

The Upper Pottsgrove Township HERALD

Volume XI, Issue 2

July 2016

Office Hrs Monday—Friday, 8AM—4:30PM

1409 Farmington Ave., Pottstown, PA 19464

www.uptownship.org

Phone 610.323.8675

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-1st Tues., Odd Mos., 5 PM

Fire Committee-2nd Thurs., 7 PM

Zoning & Hearing Board-Meets on Demand

Web Link to Calendar: www.uptownship.org

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Elwood Taylor, President -
etaylor@upperpottsgrovetownship.org
- Herbert C. Miller, Jr., Vice President
- John Bealer
- France Krazalkovich—
fkrazalkovich@upperpottsgrovetownship.org
- Martin Schreiber - mschreiber@upperpottsgrovetownship.org



ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8th, 2016 is the date to vote. **Please watch for upcoming media reports about a possible change in our voting location.**

ALHOUSE ARBORETUM KUDOS 1794 GILBERTSVILLE ROAD althousearboretum.org

My congratulations to everyone responsible for the Alhouse Arboretum partnership. Not surprisingly, another wonderful community enterprise to be found, uniquely here in Upper Pottsgrove Township.

My name is Reginald Leister. For some 34 years I volunteered on several levels in the township to promote it as a great place to raise a family. I have lived here since 1970. I am elated to see that projects and activities such as those at this facility have so far been a terrific success. This past weekend my wife, 2 daughters and a son-in-law and several grandchildren enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and games. I am disabled which is why I was not able to personally attend this great family experience. The reports from young to old were simply overwhelming. I had no idea that your enterprise was so beautiful. My son-in-law who normally is not a "get out and hike with the family" type of person, I understand, was pointing out the scrapings and other markings of recent deer activities to my 4 year old grandson who just had a ball. Having run countless events and developed programs in the Boy Scouts of America for 61 years, I quickly recognized why this event was so successful based upon the obvious training, planning and dedication of your volunteers.

My best wishes for your continued success and gratitude that GreenAllies has added yet another element in making Upper Pottsgrove the sparkling gem that it is. More people need to know about this!

Reg Leister



ELECTRONICS / TV COLLECTION:

Due to forces beyond the County's control, Montgomery County will not be able to hold electronics collection events in 2016. Although state law requires electronics manufacturers to offer recycling opportunities for TVs and computers, those manufacturers are no longer sponsoring county recycling collections in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region. Concern about the lack of disposal options for TV's and computers should be directed to your State Representative Marcy

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POLICE DEPARTMENT Upper Pottsgrove Township

1420 Heather Place • Pottstown, PA 19464-1707
www.uptownship.org



Francis X. Wheatley
Chief of Police

Ph: 610-326-8446
Fax: 610-326-8337

A Message from Chief Wheatley:

With warmer weather arriving, it is important for all of us to remember that more of our residents and school-aged children will be outside playing, biking, walking and running on our roadways and beautiful trails. In an effort to ensure the safety of all our residents, the Police Department continues to aggressively work on traffic safety initiatives throughout our community. Recently, the Police Department instituted traffic calming efforts to increase pedestrian safety throughout the township. With the implementation of Selective Enforcement details, our officers will be enforcing speed limits and stop sign violations in specific neighborhoods based on traffic complaints and accident statistics. Residents are reminded that the speed limit on the majority of our township roadways is posted at 25 mph. Speed is one of the main contributing factors in all traffic accidents. Please be a responsible driver, slow down and be aware of your surroundings.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Police Department to report specific traffic complaints or concerns.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors – Keys to Crime Prevention

An observant neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. This is predominantly true when criminals and con artists use the warm weather to take advantage of residents, particularly our elderly residents. Watchful eyes in the neighborhood can spot suspicious activity and residents are encouraged to immediately report suspicious activity to 911. Early this year, a homeowner in Turnberry Farm did just that, reporting two suspicious subjects in the early morning hours, which resulted in the apprehension and arrest of two criminals who were stealing items from numerous unlocked vehicles.

A call to 911 will get an officer on scene in a short period of time to check things out. Community involvement helps build stronger bonds between neighbors and ultimately helps ensure that Upper Pottsgrove Township remains a safe place to live and work.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Chief Francis Wheatley

TAX COLLECTOR

PER CAPITA TAXES

I would like to remind Upper Pottsgrove residents about their per capita taxes. If you are a homeowner in the township, please note that your per capita tax bills come in the same envelope as your school tax bill. They are not paid by your mortgage company. The per capita taxes are a head tax so it is up to you to pay them. Often, homeowners forget because they see their school tax bill and know that their mortgage pays the school bill. If you are a renter in the township, you will receive a separate per capita tax bill. Hopefully, this will be a helpful reminder. If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me at (610) 323-2157 or dianedelong2@gmail.com. Thank you. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,
Diane DeLong
Upper Pottsgrove Township Tax Collector



LIBRARY RENOVATION



The Pottstown Regional Public Library was awarded a Keystone Grant in January 2015 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Commonwealth Libraries. The grant was submitted to address the following issues:

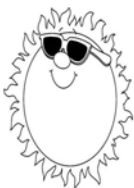
- 1. Redesign and repair the front entrance to address accessibility issues and resolve water issues and structural deterioration.
- 2. Reconfigure existing space for better management of programs, increased accessibility, and improved services to the children, families, adults, and disabled in our community.
- 3. Upgrade library engineering systems (lighting, electric, cabling, phone, security) to meet current standards and provide a safe environment for staff and patrons.

