

UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP Update

www.uprov-montco.org

FALL/WINTER 2009 ♦ VOL. 9, NO. 3

Residents Have a Blast at Community Day

Almost 10,000 residents attended the Upper Providence Township Community Day events on September 19, up from 8,000 last year. Sue Barker, the township's recreation director, credits some of the increase in attendance to the perfect September day. "We were lucky to have such beautiful weather. It really brought a lot of families out to Community Day." The wide variety of activities, food, crafts, and games kept everyone busy and the sunny weather kept everyone in good spirits.

During the day, kids scaled the rock-climbing wall, ran through the obstacle course, hula-hooped, and crafted unique works of art. They also got close to the animals at the petting zoo, took pony rides, and bravely faced the Orbotron. Adults browsed the marketplace for local crafts and met with businesses and nonprofits at the business expo. People of all ages enjoyed wagon rides and sampled treats from the food vendors. The soundtrack to all this fun was live music from Dr. Ben's Backbone Blues Band, the Stumptown Southern Rock Band, and the Grease Band.



Smiling volunteers handed out T-shirts on Upper Providence Township's Community Day, September 19.

The day finished with a spectacular fireworks show at dusk. Said Ms. Barker, "Thanks to all the volunteers and the families who attended, it was a great day. We're looking forward to next year!"

Turn to page 2 for more photos and visit www.uprov-montco.org for even more.

Comprehensive Plan Progresses

When towns grow, their needs become more complex and, indeed, "the complexity of Upper Providence Township has increased dramatically," said Charlie Guttenplan of the Waetzman Planning Group, the township's planning consultant, which has been commissioned by the township to produce the Comprehensive Plan.

The update to the Upper Providence Comprehensive Plan, last fully revised in 1994, is in the draft stage. Although the township has commissioned new studies and plans since 1994, this is the first full revision of the Comprehensive Plan, which assesses the township's current conditions in order to plan for upcoming years.

The 11 components of the Comprehensive Plan cover different aspects of township development (*see fig. 1 on page 2*). The first component lists the nine main goals, each divided into objectives, of the plan. The last component is an action plan that will incorporate and prioritize recommendations from the plan. Some components of the plan are essentially complete, such as the Natural Features component, which is based on the 2006 Open Space Plan and requires only minor reviewing and updating.

Land-Use Plan Sketches the Future

The centerpiece of the Comprehensive Plan is the Land Use Plan. This map, with accompanying descriptive text, plans for and illustrates how the land in Upper Providence should be used in the future. Because the township population has about doubled during the last 15 years and will likely keep growing, all issues that arise from new development need to be considered. The location and types of new development, the amount of open space, and the preservation of township character are just a few of the concerns that the Land Use Plan addresses. The township also wants to ensure efficient use of the land, balancing different kinds of development and open space to keep Upper Providence a great place to live and work.

"Preserving open space is a high priority, and the township can achieve this in ways other than buying land for open space or parks," said Mr. Guttenplan. "There are a variety of techniques to preserve sites, and they'll be discussed in the Land Use Plan." In tandem with the Land Use Plan, Frank Zabawski of FAZ Associates, the township's traffic

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2010 Census Q&A

Census questionnaires will be mailed in February or March 2010. Residents often request information about the process, so we've compiled answers to a few of the most common questions.

Q. Who should fill out the questionnaire?

A. The individual in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented should complete the questionnaire on behalf of every person living in the residence, including relatives and non-relatives.

Q. For purposes of the census, where do I live?

A. Upper Providence Township residents should specify Upper Providence Township, not the town indicated by their postal address, such as Colledgeville, Royersford, or Phoenixville.

Q. How should I return the questionnaire?

A. Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

Q. How is the census information used?

A. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The data also helps determine the allocation of federal funds for community services, such as school lunch programs and senior citizen centers, and new construction, such as highways and hospitals.

Q. Are questionnaire responses private?

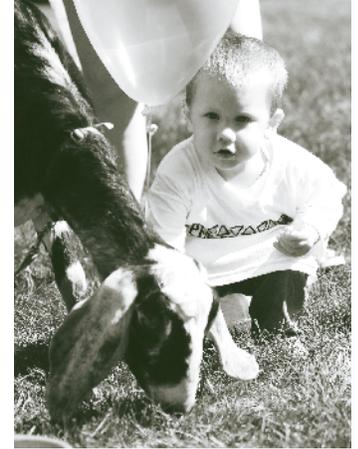
A. Yes. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

For more information, go to www.2010census.gov.

Community Day 2009

Saturday, September 19

View the slideshow from this and past events at www.uprov-montco.org/gallery.html



Volunteer in 2010!

If you are interested in volunteering or participating in our 2010 Community Day, please contact Sue Barker, Recreation Director, at 610-933-9179 or PandR@uprov-montco.org.



Comprehensive Plan Progresses

(continued from page 1)

consultant, is developing a traffic plan—officially called the Circulation Plan.

New Energy Conservation Plans

State planning codes leave energy conservation plans optional for municipalities, but the township has requested an integration of green initiatives within the Comprehensive Plan. The energy conservation goal includes objectives to encourage the use of alternative energy and to find cost-effective ways for the township to use alternative energy or reduce its carbon footprint.

