



The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume IV, Issue 2

August 2009

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

Web site www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

Phone 610.323.8675

County and Local Government Officials Call for Property Tax Reduction through Optional County Sales Tax

County and local government officials from across the state unveiled a plan that would allow them to provide meaningful property tax reduction for residents, as well as relief from the burden of tax-exempt property, through an optional county sales tax.

The proposal, announced during a news conference in the state Capitol, would give counties the option of levying a 1 percent sales tax on the same goods and services subject to the state sales tax. A majority of the proceeds would have to be used for property tax relief, to offset nuisance taxes, and to support projects involving multiple municipalities.

Local governments are not asking the legislature to increase taxes, officials stressed, but for the ability to secure the revenue needed so serve their residents.

"The citizens of this commonwealth expect and deserve municipal services that provide for their health, safety, and welfare," added Russell Noll, Commissioner of Upper Pottsgrove Township and first vice president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners. "As service needs change and grow, local government must have new tools to address these needs. The proposal introduced gives local government more flexibility to meet its obligations. If we want our current citizens to remain and new citizens to find our commonwealth a desirable place to live, we must change our policy toward local government and allow for new tools to address 21st century needs."

MEETING DATES & TIMES

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

Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 6 PM

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

Sewer & Water Committee-4th Mon., Even Mos., 5 PM

Open Space Committee-2nd Tues., Odd Mos., 7 PM

Fire Committee-3rd Thurs., 7 PM

Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand

Web Link to Calendar:

<http://upperpottsgrovetownship.org/index.html#>



1st VP Russell Noll Represents PSATC at Optional County Sales Tax Press Conference

Stormwater Management

The Clean Water Act is the federal legislation that governs stormwater management. Stormwater point discharges to waters of the U.S. are regulated using National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. In 1999, federal regulations extended coverage of the NPDES program to local separate storm sewer systems (MS₄'s) serving populations less than 100,000. Upper Pottsgrove Township is required to comply with the NPDES program as a MS₄. Under the NPDES stormwater program, permittees must develop a stormwater management plan that provides the details of how the community

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Board of Commissioners

- Elwood Taylor, President
- Russell Noll, Vice President
- Peter Dolan
- Renéé Spaide

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2009 Household Hazardous Waste & Computer Collection Program

Abington High School

Aug. 8, 2009

9am—3pm

Lower Merion Transfer Station

October 24, 2009

9 am - 3 pm

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National Preparedness Month
September 2009 | www.ready.gov

Preparedness goes beyond fire alarms, smoke detectors,
dead-bolt locks and extra food in the pantry.

Being Ready includes:

1. Getting an emergency supply kit
2. Making a family emergency plan
3. Being informed about emergencies and their appropriate responses
4. Getting involved in community efforts

Upper Pottsgrove Township needs clerical volunteers NOW to prepare for the Limerick Nuclear Drill coming in November. Please contact the Administrative Office at 610-323-8675.

To learn more about how you, your family, your business and your community can prepare for emergencies and get involved, please visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY.



National Preparedness Month is Observed

Upper Pottsgrove Township was the ONLY community in the SE PA corridor (and nearly the entire State) that was signed on (so far) as a committed National Preparedness Month Coalition Member in the local area. We are TRULY reflecting our leadership role in this region.

The month of September is National Preparedness Month. It is a time that we ALL as individuals should focus on OUR personal responsibilities to **Be Ready** for any emergency. Upper Pottsgrove Township joins a national coalition of like-minded, disaster-preparedness communities to keep its residents informed and will issue an official Proclamation at the August General Meeting. Fact sheets and brochures, including Activity Books aimed at children from ages 4-7 & 8-11 will be available at the Township offices while supplies last during the month. Please stop in.

The first place we need to be prepared is our home. One of the first things we need to do is determine our potential threats. These will vary depending on where we live locally, hurricanes, high winds and snow, plus occasional tornadoes and extended power outages. Each family needs to know what the common threats are in their area and to a certain extent determine their preparedness actions in response to them.

On a general level, families need to take the steps we advise all to take. Considering that first responders may not be able to get to your home for at least 72 hours and that utility services may be down for many days, we need to provide ourselves with

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New President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners

By Mercury Staff

Russell Noll, Vice President of the township's Board of Commissioners, has been named the new president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners. The organization, which advocates for the concerns of townships, was founded in 1925 and represents first class townships and their officials before the Pennsylvania General As-

sembly.

Noll, who has served on the township board since 2000 and was the first vice president of the organization's executive committee before being named president, began his term in June, 2009.

At its May 18 meeting, the Township Board of Commissioners enacted a resolution supporting his appointment.



Russ Noll swears in as the President of the PA State Association of Township Commissioners, which took place at the Eisenhower Inn in Gettysburg, PA on June 23, 2009. His wife, Kandi, holds the Bible.

Messages from your Tax Collector, Michelle L. Reddick

Homestead Exemption/Reduction: Have you filed your application with the County for a homestead exemption? By filing a homestead exemption application, you can qualify for a reduction on your school real estate tax bill so long as your property is your primary place of residence. The application is simple, and does not take much time. The amount of last year's homestead reduction was \$292.28, and this year it was \$279.32. You can file an application on line by visiting the County website at www.montcopa.org. You then want to click on Departments, select the Board of Assessments and search for the homestead exemption application. If you do not have a computer, you can contact my office at (610) 323-8675, ext. 203, and I will be happy to mail you a form.