The renovation is now in progress and is extensive. The main floor will be unavailable until at least September. The children's department on the lower level is open and may be accessed through the back door facing the parking lot. Adults may pick up and request items in the children's department. A selection of adult items are available for browsing. Passport services continue to be available.

Additional funding for this project has been obtained from Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation, Arcadia Foundation and the Friends of the Pottstown Regional Public Library. A GoFundMe page has been set up for donations to the renovation. <https://www.gofundme.com/xvww5szg>

Summer Reading for children is planned to be a "Library on the Move" made possible through the cooperation of Art Fusion, the YMCA, Connections on High, ACLAMO Family Center, the Althouse Arboretum, and Wyndcroft School. The complete calendar of events may be found on the library website: <http://prpl.mclinc.org/>

Summer Safety and Crime Prevention Tips



Vacation Watch

- When leaving town on vacation, stop by the police department and fill out a Vacation Check Notice Form.
- Stop your mail and newspapers deliveries.
- Leave a lamp on a timer.
- Always lock your home, garage or office.

General Safety

- Always lock your car doors.
- Do not leave valuables in your car.
- If you must leave items in your car, put the items in the trunk.

Bike Theft Prevention

- Most bikes are stolen while left unlocked. If you're not riding it, LOCK IT UP!

Bike Safety Tips

- Obey the rules of the road.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear bright-colored or reflective clothing while riding.
- Always ride with traffic – never against it.
- Parents - Be aware of where your children are going.

Watch for Motorcycles

- Follow four second rule when traveling behind a motorcycle.
- Look for motorcycles before you turn.
- Check your blind spot.
- Although PA Law does not require motorcycle operators to wear a helmet, we highly recommend that all riders wear one! MOTORCYCLE HELMETS SAVE LIVES!

Have a safe summer; it is our honor to protect and serve you.



Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Department • 1420 Heather Place, Pottstown, PA 19464
Emergency 911 • Non-Emergency Dispatch 610-327-1441 • Administrative Office 610-326-8446

Best Management Practices for your Yard this Summer



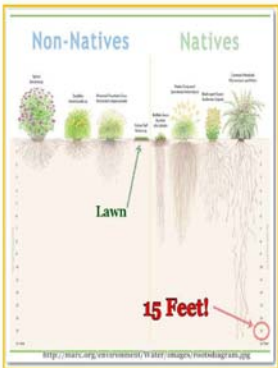
What is a Best Management Practice (BMP)?

Stormwater pollution prevention measures proven to reduce costs and mitigate the damaging effects of runoff (EPA).



Putting BMPs to work for you:

- **Install native plants in your yard**— native plants have deeper roots than non-natives. These roots break up the soil and allow rain water to infiltrate, reducing runoff and recharging groundwater. For added , look for native plants that benefit pollinators. Here are some good choices:
 - Milkweed varieties (Asclepias)
 - Spicebush (Lindera benzoin)
 - Purple Coneflower (Echinacea)
 - Blazing Star (Liatris spicata)
- **Make your lawn sustainable**—
 - Raise your mower height to at least 3 inches to enable your lawn to slow and absorb more stormwater.
 - Increase your garden area and decrease your mown area (perennials and shrubs have deeper roots systems than turf grass).
 - Add nutrients back to your lawn by letting grass clippings lay or composting them.
 - Use pesticides sparingly and never before rain.



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 a deposit of \$100.00 required which will be refunded upon a good-standing inspection. Horseshoe pit and kickball supplies are also available for a deposit. Contact the township office @ 610-323-8675 to reserve.

ROAD BRIGADE CLEANUP



We thank you volunteers. The Keep PA Beautiful Cleanup was an overall success. Upper Pottsgrove is just a small part of this huge campaign with 64 bags of trash collected. Our next cleanup will be in the fall of 2016. Please call the township office to sign up to volunteer.

HOW TO FILE A REQUEST WITH THE TOWNSHIP

To file a request with the Township, please contact the administrative office at (610) 323-8675 or at administration@uptownship.org and: 1) Give a brief description of the problem; 2) Give your name, address and phone number. The administrative staff will then relay your request to the appropriate entity, either the Public Works Department, the Police Department, the Township Manager or the Township Engineer. All personal information provided is kept strictly confidential, however, the Township will do nothing with anonymous requests.



