

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume IX, Issue 2

August 2014

Office Hours Monday—Friday, 8AM—4:30PM administration@uptownship.org www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org Phone 610.323.8675

PROGRESS BEING MADE AT THE ALTHOUSE ABORETUM



Work is well under way on the new outdoor education center in Upper Pottsgrove Township called The Althouse Arboretum. Community volunteers, coordinated by The SAVE Alliance Foundation, a new nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting communities to education and the environment, have

come together to begin the conversion of this open space land into a community education center. Local students are working alongside community members; parents are working with their children; scouts are working with Foundation volunteers; and all are working together to turn this 17 acre property into an exciting environmental center. A Master Plan is being developed that will incorporate passive recreation and special outdoor education programs into the Arboretum's mission. Fundraising is also underway so that the historic Hilsee house located on the property can be rehabilitated and used as the Foundation's headquarters.

The Arboretum is on track to begin limited activity in the fall of 2014 with full services to begin in the spring of 2015. At this time, the public is welcome to stop by to walk along the existing trails and monitor the progress at the site. There is parking available in the grass just off of Gilbertsville Road.



Upcoming Events (Open to everyone)

- September 6th Community Volunteer Work Day 9am to 3pm
- September 20th Community Picnic 11am to 2pm
- October 17th Family Night Walk 6pm to 9pm

For more information, please contact The SAVE Alliance at khamilton@thesavealliance.org or call 267-371-2288. Follow the progress on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thesavealliance.

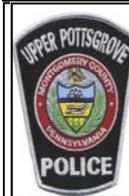
MEETING DATES & TIMES
 Board of Commissioners-3rd Mon., 7 PM
 Planning Commission-2nd Mon., 7 PM
 Open Space & Recreation Board-2nd Tues., 7 PM
 Sewer & Water Committee-4th Mon., Odd Mos., 5 PM
 Fire Committee-1st Tues., 7:00 PM
 Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand
 Web Link to Calendar:
<http://upperpottsgrovetownship.org/index.html#>



ELECTION DAY

November 4, 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.

WHY ARE WE INVITING CRIMINALS INTO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS?



Sounds preposterous, but that is exactly what we are doing. We have this beautiful, bucolic, peaceful township and we invite the criminals, the drug addicts, the petty thieves and the vandals into our most sacred spaces. We make it easy for them to pillage the places where we live, raise our children, and invest our time and money.

Time after time our officers are dispatched to reports like "I came out this morning to go to work and I cannot find my laptop" or "someone went through my car and my wallet with all my identification is missing" or "the keys to my house were stolen from my car" and so on. Or even worse, "I came home from work and can't find my Grandmother's ring and all my good jewelry is missing". These are crimes that are mostly preventable. Usually it's as simple as hitting the "lock" button on a keypad.

Continued on Page 4

Board of Commissioners

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

Please support our Newsletter sponsors and all businesses in the Township.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION BOARD

We hope you are enjoying the warm days of summer by spending some time in one of our parks or open spaces.

Some recent accomplishments:

The new soccer field at **Hollenbach Park** was installed by Arcadia Land Company, the developer of Coddington View, as a donation to the Township's park system, but it will take some time until the turf is ready for use

The pavilion at **Sunset Park** has been installed, complete with charcoal grill, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation.

Picnic tables, built by Life Scout Robert Golden (who will receive his Eagle Scout recognition on August 16), have been placed at **Prout Farm Park**.

The **Althouse Arboretum** continues to become a reality. Improvements planned for this fall by the non-profit SAVE Alliance include a new parking area, reforestation of the area along Snyder Road, and additions to our trail system.

Sunset Park was entered in the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation's "Favorite Park Contest". Out of 11 municipalities, we earned a third place finish and \$5,000.00 to be used for park improvements. Thanks to all the park visitors that made this possible.

Six of the municipalities that make up the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission have accepted a DCNR 5-year grant to hire a Regional Recreation Coordinator. This person will help coordinate available resources and funding to enhance parks and recreation throughout these municipalities, and will be starting their new job this fall.

We now meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Township building. We welcome resident participation. Stay in the loop by joining our Facebook group for updates: [Facebook.com/groups/Upper Pottsgrove Township Open Space and Recreation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UpperPottsgroveTownshipOpenSpaceandRecreation).

See you at the Parks!

Gregory Churach, Chairman, Open Space & Recreation Board



Hollenbach Park Field Expansion ~ June 2014

Pavilion Reservations

Need a place for a party or a special get-together? Please consider making a reservation for the pavilions ~ two locations: Heather Place Park, 1420 Heather Place and Sunset Park, 1401 N. Charlotte Street. The fees are \$30.00 for residents and \$50.00 for non-residents. There is also a deposit of \$100.00 required which will be refunded upon a good-standing inspection. Contact the township office @ 610-323-8675 to reserve.

2014 ROADS PROJECT

SCOPE OF WORK

OVERLAY: Yarnall, Snyder, Horseshoe, Irwin & Hanover Dr., Mock

MICROSURFACE: Juniper, Heather, Primrose & Lotus

STORM DRAIN: Orlando

HEALTHY HOUSEHOLD HABITS FOR CLEAN WATER

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to **minimize** the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into you local waterbody.

