

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume III, Issue 3

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

Web site www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

Phone 610.323.8675

2008 Green Futures Achievement Awards

Upper Pottsgrove Township: Open Space Referendum

For decades, people in suburban and rural communities have discussed, studied, and argued about ways to keep important lands open and protected. In Upper Pottsgrove Township, local officials and community volunteers have done more than talk about land preservation – they have taken assertive actions, resulting in the protection of over 170 acres of land.

A passion for conservation is the common thread woven throughout this group of community partners. Formed in 2005, the Open Space Committee meets regularly to discuss and recommend measures for acquiring, protecting, and maintaining open space. The key to their success, according to Herb Miller, committee chair, is effective communication with the commissioners. “Our volunteer groups work like a Swiss watch, in sync with committee chairs and commissioners,” says Miller. Without these partnerships, the complex process of securing land conservation projects would not be possible.

The community effort to pass the 2006 open space tax referendum reflects the on-going commitment to protect land and water quality in the township. Providing as much as

\$275,000 annually for the acquisition of open space, this voter-approved increase in earned income tax passed with a 60 percent majority. The referendum funded the townships’ \$800,000 acquisition of the highly valued Stauffer and Lamb properties, adding an additional 24 acres of open space. Also anticipated is the purchase of four additional properties with funds obtained as a direct result from the tax referendum. This could result in more than 300 acres of protected land by the end of 2008.

Along with open space preservation, the township is equally enthusiastic about establishing a trail system. The stream corridor known as Sprogels Run provides a forested buffer for the protection of water quality and is slated to have a 4.5-mile trail built which will connect to the Schuylkill River Trail. Financing for construction of the Goose Run Trail was recently secured. With assistance from Rouse-Chamberlin builders and the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation, this is yet another example of the essential partnerships needed for conserving and protecting the natural beauty in Upper Pottsgrove Township.



2008 Green Futures Achievement Award

Historic Committee Goes Public

Perhaps no other state boasts a broader or deeper range of American history as does the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In part, this is due to its diversity of communities and architecture. Certainly Upper Pottsgrove Township reflects this in its historical structures which our Historical Committee has diligently identified over this past year.

In that time our volunteers have researched county records and consulted residents about their homes and properties. In all, over 80 structures have been identified so far and a special Upper Pottsgrove Historical Plaque has been installed to publicly recognize them. These homes and barns can be viewed on the Township’s website by going to the following link: <http://upthistoricpix.shutterfly.com/> We are by no means finished. If you own a home or barn that pre-dates 1901, or exhibits unique architectural qualities please

Continued on Page 3

Creative Minds Montessori School kicked off Fire Prevention Month...

...on October 9th with a visit from the Upper Pottsgrove Fire Department. The firefighters provided a fun-filled morning for the students while communicating important fire safety information.

The morning began with a fire drill for everyone in the building. The firefighters helped to fine tune the school’s drill and guided the staff in leading all of the students outside in the most efficient route. Infants through six-year olds participated in the drill, with staff rolling out the cribs and assisting the children in lining up and exiting the building quickly.

After the drill, the children had fun exploring the fire truck. The good times continued as they took turns spraying the fire hose with help from the firefighters.

Continued on Page 4

Board of Commissioners

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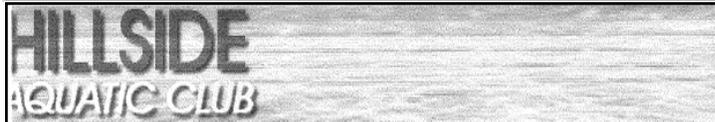
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Historic Committee (Cont'd. from Page 1)

contact the Township Administration Office. In 1990, on the occasion of our Township's 100th Birthday Celebration much focus was made by our citizens on the importance of this event. Why? Because everyone recognized the value of honoring the past as a foundation of planning for the future. The Historical Committee feels very strongly about this and asks that anyone interested in helping to save and document our community's history contact the Township Office (610-323-8675-X200). We know that there are many people who have records, memoirs and recollections that would make an invaluable monument to our rich legacy. Much information has already been lost with the passing of previous generations. Hopefully we can preserve that which still remains. Are you that person?

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

2nd Annual Schuylkill River Festival at Pottstown's Riverfront Park



Upper Pottsgrove Twp was well represented at the 2nd Annual Schuylkill River Festival at Pottstown's Riverfront Park on October 11th with large posters & brochures displaying our recently completed trail systems and open space program. On hand to encourage people to visit and enjoy these recreational facilities were (L-R): Twp Mgr Jack Layne, Open Space Liaison Herb Miller and State Senator John Rafferty, Jr.



