



The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume VII, Issue 3

December, 2012

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

administration@uptownship.org

www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org Phone 610.323.8675

MESSAGE FROM YOUR TAX COLLECTOR



Good news – there will be no increase in taxes for County, Township and Fire taxes for 2013. Please note that if you did not pay your real estate or per capita taxes on or before December 31, 2012, your taxes are now considered delinquent and have been turned over to another agency for collection. You can expect to receive a notice on or about February 15, 2013 from the agency handling collection of your delinquent taxes. Northeast Revenue Service will handle the collection of delinquent County, Township and Fire taxes, Portnoff Law Associates will handle the collection of delinquent School taxes, and Berkheimer Associates will handle the collection of delinquent per capita taxes. If you need information for any of these agencies, please contact my office at (610) 323-8675, ext. 203.

You can expect to receive your 2013 County, Township and Fire tax bill on or about the first week in February, 2013. If you do not receive a bill, please contact my office immediately. Please note that tax hours will be listed on your tax bill. If you wish to pay your taxes in person, and the listed hours are not convenient, please contact my office to set up an appointment. Otherwise, you can mail your tax payment to P.O. Box 3095, Stowe, PA 19464, or place it in the drop box located at the Township administrative offices (**please do not leave cash**), 1409 Farmington Avenue, during regular business hours (**Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**). If you require a receipt, please include both copies of the bill and a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call. Thank you.

Michelle L. Reddick, Treasurer/Tax Collector

POTTSGROVE'S GOT THE P.O.W.E.R.!

Did you know that Pottsgrove Senior High School has an active environmental club? The growing organization's goals are conveyed in the acronym: P.O.W.E.R. (**P**ottsgrove **O**rganization for **W**ilderness and **E**nvironmental **R**estoration.) This year the club is planning more activities and events for the environment than ever before!

The *Environmental Club* at Pottsgrove Senior High School officially started in 1999, with a few students interested in making a difference. Until 2012, the club remained small. Here are some activities and events that the club has done in the past few years;

- Planted over 15 different species of flowers and trees around Pottsgrove High School over 11 years
- Creating an out-door classroom in the Courtyard of Pottsgrove High School (Work in-progress)
- Providing an Earth-day for the Pottsgrove Elementary Schools
- Fundraisers

The 2012 Environmental club has 100+ members! With so many more hands on deck, be prepared for some change in your community! Some of you might be asking; "Why have so many people joined?" In the beginning of the school year, the club took a field trip to Souderton Area High School. This field trip brought in a lot of new members to the team. Souderton Area High School

(Continued on Page 2)

MEETING DATES & TIMES

Board of Commissioners-3rd Mon., 7 PM

Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 7 PM

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

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

Fire Committee-3rd Thurs., 7:00 PM

Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand

Web Link to Calendar:

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

FLAG COLLECTION A SUCCESS!

Many thanks to all those who dropped off their old soiled, tattered and no longer usable American Flags to the Township Collection Center during April and May. We received over 200 which were retired and buried at Memorial Park on June 3rd at a fitting patriotic public ceremony. If, throughout the year you come across a flag that is no longer suitable for public display, please hold onto it until next April when we will again collect them for this annual event. Look for the collection dates to be announced here in the "Upper Pottsgrove Township Herald."

UPPER POTTSGROVE TOWNSHIP CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

The Township currently has one opening for the position of **ALTERNATE**.

Candidates must be a registered voter residing in the township and willing to take training and be available for occasional evening meetings, hearings, hiring procedures and otherwise assume all the responsibilities of a regular Commissioner. Volunteer Committee Applications are available (under **Forms**) online at:

<http://www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org/FormsAndPermits.html> or at the Township Office, 1409 Farmington Ave. during regular business hours.

Board of Commissioners

- Elwood Taylor, President - etaylor@upperpottsgrovetownship.org
- Renee Spaide, Vice President
- Peter Dolan - peter@610law.com
- Herbert C. Miller, Jr.
- Russell Noll

Please support our Newsletter sponsors and all businesses in the Township, both new and existing.

UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP REFUSE SERVICES INFORMATION

ALL COLLECTION SERVICES PERFORMED WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAY. Please place all items out on **TUESDAY EVENING.**

TRASH COLLECTION

One tote plus up to three 30-gallon containers.

NO HAZARDOUS WASTE: Car batteries, gasoline, motor oil, pesticides, oil-base paints, or other hazardous materials do not belong in the trash. Many auto stores accept used motor oil and batteries. Visit the Montgomery County Solid Waste Authority online at www.wsaemc.org or call 610-278-3618 for dates of yearly Household Hazardous Waste Collection events.

