

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

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April 2014

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

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THE NEW ALHOUSE ABORETUM COMES TO UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP



A comprehensive agreement between Upper Pottsgrove Township and the non-profit SAVE Alliance Foundation has resulted in the permanent preservation of 17 acres of land located at the intersection of Gilbertsville and Snyder Roads.

This unique agreement also allows the Foundation to create a community Environmental Education Center on the property, now called the Alhouse Arboretum in memory of the former property owner.

Todd Hilsee, a founding board member of The SAVE Alliance Foundation said, "My grandfather, the late Rev. John Alhouse, purchased the land in the 1950's with my grandmother Violet. My grandparents would be very happy today to know that the property will be preserved and used to help kids learn about nature."

The SAVE Alliance Foundation is a newly created non-profit organization with a mission to forge connections between students and communities to promote environmental sustainability both locally and globally. The Foundation will utilize the house as its national base of operations and, through cross-easement agreements with the Township, will use the land as an environmental education center, complete with trails, outdoor classrooms and nature education sites.

The agreement was conceptualized on a set of guiding principles that will be followed when implementing the vision for the land. These principles include:

- The importance of permanent preservation for the property and its natural resources
- The concept of converting the property into a regional nexus for environmental education
- The importance of both community and student leadership in the property's operations and
- That the property must focus on public utilization

Continued on Page 5

MEETING DATES & TIMES

Board of Commissioners-3rd Mon., 7 PM

Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 7 PM

Open Space & Recreation Board-2nd Tues.,

Odd Mos., 7 PM

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

Fire Committee-1st Tues., 7:00 PM

Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand

Web Link to Calendar:

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



PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

May 20, 2014 is the date to vote. Please mark your calendar so that you remember to come out and vote at the Township Administration Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS ~

Understanding Storm Water and How It Can Affect Your Money, Safety, Health and the Environment

What happens when it rains? Rain is an important part of nature's water cycle, but there are times it can do more damage than good. Problems related to storm water runoff can include:

- Flooding caused by too much storm water flowing over hardened surfaces such as roads and parking lots, instead of soaking into the ground
- Increases in spending on maintaining storm drains and the storm sewer system that become clogged with excessive amounts of dirt and debris
- Decreases in sportfish populations because storm water carries sediment and pollutants that degrade important fish habitat
- More expensive treatment technologies to remove harmful pollutants carried by storm water into our drinking water supplies
- Closed beaches due to high levels of bacteria carried by storm water that make swimming unsafe

We can help rain restore its good reputation while protecting our health and environment while saving money for ourselves and our community.

What Everyone Can do to Help ~

Rain by nature is important for replenishing drinking water supplies, recreation, and healthy wildlife habitats. (*Cont'd. on Page 3*)

Board of Commissioners

- Elwood Taylor, President -
etaylor@upperpottsgrovetownship.org
- Renee Spaide, Vice President
- Herbert C. Miller, Jr.
- Russell Noll
- Martin Schreiber - mschreiber@upperpottsgrovetownship.org

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OPEN SPACE & RECREATION BOARD

We start out the year with a reorganization of the Board. Susan Thompson has stepped down as Chairperson after many years, but will move to Vice Chairperson. We are thankful for her past leadership. Gregory Churach, with 3 years of board experience, will become Chairman. Dennis Elliot, an original member of the Open Space Board, remains for another term. We say goodbye and thanks to past Board members Jill Ludy and Ralph Freed. Due to other commitments, they cannot continue to serve. The Township appreciates their service over the years. Some familiar faces have been appointed to 4 year terms to fill the open seats. Nancy Toothaker is another previous member of the Open Space Board, a current member of Natural Lands Trust, and a retired educator from the Pottsgrove School District. Matt Dallas is involved with youth sports, and is manager of Dallas Data Systems. The firm works for many area municipalities, including Upper Pottsgrove. We welcome their expertise.

There are many improvements in the works for 2014. In no particular order they are:

UPT received a grant from the PA DCNR through the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation for the purchase and installation of a 14' x 20' pavilion at Sunset Park. It will be placed along the tree line near the entrance to the trail. It will be available by reservation soon after the weather breaks.

A new multipurpose field will be constructed at Hollenbach Park at little cost to the Township! Most of the expense is being borne by the developer of the Coddington View townhouses, Arcadia Land Development. This agreement is beneficial to both parties, as they need a convenient place to dispose of a large quantity of fill dirt, and we have the perfect location. The Township was relentless in their pursuit of this agreement, and it is finally coming to fruition.

The Township recently completed the purchase of 15.5 acres of pristine woodlands along Snyder Road. The property will be known as "The Althouse Arboretum". The Township will allow The SAVE Alliance Foundation to use this land for an "outdoor classroom". Grants and fund-raising will support the improvements planned by the Foundation. Trails will be developed to connect with our trail system. The original farmhouse is on a separate 1.6 acre parcel along Gilbertsville Road. It will be restored and used as the Foundation office.

Engineering work is ongoing for the development of a proposed trail in the right-of-way along Moyer Road. Aptly named the "Prout Farm Loop Trail", the trailhead is located at the parking area of the recently restored Prout farmhouse. It will cross Moyer road and wind through the new homes proposed near Cross Road before crossing back to the South side to continue to the Hillside Aquatic Club, and return to the parking area.

