

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

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December 2014

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

administration@uptownship.org

www.upperpottsgrovetownship.org

Phone 610.323.8675

POTTSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HOST NIGHT HIKE AT ALTHOUSE ARBORETUM



Many fall festivals play up the fright factor. How refreshing that here in Upper Pottsgrove, students from the high school decided to create a festival that played up the fun factor instead. While the Night Hike (held on Friday,

October 17th at the Althouse Arboretum on Gilbertsville Road) retained a hint of spooky excitement, the focus was family-friendly, the event was geared toward young children, and the “theme” was to simply learn about nocturnal nature.

The Night Hike was conceived, organized and hosted by Pottsgrove High School’s “Spark the Wave” Club under the leadership of seniors Chloe Klaus, Andrew Heuer, Brianna Costira and Danielle Buchanan. Spark the Wave is a club started four years ago by students interested in growing their own community service, and those of us who are familiar with their past two Winter Fests know that these kids can really pull together an event.

Over 350 people attended the Night Hike, where participants were welcome to hike the lower-level trails of the arboretum under a dark sky and search for hidden items on a scavenger list. The trails were artfully lit by glow sticks, producing a mesmerizing experience. Along with Spark the Wave, students from the High School Environmental Club (the POWER Rangers) and National Honor Society volunteered their time to paint kids’ faces, lead them in crafts such as pumpkin painting and leaf art, tell Native American stories about nocturnal animals, and hand out homemade snacks. Marshmallows were abundant and two carefully controlled campfires surrounded by stump benches were available for all. The entire event was free to the public. CMD employees Jenn Ridgeway and Valorie Robinson, were kind enough to donate their time to bus people from Hillside Aquatic Club parking lot, which Upper Pottsgrove Township made available to the Arboretum. Snacks were made by the students. Even the pumpkins were donated.

Hailey Jacobs, face-painter and member of Spark the Wave,

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MEETING DATES & TIMES

Board of Commissioners-3rd Mon., 7 PM;

1st Mon. as needed

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-To Be Determined.

Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand

Web Link to Calendar:

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

LIBRARY NEWS

WWW.PPL.MCLINC.ORG

With a rich array of classes and educational opportunities, The Pottstown Regional Public Library has been building a storehouse of resources to offer Upper Pottsgrove residents of all ages. The following is just a small part of what the library provides.

Children and families can register for one of our many upcoming classes and events in the newly remodeled Martha Porter Community Room: **Family Reading Month** April 2015. Register April 1 and read for amazing prizes; Marvelous Monday Storytimes at 10:30 a.m.; Monday Night Stories with Miss Shelly at 6:30 p.m.; Infant and Toddler Tuesdays with Miss Holly at 10:30 a.m. – stories and a craft; Spanish Storytime Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.; Sign and Song Storytime with Miss Leslie TBA – stories, sign language, and singing; Super Saturdays: LEGO Club 1st Saturday at 2:00 p.m.; Kids Crafting Club 2nd Saturday at 2:00 p.m.- knitting, loom bracelets, bring your own DIY project; Dogs Are Readers Too (DART) 3rd Saturday at 10 a.m. – read to our certified canine companions.

Teens can relax, do homework, or participate in a program in our new Teen Cave. This is also a great place for students to do their senior projects or gain volunteer experience.: Teen Movie Nights 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.; Teen Cave Council 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Continued on Page 6

Board of Commissioners

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

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

ALTHOUSE ARBORETUM (Cont'd. from Page 1)

said she "was really happy to see everyone coming together and having fun." Fun, of course, was one of the aims of the PGHS kids; but they also wanted to bring the community together to share the amazing experience of "nature at night." The event showcased the recent creation of the township's Althouse Arboretum, a one-of-a-kind collaboration between Upper Pottsgrove and The SAVE Alliance Foundation, with the mission of bringing an Environmental Education Center to our community. SAVE Alliance executive director Ken Hamilton and high school teacher Eileen Forsyth worked closely with the students to organize the event in this latest addition to Upper Pottsgrove's Open Space initiative.