RECYCLING COLLECTION

Please place Recycling Containers separate from other trash and yard waste.

PLASTIC CONTAINERS: #1-#7 plastics only. Clean, rinse, flatten, and discard lids in trash.

GLASS: Green, Brown, and Clear Glass only. Clean, rinse, and discard lids in trash.

CANS: Aluminum and Tin only. Clean and rinse.



NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINES: Tie in 12" stacks or place in paper bags.

BULK ITEM COLLECTION NO EXTRA CHARGE
Call J.P.Mascaro at 1-800-334-3403 for pick-up on next collection day. **FURNITURE / ELECTRONICS / APPLIANCES / RIMLESS TIRES.**

YARD WASTE COLLECTION
April 1st through December 15th

LEAVES & GRASS: in biodegradable bags or open containers. **BRUSH:** tied in 4' lengths.

CHRISTMAS TREES: each week in January.



QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVICE CALL:
1-800-334-3403

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTRACT OR BILLING CALL: 1-



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CALLING 9-1-1 FROM A CELL PHONE

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety asks that anyone who calls 9-1-1 from a cellular phone in communities near the County border immediately state that "I'm calling from Montgomery County" when the call-taker answers the phone.

If the nearest cell tower to where the call is placed is across the border in a neighboring county, the call will be routed to the 9-1-1 centers in Philadelphia, Bucks, Berks, Chester or Delaware counties, depending on where the tower is located.

The neighboring 9-1-1 centers will transfer the call to Montgomery County, but the time it takes to figure the actual location out, transfer the call and then supply the information about the incident again could make a difference in saving someone's life.

Stating "I'm calling from Montgomery County" at the outset will greatly reduce any delay in getting people the help they need.

Using a landline to call 9-1-1 will result in the call automatically being routed to the proper call center.

POTTS GROVE'S GOT THE P.O.W.E.R.!

(Continued from Page 1)

has a nationally recognized environmental program, S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violating the Earth.) They have numerous trails, an outdoor amphitheatre, and two buildings that they made themselves! The members of P.O.W.E.R who went on the field trip now have a new motivation to help the environment! Not only do we have 100+ members, but we have 100+ motivated members!

The club is also very excited to possibly receive a piece of land of its own! With this potential piece of land, P.O.W.E.R could do some projects modeling the extremely successful S.A.V.E. Other projects that P.O.W.E.R is planning to do this year include:

- Working with Spark the Wave (School club) on a Toys for Tots Campaign



- Finishing the outdoor classroom in the Courtyard of Pottsgrove High School.
- Large projects on the possible Open Space land
- Recycle! Recycle glass, plastic, aluminum, paper, etc. This is very easy ~ just take some time to sort out your trash! As the year goes on, more projects and events will be added, more members will join, and more things will get done!
- In closing, please think about the environment during your everyday routine! Consider some of these tips;
 - Reduce electricity usage! This can be as simple as turning off lights while nobody is in the room, un-plugging appliances when not in use, or turning off that TV when you're not watching it!
 - Lower your thermostat! Now that it's winter, something is going to have to keep you warm. Lower that thermostat when nobody is home! Lowering your thermostat even a few degrees can save you big money, and the environment!
 - Rethink Transportation! Instead of driving that gas-guzzler around, walk or ride a bike! Car-pool with a friend or co-worker!

Keep your ears open for more news updates from P.O.W.E.R, and please help the environment out with those easy steps!

Please check out POWER's website: <http://hseenvironmentalclub.pottsgrove.wikispaces.net/>

By Bernard Steyaert, Sophomore Pottsgrove Senior High School

PROGRAMS @ THE POTTSTOWN REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Alphabet Story-time for kids 3-5: Every Other Friday Morning at 10:30 am

Lego Construction Program to kids 11 & up: Saturday, January 19 @ 2 pm

Lego Club for kids 4 to 10: Saturday, January 5 @ 2 pm

Tai Chi Classes – Mondays and Tuesdays from 6-7 pm

Computer Classes – Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Book Discussion Group – last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm

Mystery Readers Book Discussion Group – fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am

Please call the library if you have any questions - 610-970-6551

New @ the Pottstown Regional Public Library:

Free Online Homework Help. When you're struggling with a tough problem or trying to work your way through a tricky writing assignment and you need a little help, our Homework Help Online service is a lifesaver. Every day, from 2-11 pm there are trained tutors standing by to help students from grade 2 all the way up to adult learners with their studies. Full tutoring services are available in both English and Spanish. We provide this service in partnership with a company called Brainfuse. Brainfuse hires and trains U.S.-based adults, each with a bachelor's degree and prior teaching experience. Parents can rest assured because all of Brainfuse's tutors have undergone a background and reference check, and are trained to teach, not simply give answers.