Continued on Page 5

MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS & CURBS

The Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing responsibility for the maintenance of sidewalks and curbs within the Township for the safety and convenience of the public and protection of streets and property. A complete copy of the ordinance is on file with the Mercury, is available for inspection during normal business hours in the office of the Township Manager at Upper Pottsgrove Township, and is posted on the Township website.



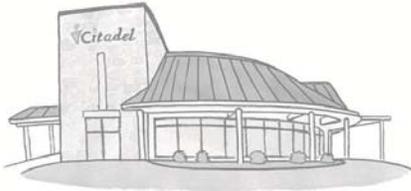
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WHY ARE WE INVITING CRIMINALS INTO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS?

(Continued from Page 1)

It may be insulting to have to lock up your car in your own driveway or lock the back door to the house, but unlocked access is exactly what is so inviting to the criminals, addicts, thieves and vandals. It makes it easy for them to take advantage of the "invitation" and make off with your valuables. "Yes Chief, but won't they just break out the window anyway?" Nope! They can only be successful if they are undetected. Alarms are in practically every car and a broken window sets that alarm off immediately. So much for being undetected!

The danger is that once these predators realize that they have an easy neighborhood to target, they will come back time after time. So it's not only the individual victim, it's the whole neighborhood that becomes attractive to the criminal element. Coddington View, Turnberry Farm, Cherry Tree, and Maugers Mill Estates are all too frequently targets. Too many times residents in those neighborhoods find themselves on the phone for hours trying to cancel credit cards that were stolen, get duplicate registrations for their cars, changing accounts at the bank or trying to undo a fraudulent use of their identity with the credit reporting agency. And again, a click of the "lock" button of a keypad could have prevented the entire ordeal.

This sounds a little scary, but we do not have a crime wave. Relatively speaking, there is very, very little crime in Upper Pottsgrove, but any crime is too much when you are the victim. We want our neighborhoods to be safe, very safe! We do not want the criminals cruising our streets in the early morning hours looking for the unlocked cars and homes. We want to stop inviting the criminals into our neighborhoods! Please, please, please ... lock it up!

NOTE FROM YOUR TAX COLLECTOR

Please be advised that I will have **NEW** tax collection hours at the Township building, 1409 Farmington Avenue, on Saturday, August 30, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

NOTARY SERVICES

Did you know that the Township provides notary services to its residents free of charge? Michelle Reddick, Planning & Zoning Administrator for the Township, is also a notary. She can provide all notary services with the exception of anything that relates to vehicles. She is typically available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. If you need notary assistance, please contact Michelle at 610-323-8675 extension 203 to set up an appointment.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

Mr. Reginald (Reggie) Leister

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of
Upper Pottsgrove Township

In recognition for long-standing and faithful service to our community.

Your passionate participation in
Emergency Preparedness Activities
has enhanced the safety and security of all our residents.

- EOC – Emergency Operations Committee
- Emergency Radio Communications Coordinator
- ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- Obtained grant funding for EOC operations
- Won FEMA recognition as the first Township in Pennsylvania to participate in National Preparedness Month activities

Your tireless leadership has fostered many other noteworthy
Civic Activities and Accomplishments.

- Civil Service Commissioner
- Parks and Open Space Proponent
- Township Newsletter Contributor
- Historic Home Identification Supporter
- Ceremonial U. S. Flag Disposal Coordinator
- Amateur Radio License Facilitator
- Weather Spotter for the National Weather Service and SKYWARN Program



Signed and sealed this 16th day of June, 2014.

Russell D. Adell
Herbert C. Miller
Mark Schenk

Edward Zuyby
Gene J. Juchala

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OUTDOOR SOLID FUEL BURNING FURNACES

In order to protect the general health, safety and welfare of residents, the Board of Commissioners enacted a new Ordinance regulating the use of outdoor solid fuel burning furnaces. Starting in October of 2014 no person shall operate or use any outdoor solid fuel burning furnace between April 15th and October 15th of each year. Also, any outdoor solid fuel burning furnace shall have a permanent attached stack with a minimum stack height of 10 feet above the ground that also extends at least two feet above the highest peak or highest point of the roof of any occupied building located less than 150 feet from the outdoor solid fuel burning furnace. Please take steps to comply with these new regulations.

HEALTHY HOUSEHOLD HABITS FOR CLEAN WATER *(Continued from Page 2)*

- Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up **spilled fluids** with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.

- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in the trash.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest- resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the **cool** times of the day, and don't let water run off into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies. **Vegetate** bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.



Runoff entering a storm drain

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

The Upper Pottsgrove Board of Commissioners thanks our volunteers so much for your past participation in Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's roadway litter program. Your hard work and support has truly made a difference in our community. If anyone is interested in joining our cleanup brigade, which meets every April and September, please contact the township office at (610) 323-8675.

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

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<p>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 administration@uptownship.org www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org</p>	
<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>	
	

Community Day

Our 2014 Upper Pottsgrove Community Day plans are underway!!!

The date is Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 11am to 4pm at Heather Place Park, 1420 Heather Place, 19464. (The rain date is October 11, 2014.)

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 or email our Community Day Chair, Sue Thompson @ sthompson@upperpottsgrovetownship.org to reserve your space at our next Community Day.