Many thanks to all who volunteered their time, energy and resources to make this free event possible. Thanks also go out to our community families for attending the event, as well as donating nearly three hundred dollars on site to help offset the cost. Considering the success of the event, let's hope our high school students and The SAVE Alliance Foundation continue their alliance by holding the event again next year!

Written by PGHS Junior, Janine Faust

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Friends of the Althouse Arboretum Meeting
January 19th 6:30 PM
at 2019 Mimosa Lane

A group of interested friends, neighbors and students who come together to share ideas, resources, and possibilities to enrich the Arboretum experience for all.

We are looking for community members to become part of the Althouse Arboretum. You can volunteer your time and talent, or if you would like, become part of a community team to discuss, plan and work together to make our land a first-class outdoor destination for the community.

For more information or directions, please contact
khamilton@thesavealliance.org or nancy@nancybaker.com

SNOW REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS

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. It 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.

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.

**ROAD BRIGADE CLEANUP 2014
OCTOBER**

We thank you volunteers. The International Coastal Cleanup was overall a success. We are just a small part of this huge campaign. Our next cleanup will be in the spring of 2015.

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FOLIAGE & FERTILIZER

FALL IS FOR SEEDING, FERTILIZING, AND
MANAGING LEAVES

The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy would like to remind you of the importance of preventing stormwater pollution while you make the most of the fall season. Stormwater is formed when rainwater makes its way into storm drains or runs off our properties directly into streams picking up harmful substances that pollute our waterways. This autumn we need your help to control stormwater pollution that is unique to the season while preparing your lawns for the weather ahead. Here are some tips to help you protect your plants, trees, and streams.

BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES
GUIDE
TO PREP
FOR FALL

TIPS

- 1** Dispose of leaf litter and yard waste in a compost pile and never in the street or stream. Shred waste to use as mulch or fertilizer. Look for yard waste collection opportunity in your municipality.
- 2** Do not use fertilizers immediately before a rainstorm and do not apply them in excess. Always follow the directions on the bottle for application and disposal. Excess fertilizer can not be absorbed by the soil and will wash away with the rain.
- 3** Protect young trees on your property by covering trunks with ventilated tree tubes or tree guards. Young trees are particularly vulnerable to grazing and deer rub so protecting the trunks will improve their survival.
- 4** Prune your summer perennials in your rain garden, bioswale, or garden. After the first frost cut back dry stems of perennials to soil level. This will extend the life of your plants, improve the health your garden, and showcase winter perennials.



MAKING LEAF MOLD

ALTERNATIVE TO BAGGING YOUR LEAVES

This fall season consider making leaf mold while raking up leaves on your property. Leaf mold, unlike compost, is partially decomposed leaves that act as a nutrient rich substance. Leaf mold helps to improve the soil texture, aeration, and fertility.

Making leaf mold is a simple process. Collect leaves in an enclosed space that can be made from chicken wire, snow fencing, or another material that allows air to circulate. Let the leaves decompose over the winter. To speed up the process shred the leaves before placing them in the enclosure.



photo by: <http://www.watershedconservancy.org>



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Upper Pottsgrove Township

Important Contact Information

Upper Pottsgrove Fire Company	(610) 326-7589	http://upperpottsgrovefire.org/
Goodwill Ambulance 714 East High Street Pottstown, PA 19464	(610) 970-0878	Please click here to learn more about membership and member benefits. http://goodwillpottstown.org/main/home.asp
Gilbertsville Ambulance 91 Jackson Road Gilbertsville, PA 19525	(610) 367-9191	Please click here to learn more about membership and member benefits. http://www.medic332.org/index.html
Pottstown Memorial Hospital	(610) 327-7000	http://www.pottstownmemorial.com
Police Non-Emergency	(610) 327-1441	
Emergency	911	
Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management	610-631-6530	http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=134