Per Capita Taxes – If you are a student in college, you can receive an exemption from paying your per capita taxes. All you need to do is complete the student form that was enclosed with your per capita tax bill. If you are a college student, but did not receive the form, you should contact my office. If you are no longer a college student, you will be

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National Preparedness Month is Observed (Continued from Page 2)

the means to survive. Have a pantry well stocked with canned goods and other easily prepared foods. Having an adequate supply of drinking water is vital. Prescription meds should be kept current. A first aid kit to treat injuries, a battery-operated radio and of course several flash lights should be kept on hand. Be sure to check the batteries in your flash lights periodically to make sure they are working. Better yet, remove those batteries until needed to avoid leakage damage. Use Ziplock® bags. An additional precaution might be to keep extra bottles of propane available so that you can cook on the grill (outside) should the need arise.

In some disasters, you may not be at home but caught away at work. For that reason it is a good idea to keep an emergency kit at your office or in the car with a change of clothes, a radio and most importantly a plan of where your family will gather in case of an emergency evacuation. Speaking of potential evacuations, it is imperative that a plan

be developed for the family so that everyone's location is known and, if necessary or desirable, a pre-planned meeting place be defined and known by everyone. Remember that phones, particularly cell phones, will usually be inoperative during these stressed periods.

For just such a possibility, always try to keep a half full tank of gas in the car so that you can evacuate in case of an emergency. An emergency travel kit should also be pre-assembled for use in an evacuation situation and it would be wise to conduct training exercises.

The real key to successful citizen preparedness is to keep it relevant and simple. That is why the Ready program is so important. To further help individuals to prepare themselves for emergency situations, go to: <http://www.ready.gov/america>. In the end we are relying on people to be self-reliant, particularly in those disasters which overwhelm local emergency personnel and can delay assistance to you for 72 to 96 hours.

Messages from your Tax Collector, Michelle L. Reddick (Continued from Page 3)

required to pay your per capita tax. Otherwise, you **MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE EXEMPTION.**

Paying Your Taxes – The Tax Collector is available for you to pay your taxes in person on the dates and times

noted on your tax bill. If you are unable to make it on those dates and times and still wish to pay your taxes in person, please contact my office in order to schedule an appointment. Thank you for your cooperation in scheduling an appointment to pay your taxes

Stormwater Management

(Continued from Page 1)

(Upper Pottsgrove Township) will comply with the requirements of the permit. Permits are based on a framework of six minimum control measures:

- Public education and outreach
- Public participation and involvement
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff control
- Post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance

More information on this program is available from the Pennsylvania DEP website:

<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/watershedmgmt/cwp/view.asp?a=1437&q=518682&watershedmgmtNav=1>

Upper Pottsgrove Township Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS₄)

The goals of all MS₄s programs and Upper Pottsgrove Township are to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the township, to protect water quality and to satisfy requirements of the Clean Water Act. Upper Pottsgrove Township would like you to remember that the water and any items that go into a storm sewer go directly into streams. This water is not cleaned in any way and does not go to the waste water treatment plant. Upper Pottsgrove Township needs all of its residents to assist us in keeping our storm water and storm water sewer system clean by doing the following: dispose of water properly, clean up after your pets, use fertilizers properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff and store materials that could pollute storm water indoors. Also, please monitor storm water inlets near your property. No one should dump anything into the storm sewer system. If you see someone dumping please call the township at 610-323-8675. Thank you.

What Residents can help watch for:

- Sediment leaving a construction site in stormwater
- Spills (Chemical, Gas, Oil)
- Illegal dumping activity into streams or storm sewers (PLEASE CALL 911 FIRST)

- Dry weather flows from outfall pipes into streams (72 hours after a rain storm)

Residents may be the first to recognize "illicit" discharges dumping into storm sewers or coming out of storm sewer outfalls. If you see an "illicit" discharge please report that to the township by one of the following methods:

Call Jack Layne @ 610-323-8675 x201

Email: upperpottsgrovetownship@comcast.net

Pedestrian Bridge Connecting Hollenbach Park & Mocharniuk Meadows



With the assistance of David Crock, Township Parks & Recreation Board Vice Chairman, and donated funding and materials, Nick Faulkner, Eagle Scout for Boy Scout Troop 129, constructed this pedestrian bridge in Spring 2009.

Photos courtesy of Officer Timothy Wolf

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is just the
beginning.



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the persons erecting same at the
conclusion of the sale - Yard Sale
signs should not be posted for more
than three days.



REMEMBER TO

VOTE!

Please remember to come out and vote.

Tuesday, November 3

**All Upper Pottsgrove Township residents vote
at the**

Fire House, 1409 Farmington Avenue.

The polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

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Upper Pottsgrove Township

1409 Farmington Avenue
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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

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.

Community Day

The Pottsgrove Community Band will be performing at this event.

The date is Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 11am to 4pm.

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