A steady stream of people stopped by our booth all day expressing interest in Upper Pottsgrove's new Goose Run and Sproegel's Run Trail System.

Photos courtesy of Reg Leister

'STEER CLEAR' LAW WILL ENHANCE ROADSIDE SAFETY

Motorists Required to Move Over or Slow Down for Roadside Incidents

To improve safety during roadside incidents, PennDOT is reminding motorists to move over. The "steer clear" law requires drivers to move over or slow down when they encounter an emergency scene, traffic stop or disabled vehicle. If drivers cannot move over because of traffic or other conditions, they must reduce their speed. "This is a very important law because it can save lives," said PennDOT Secretary Allen D. Biehler, P.E. "While it may seem like common sense, many motorists speed by these incidents. We need all drivers to remember to move over since this law is designed to provide added safety for those people responding to situations along our roadways." Motorists must move over or reduce their speed when they see emergency responders, including law enforcement, fire officials, emergency medical technicians, tow truck operators or highway workers. The law applies any time an emergency vehicle has its lights flashing or where road crews or emergency personnel have lighted flares, posted signs or other traffic control devices. Failure to move over or slow down can result in a summary offense that carries a fine of up to \$250. In addition, fines will be doubled for traffic violations occurring in these areas. If that violation leads to a worker being injured, a 90-day license suspension could result. In cases where law enforcement may not be present, the law allows road workers and emergency responders to report violations by motorists. Law enforcement can issue citations based on these reports. More than 1,800 citations have been issued since the law went into effect in 2006. For more information regarding the "steer clear" law, visit: www.dot.state.pa.us.

Village Productions/Tri-County Performing Arts Center

Village Productions announces the November opening of the TRI-COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, a non-profit education and performance facility at 245 E. High Street, Pottstown, PA 19464. Part of the economic and cultural revitalization of downtown historic Pottstown, the Tri-PAC provides an exciting new resource for the Tri-County Region. Educational offerings include professional group and private instruction for ALL AGES in

drama, improv, music, youth choir, movement, voice, piano, and guitar. Upcoming productions include MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (December), SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION (March), LETTICE & LOVAGE (April), and THE WIZ (June) as well as concerts, cabarets, British Music Hall, children's plays, and contemporary dance productions. Visit www.tripac.org or call 610.970.1199 for more information.

Upper Pottsgrove Community Day
A special note of thanks to PECO for supporting our 2008 affair in the amount of \$500.



The Upper Pottsgrove Township's newly painted Administration Bldg.

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Rouse Chamberlin Homes teams with non-profit to build green homes

Rouse Chamberlin Homes has always sought to "do the right thing" in all aspects from purchasing and developing land, building homes and treating customers with respect from start to finish. In August, Rouse Chamberlin joined the non-profit organization Green Communities Alliance and took the initiative to build certified "Green" homes. Member of the Green Communities Alliance include: home builders, municipalities, home builder associations, and utility companies. Green Communities Alliance awards the Living Green™ designation to homes that meet strict green building guidelines as developed by the National Association of Home Builders.



(L-R): Ed Houck from Rouse Chamberlin, Chris Alleman from Green Communities Alliance, Herb Miller, Open Space Chair & Jack Layne, Twp. Manager

Fire Prevention Month

Next, the firefighters presented an informative program to the 3-6 year olds. They showed the students smoke detectors and explained their function, and taught them fire safety tips including crawling through smoke and checking to see if a door is hot before it is opened. They demonstrated "Stop, Drop and Roll" and the students took turns practicing. The firefighters put on their full gear, including their facemasks, to show the children how they would look and sound in case of a fire. The students were able to try on a real firefighter's jacket and hat.

This was Creative Minds Montessori School's first fire prevention event. The school opened in June and provides an alternative to traditional childcare and education based on the teaching philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. The school is located at 1374-A Commerce Drive in Upper Pottsgrove Township.

Cont'd from Page 1





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Fire Dept. (Non-emergency) 610.323.2424
E-mail: upperpottsgrovetownship@comcast.net
www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

PARKING VIOLATION WARNING NOTICE

Be advised that parking a vehicle against traffic (facing wrong direction) on a two way roadway is a violation of Title 75, PA Vehicle Code Section 3354 (a).

Effective April 1, 2008, vehicles found to be in violation of this section will be issued Parking Tickets carrying a \$20.00 fine.

Any questions about this regulation, please contact the Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Department at 610-326-8446.



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"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies but the period from birth to the age of six...for that is the time when intelligence itself, her greatest implement, is being formed...."

— Maria Montessori