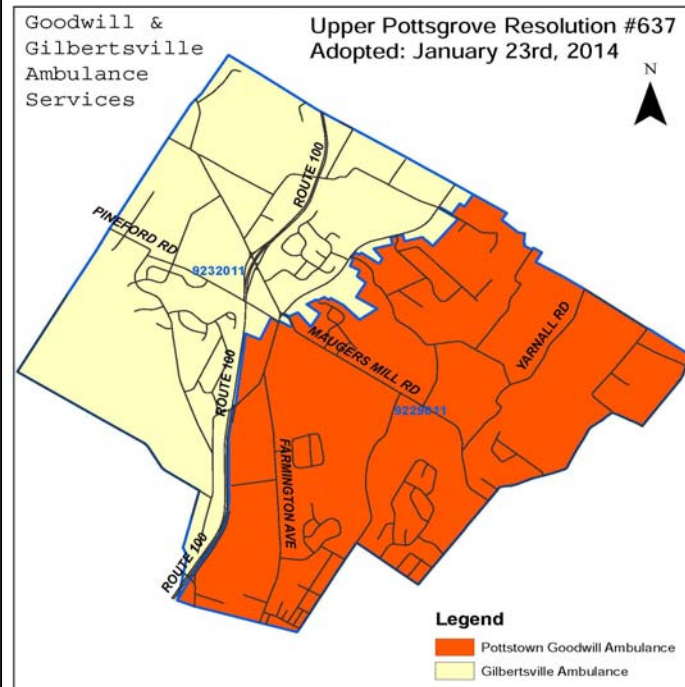
Important Information About Your Volunteer Fire Company

Upper Pottsgrove Township is served by one all volunteer fire company. The firehouse, apparatus and all equipment are owned by the fire companies. Upper Pottsgrove Township provides a portion of their operating budgets. However, a great portion of the funding needed to operate and maintain them comes from community donations or is raised at events such as flower sales or bake sales by their men and

Fire company members provide the only municipal service that is run with volunteer labor. No one from the fire company receives any compensation for the time spent serving the residents and businesses of Upper Pottsgrove Township.

In addition to responding to fires, the volunteers respond to rescues of all types, environmental hazards, and other threats to life or property in Upper Pottsgrove Township. Fire prevention education to the schools, residents and businesses is also taught by members.

The company strives to provide the resources needed for their volunteers to stay current with the latest techniques for handling emergency calls, stressing safety at all times while responding 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



Prepared by Jason E. Emmel,
Montgomery County Department of Public Safety
November 10th, 2014

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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.



GIVE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE A NEW PURPOSE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS!

*Drop off your Christmas Tree at the Althouse Arboretum (Gilbertsville Road) on Saturday, **January 10th between 9 am and 3 pm.** Student volunteers from Pottsgrove High School will be there to assist you. Trees will be chipped by Upper Pottsgrove Township and donated to the Arboretum for use along the trails. **Trees ONLY, no wreaths or garland.** Thank you for your support!*

LIBRARY NEWS WWW.PPL.MCLINC.ORG (Cont'd. from Page 1)

Recent and ongoing improvements to the building have given the community another meeting space for tutoring, small businesses, and groups to gather. Adults can join one of our many enrichment classes and activities. Additional classes are added weekly: Tai Chi Mondays at 6:00 p.m.; Book Club- 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.; Mystery Readers- 4th Tuesday at 10:15 a.m.; Crafters-Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.; Computer Basics- Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. The community can also visit the library from home by accessing on-line downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, and order DVD's and books that are then picked up at the library. A variety of electronic resources are available for customer convenience <http://ppl.mclinc.org/>. Some of these resources include Mango for learning a new language, Brainfuse for homework help that includes interaction with a live tutor, JobNow for building a resume and more. The library is here to serve your needs at all stages of life. Whether looking for the perfect recipe, registering to vote, getting a passport, or solving a hard math problem, the library has you covered. Please visit or call for details 610-970-6551. 500 E. High Street.
<https://www.facebook.com/prplibrary>.