Brainfuse offers a number of other excellent features. For example, the Writing Lab allows you to upload your research paper or essay and get tips on how to make it your very best. Both live tutoring and the writing lab features are also available to adult learners, along with GED and U.S. citizenship test prep, resources to help you learn Microsoft Office software, and help writing your résumé. And regardless of your age, if the 2-11 pm timeframe for live tutoring doesn't work for you, submit your question anytime in the 24/7 Center and get a response within one business day. In fact, many of the resources you will find on Brainfuse are available at any time. Take a look at the huge collection of study guides in every major subject for every grade, as well as comprehensive sets of flash cards and plenty of practice tests (including the SAT and ACT). Don't miss the Brainfuse MEET feature that allows you to set up online group study sessions with friends and classmates in the Brainfuse virtual classroom. Also, take a look at the amazing Brainwave feature. With Brainwave, students can create and share movies of their activities on the Brainfuse whiteboard—perfect for illustrating a math problem's many steps or the moving pieces of a big class project.

A Pottstown Regional Public Library card is required to use our Homework Help service.



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– Linda Detwiler, LPN,
Director of Chestnut Knoll
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Take the Stormwater Runoff Challenge

Across:

- The area of land that drains into an estuary, lake, stream, or groundwater is known as a _____.
- The _____ of speeding boats can erode shorelines.
- Maintaining your _____ tank will help to prevent bacteria and nutrients from leaking into groundwater and surface waters.
- Wetland plants act like a natural water _____, removing harmful pollutants from stormwater runoff.
- Leave your grass clippings on your _____ to reduce the need for commercial fertilizers.
- A single quart of motor _____, if disposed of improperly, can pollute 2 million gallons of water.
- Fertilizers and animal wastes contain _____ that "feed" algae and other aquatic plants harmful to water quality.
- Polluted runoff from both rural and _____ sources has a significant impact on water quality.
- Storm _____ don't always connect to sewage treatment plants, so runoff can flow directly to rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.
- Follow directions carefully when applying _____ on your lawn—more isn't always better.
- Polluted runoff (also called _____ source pollution) comes from so many places that it's hard to "pinpoint" a source.
- Yard and vegetable food waste are suitable additions to a _____ pile.

Down:

- Don't dump used motor oil into storm drains. _____ it!
- _____ of soil from barren land can cloud nearby streams.
- _____ prevent flooding, improve water quality, and provide habitat for waterfowl, fish, and wildlife.
- Marking "Do Not Dump, Drains to Bay" on a _____ is one way to educate people about polluted runoff.
- Excess sediment, nutrients, toxics, and pathogens are all types of runoff _____.
- Polluted _____ is the nation's #1 water quality problem.
- The cattail is one wetland _____ that helps purify polluted runoff.
- Too much _____ in water can harm aquatic life.
- Proper crop and animal management on _____ helps to control water pollution.
- _____ impact development helps control stormwater pollution through conservation approaches and techniques.

Choices:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| compost | nonpoint | sediment |
| drains | nutrients | septic |
| erosion | oil | storm drain |
| farms | plant | urban |
| fertilizer | pollution | wakes |
| filter | recycle | watershed |
| lawn | runoff | wetlands |
| Low | | |



For more information, please visit EPA's
Polluted Runoff web site at www.epa.gov/nps

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1409 Farmington Avenue
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ETHICS in ACTION—Equity, Transparency, Honor, Integrity, Commitment, Stewardship

#

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.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

J.P.Mascaro & Sons wishes all of you a wonderful holiday season. There will be no change in your collection schedule. Please do remember that Christmas trees will be collected on each Wednesday in January.

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.



“Clip & Save”

CLEARING SNOW FROM DRIVEWAYS

Call the Township at 610.323.8675 with any snow removal questions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HELPING TO KEEP YOUR DRIVEWAY CLEAR OF SNOW AFTER THE TOWNSHIP PLOWS HAVE PASSED

- 1) Facing the street, clear an area to the left of your driveway.
- 2) As a result, all of the snow that you clear should be placed to the right of your driveway.
- 3) This cleared area will help "catch" displaced snow that would otherwise land in your driveway.
- 4) 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."