SAVE THE DATES!

The Open Space and Recreation Board have the following reoccurring events. Mark your calendars for a great time! All of the events are FREE for attendees.



Community Flea Market and Car Show – Saturday, September 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Pottsgrove Middle School parking lot, 1351 N Hanover St, Pottstown. Spaces are \$10 each, \$15 if you need a table. All proceeds will go to playground mulch for the park.
Call (610) 323-8675 for reservations or email planning@uptownship.org.



Community Day at Heather Place Park - First Saturday in October – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Performances by the Pottsgrove Alumni Band and Hopewell Praise and Worship Group.
Demonstrations by emergency services
And much more....
Non Profits are \$15 per table. All other groups are \$30 per table. To register call (610) 323-8675 or email manager@uptownship.org

Annual Park Contest - Visit us and other parks in our area through July 31, 2016 and help Hoffman Field (corner of Gilbertsville and Moyer Roads) win a grant for improvements, up to \$10,000! Every participating park will have a voting box. Visit as many parks as you can (including us!) and drop a ticket off to cast a “vote.” The more parks you visit, the more “votes” your favorite park will receive—increasing their chance to win a grant for improvements, up to \$10,000!
Enjoy a little outdoor activity playing **kickball every Wednesday** in July at 6 p.m. and, at the same time, help Hoffman Field win! Grant monies will be used to improve parking at this park.



Fishing Rodeo – Third Saturday in June from 8 a.m. to noon at Sure Catch Pond located in Sunset Park, 1401 N. Charlotte St., Pottstown, PA. This event is free and open to township residents 13 years of age and under. Participants must pre-register at the township building at 1409 Farmington Ave. Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Prizes and giveaways for participants. BYOB (Bring Your Own Bait)! No previous fishing experience necessary. Sixteen year-olds and over must have a fishing license.

OPEN BURNING;AIR POLLUTION AS MANDATED BY DEP

It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to burn municipal waste, solid waste, yard waste or recyclable material in violation of any provision of the Solid Waste Management Act, specifically Section 6018.610, of Act 97, 35 P.S. § 6018.610 as amended, or any rule or regulation promulgated by any commonwealth agency pursuant thereto.
In addition to the specific exceptions as set forth with respect to burning under the Solid Waste Management Act and any regulation thereof, the following exceptions are recognized:

- 1) A fire set to prevent or abate a fire hazard, when approved by the Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Air Quality Program office and set by or under the supervision of a public officer.
- 2) Any fire set for the purpose of instructing personnel in firefighting, when approved by the Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Air Quality Program Office.
- 3) A fire set for the prevention and control of disease or pests, when approved by the Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Air Quality Program office.
- 4) A fire set for the purpose of clearing and grubbing land. If within an air basin, an air curtain destructor must be used and must be approved by the Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Air Quality Program office.
- 5) A fire set in conjunction with the production of agricultural commodities in their unmanufactured state on the premises of the farm operation (under 25 Pa. Code § 129.14).
- 6) A fire set solely for cooking food.
- 7) A fire set solely for recreational or ceremonial purposes.



DON'T FLUSH



Flushing disposable wipes, diapers, etc. down the toilet can clog sewers, damage sewage pumping equipment, and cause raw sewage to overflow in the environment. According to the Department of Environmental Protection, this bad habit has resulted in other negative consequences too – backed up pipes result in flooded basements and sewage spills into our environment. Don't be fooled by the packaging's deceptive labels – even if it says it's flushable, it's not. Moral of the story? The only things that should go down your toilet are pee, poo, and toilet paper.

ELECTRONICS /TV COLLECTION PROGRAM (Continued from Page 1)

Toepel ~ www.reptoepel.com (P) 610-323-3299 and Senator Bob Mensch ~ www.senatormensch.com (P) 215-541-2388. An amendment to the state electronics recycling law, called the Covered Device Recycling Act, is needed to ensure the availability of recycling outlets.

- Best Buy and Staples run free year round recycling programs for computers and accessories. They do not accept any TVs or monitors. Check their websites under recycling for details.
- Pioneer Crossing, 727 Redlane Road, Birdsboro, 19508 (P) 610-582-2900 ~ Will take flat screen TVs FOR FREE.
- If you need your TV recycled, you can pay a haul-out company like 1-800-GOT-JUNK or 1-800-HAUL-OUT for removal (\$129.00 for 35" & above and \$99.00 for under 35").
- Salvation Army Thrift Store, 671 Bethlehem Pike, Montgomeryville, 18936 (P) 215-631-1570 accepts working TVs up to 21" as well as working computers and electronics FOR FREE.
- 611 Metals, 6776 Easton Road, Pipersville, 18947 (P) 267-221-6924 will accept TVs and CRT monitors for a fee and will pay for computers and some electronics (\$.60/lb. if paying with cash or \$.65/lb. if paying with a credit card).



UPPER POTTSBGROVE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

updated May 2016

