehicles shall be parked with the right-hand wheels parallel to the curb and within 12 inches of the edge of the roadway/curb (parking against traffic is a violation of this section of the vehicle code)

Upper Pottsgrove Township Police will be enforcing the above-mentioned parking regulations during their patrols throughout the township. Parking Violations carry a \$20.00 fine if issued under the township code. In the event you do not respond or if you indicate a desire to plead not guilty, a State Traffic Citation/Summons will be issued through the District Court and the citation will incur an additional \$76.00 in fine and costs. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Police Department at 610-326-8446.

Recyclables

When putting out your recyclables on a windy day, please put a board on top of the container or put your recyclables in a plastic or paper bag and place in your container. Reason: The blustery wind is taking plastic milk cartons and plastic bottles out of the container and now becomes roadside litter. Thank you!

Township Police Alert Residents Who are Going on Vacation

- Don't leave a note anywhere announcing your absence and when you will return.
- Cancel all deliveries of newspapers or mail (or arrange with someone to pick up these things everyday) to prevent accumulation of such items – it is a dead giveaway that no one is home.
- Install an automatic timer to turn on lights in the house every evening you are away. If you do not have a timer the police department has loaners available that you can borrow.
- Do not pull the curtains or drapes while you are away – leave the window treatments the way they always are when you are there.
- Make sure that all windows, doors and other points of entry are locked or secured.
- Ask a neighbor you trust to watch the place and alert the police department if they see anything suspicious.
- Residents should contact the Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Dept. (610.326.8446) prior to your departure and complete a **Vacation Check Request Form (available at www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org)**. The police department will check the residence while you are away. This form should indicate the date of departure and return along with contact information, etc.
- Make sure you do not leave tools, ladders, etc. outside the house or garage.
- Make sure you arrange to have the grass mowed or snow shoveled while gone...this too is a giveaway that no one is home.
- Do not leave your keys or other forms of identification in your vehicle if you have parked it anywhere while away (including if you park it at an airport parking lot); this is a great place for burglars to learn who isn't home.
- If you have a navigation system in your vehicle and it is removable, lock it in the trunk. Don't program your actual street address into the device as a thief stealing this item can use it for directions to your front door step.
- Enjoy your vacation and if you completed a vacation check request, contact the police department promptly upon your return home.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

April 22, 2008

Polls open at 7 AM and close at 8 PM

Voting will take place at the
Township Administrative Offices
1409 Farmington Avenue
The Township Office will be
closed for business on that day.



WWF TIME FOR CHANGE EARTH DAY APRIL 22

MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY!

APRIL 22ND IS EARTH DAY, a moment in time for us to think in terms of our way of life, our aspirations, our philanthropy – an opportunity to do something.

Join WWF this Earth Day in our fight to save endangered species, protect endangered habitats, and address global threats such as deforestation, overfishing, and climate change. From March 4 to April 22, 2008, WWF is challenging America to make a pledge for change as part of Time For Change — a campaign to raise awareness and share the best ideas for making a positive difference for the Earth.

Tell us how you will help make change for Earth Day 2008 by logging on to worldwildlife.org/earthday and sharing the personal commitment that you're making to help save our planet.

I'M MAKING A CHANGE.

www.worldwildlife.org/earthday
1-800-CALL-WWF

WFC-0803

Mark your calendar and join in by picking up litter along the road near your home!

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services

On Saturday, January 19, 2008, Jack Layne attended and participated in the dedication of the new Montgomery County RACES Room & tower at the County EOC in Eagleville along with State Rep. Tom Quigley and other dignitaries. It was a very special day and it was made so by those who shared it with us who devote so many volunteer hours each year training and preparing for the safety of our communities.



(L to R) State Rep Thomas Quigley
UPT Mgr. & EMC Jack Layne
Montco RACES Radio Officer Steve Pearl
American Radio Relay League Emergency
Coordinator for ARES Bob Famiglia



Hair & Nail
Salon

JESSICA HILDENBRAND
HAIR DESIGN & NAIL TECH
LOCATED AT:

1494 N. CHARLOTTE ST. SUITE # 18
FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL 610-327-0500
WALK-INS WELCOME

HOURS:

TUES. - THURS.	1:00PM - 9:00PM
FRIDAY	9:00AM - 4:00PM
SATURDAY	9:00AM - 2:00PM

**NEW CUSTOMERS RECEIVE \$7.00 OFF THEIR
FIRST SERVICE WITH THIS COUPON.**

Pottsgrove Rec Bd. Activities:

Men's Basketball, Tuesday, 7:00—9:00 PM, West Pottsgrove Elem.

Women's Volleyball, Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Ringing Rocks Elementary

Women's Exercise, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6:00 PM, Middle Sch.

Table Tennis, Monday & Thursday, 7:00 PM, Auxiliary Gym, High Sch.

Jogging—All year round, High School Track

Learn to Swim—Friday, 4:30 PM, Pottstown YMCA

Community Band, Monday, 7:30 PM, High Sch.

Summer Playground, June 30th - August 1st, 9:00 AM- Noon, School Aged Children,
All Elementary Schools

Registration takes place at each location during the class time.

Please visit our website for further information:

**To advertise in the next
Township Newsletter
(slated to be sent Aug.,
2008):**

Complete the advertisement
form available at:

- 1409 Farmington Avenue,
Pottstown, PA 19464-
1829
- Call 610-323-8675 and re-
quest that a form be faxed
to you
- Print from the website

[http://upperpottsgrovetown
ship.org/FormsAndPermits.
html](http://upperpottsgrovetownship.org/FormsAndPermits.html)

**Upper Pottsgrove Township
1409 Farmington Avenue
Pottstown, PA 19464**

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 140
Pottstown, PA 19464

Upper Pottsgrove Township

ETHICS in ACTION—Equity, Transparency, Honor, Integrity, Commitment, Stewardship



Upper Pottsgrove Township

1409 Farmington Avenue
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
E-mail: upperpottsgrovetownship@comcast.net
www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

We're on the Web!

upperpottsgrovetownship.org



The Township will once again be collecting old, soiled and tattered American Flags (all sizes) at the Administration Office (inside) at 1409 Farmington Avenue from May 1st through Friday, May 23rd. They will be respectfully retired at an inspirational ceremony conducted at Memorial Park in Pottstown in front of the Gazebo on Sunday, June 1st starting at 1:00 PM. All are most welcome to attend and participate, especially school age members of our community. Bring a comfortable lawn chair. There is plenty of shade.