We have started a Facebook page to gather input from residents. We will also post news and events here: [Facebook.com/groups/upperpottsgroveopenspaceandrecreation/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/upperpottsgroveopenspaceandrecreation/) Look for this article on the page.

Heather Place Park Pavilion

Need a place for a party or a special get-together? Please consider making a reservation for the pavilion @ Heather Place Park, 1420 Heather Place. The fees are \$30.00 for residents and \$50.00 for non-residents. Contact the township office @ 610-323-8675 to reserve.



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WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS (Continued from Page 1)

It only becomes a problem when pollutants from our activities like car maintenance, lawn care, and dog walking are left on the ground for rain to wash away. Here are some of the most important ways to prevent storm water pollution:

- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies and paint - never pour them down any part of the storm sewer system and report anyone who does.
- Use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff.
- Look for signs of soil and other pollutants, such as debris and chemicals, leaving construction sites in storm water runoff or tracked into roads by construction vehicles. Report poorly managed construction sites that could impact storm water runoff to your community.
- Install innovative storm water practices on residential property, such as rain barrels or rain gardens, that capture storm water and keep it on site instead of letting it drain away into the storm sewer system.
- Report any discharges from storm water outfalls during times of dry weather - a sign that there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess - in a backyard or at the park - storm water runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system to a stream.
- Store materials that could pollute storm water indoors and use containers for outdoor storage that do not rust or leak to eliminate exposure of materials to storm water.

For more information, please contact the
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
www.dep.state.pa.us

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To qualify for Family Services' Meals on Wheels program, one must be age 60 or older, live in Western Montgomery County, at risk for malnutrition, be partially homebound, and be unable to prepare meals. Clients are billed monthly for a suggested donation. All meals are low in salt, sugar, cholesterol, and fat. Special dietary meals are available.

As the senior population in the western portion of Montgomery County continues to grow, Family Services' Meals on Wheels program strives to support the goal of the Meals on Wheels Association of America — so no senior goes hungry. Volunteer opportunities for packing and/or delivering meals are available. For more information, please call 610-326-1610 or visit www.fsmontco



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THE NEW ALTHOUSE ABORETUM COMES TO UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP (Continued from Page 1)

Once established, the Althouse Arboretum will begin to function as the site for:

- Environmental education for the schools and community
- Public access to short trail walks with educational signs and displays
- Trails connecting to other open-space land
- Public environmental programs for children and adults
- Passive recreational activities for families
- Sustainability projects such as community gardens and permaculture demonstrations

A "Friends of the Althouse Arboretum" is being created to provide local input and direction on how to best utilize the property's resources. Under the guidance of The SAVE Alliance Foundation, this coalition will become an integral part of

the property's success and can become a model for others across Pennsylvania.

"The Hilsee property is located directly between other large tracts of preserved open space in Upper Pottsgrove Township and allows us to complete one of the longest nature walking trails in the region. We started talking about saving this property almost 5 years ago, and now we have a 'win win win' for the community," said Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Township commissioner.

Any community member interested in participating in the Friends of the Althouse Arboretum should contact the Foundation's Executive Director, Ken Hamilton at

khamilton@thesavealliance.org.

2013 FALL ROAD CLEANUP



New Members from L to R include: John Wiese, Martin Schreiber, Edward Collar, Gwynne Jelbaoui, Rick Tyler and Jeremy Wozniak. On October 19, 2013, residents swept through 4 square miles of township roads & parks picking up an estimated 112 ton of litter as part of last year's International Coastal Cleanup campaign. If you would like to volunteer for our next road cleanup, please call the township office @ 610-323-8675 x200.

IS IT TIME TO RETIRE YOUR AMERICAN FLAG?





The Upper Pottsgrove Township Administration Building, 1409 Farmington Avenue, will once again be the collection center for tattered and soiled American Flags of any size until Friday, May 30th during normal business hours. Removal of wooden poles & ropes would be greatly appreciated. These Flags will then be delivered to the Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial, in Pottstown's Memorial Park where the Veterans and Boy Scouts will retire the Flags at a very impressive patriotic ceremony on Sunday, June 8th starting at 1 PM. The public is encouraged to attend and participate, especially the school-aged members of our community. Bring your cameras & favorite lawn chair. Plenty of shade. Event is conducted rain or shine.

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<p>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. April 1 through December 15, Township Trash Hauler, J. P. MASCARO, will include weekly curbside collection of yard waste, grass and leaves in an unlimited amount. Yard waste may be placed in compostable bags, open containers or bundled, but in no event larger than 3 feet by 3 feet.</p>	<p>44th District STATE SENATOR JOHN C. RAFFERTY JR. 3770 Ridge Pike Collegeville, PA 19426 610-831-8830 Fax: 610-831-8837 jrafferty@pasenate.com</p>	<p>Beginning of December, 2014 ~ 24th District representing UPT STATE SENATOR ROBERT MENSCH 404 Main Street Suite A Pensburg, PA 18073 Toll Free 1-(855)-247-9020 Fax: (215) 541-2387 www.senatormensch.com</p>
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