Next Steps

Once the entire draft is complete, the Planning Commission aims to recommend the plan, produced by the Waetzman Planning Group, to the Board of Supervisors by the end of 2009. The Board of Supervisors will then request comment from Montgomery County, Spring-Ford Area School District, and surrounding municipalities. The Board will also hold a public hearing so residents can provide input. ❖

H1N1 Vaccine Basics

With all the talk about the H1N1 flu virus, it's hard to keep it all straight. Your doctor is the best source of information, but here's a good primer about vaccines for H1N1 and the common (seasonal) flu.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine Not Effective Against H1N1

The vaccine against the seasonal flu, which is available each year, is not expected to be effective against H1N1. To be protected against both kinds of flu, as recommended, you'll need two separate vaccinations.

H1N1 Vaccination Locations & Availability

In most cases, you should check with your doctor's office for availability, but there are sometimes other options, especially if you are uninsured. The seasonal vaccine is available at a variety of locations, including some pharmacies and free clinics. Availability of the H1N1 vaccine is slightly more controlled so that those most at risk can be vaccinated first.

Know the Facts

Federal, state, and local governments are all working to give the public accurate, up-to-date information. For further information, visit www.flu.gov, www.h1n1inpa.com, or www.health.montcopa.org. ❖

Highlights of the Comprehensive Plan's Goals & Objectives (fig. 1)

Goal	Objectives
Community Character	<p>Provide for the continued scenic and residential nature of the township by guiding the location of future development and land uses.</p> <p>Encourage master planned office, commercial, or industrial development over a period of time based on a phasing plan and a developer's agreement with the township.</p>
Balanced Land Use	<p>Continue to foster a well-integrated and balanced community with a mix of residential housing types.</p> <p>Avoid premature conversion of remaining viable farmland.</p>
Natural Features and Resources	<p>Continue to protect the critical natural features and resources of the township. Protect stream and pond water quality through development regulations.</p> <p>Develop a stormwater management plan.</p> <p>Preserve environmentally sensitive and ecologically fragile areas.</p>
Circulation (Traffic)	<p>Provide an efficient circulation system that complements the land development process, allows safe and economic movement of goods and people, and is integrated with the regional circulation system.</p> <p>Plan sidewalk locations to be installed as part of the land development process, in locations that connect residents with other neighborhoods, schools, parks, and commercial areas.</p>
Utility Systems	<p>Seek to upgrade infrastructure.</p>
Energy Conservation	<p>Promote the use of alternative energy sources by township residents and staff.</p> <p>Investigate and foster partnerships to establish methods for easing energy dependence through a cooperative effort.</p> <p>Investigate the feasibility of including incentives within the Zoning or Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances for using environmentally-friendly (green) building techniques.</p> <p>Determine if there are cost-effective ways to lower the township's carbon footprint.</p> <p>Investigate loan and grant funding to make existing township buildings, facilities, and vehicles more energy-efficient or use alternative energy. ❖</p>

Watching New Development

The Planning Commission reviews development plans at public meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the township building. If you have questions about development, call the township office at 610-933-9179, or stop by to review development plans or talk with a township staff member.

Plans in Final Review

Residential:

- ◆ **Bechtel Road.** Seven lots just west of Route 113 by Robert Fieo.
- ◆ **773 Black Rock Road, south side between Hollow and Longford roads.** 105 age-restricted units on 54 acres by Toll Brothers.
- ◆ **223 East Linfield Trappe Road.** A proposed subdivision of 6.48 acres into 12 residential lots by Henry/Kirkner.
- ◆ **1080 South Collegeville Road.** Toll Brothers proposes to create 34 residential lots on 62 acres.

Commercial:

- ◆ **Black Rock and Egypt roads, northwest corner.** Pad sites for Wawa and Chili's restaurant at the Oaks Shopping Center by Audubon Land Development.
- ◆ **Black Rock Road and Route 29, southwest corner.** Brandywine Senior Care proposes a 120-bed assisted living facility.
- ◆ **209 Brower Avenue.** Global Packaging proposes demolishing the 15,915-square-foot office building and building a 25,000 square-foot addition to an existing building that houses a printing company.

- ◆ **Campus Drive, between Troutman Road and Route 29.** Three additional buildings for a total of 289,300 square feet by the Berwind Group. This project has received preliminary approval.
- ◆ **200 Cresson Boulevard.** Comcast requests approval to accommodate overflow parking on site. No expansion of use is planned as part of this application.
- ◆ **500 Cresson Boulevard.** Audubon Land Development proposes demolishing the current vacant structure and replacing it with a 135-room Hilton Garden Hotel.
- ◆ **1851 East Ridge Pike.** KAP Realty proposes a car wash on the 1.2-acre site east of the intersection of Township Line Road.
- ◆ **Egypt Road, south side, just west of Hollow Road.** Nine flex-use buildings located on 42 acres by Gambone Brothers.
- ◆ **120 Mill Road.** Audubon Land Development proposes the construction of 190,000 square feet of commercial space to accommodate BJs Wholesale Club and another retailer at the Marketplace at Oaks.
- ◆ **122 Mill Road.** Audubon Land Development proposes an additional 83,000 square feet of retail space and parking and traffic improvements to the 422 Business Center.

Plans Requesting Preliminary Review

The projects listed below have received tentative approval and are awaiting preliminary review in 2009:

- ◆ **Arcola Road near Mennonite Road, between Routes 113 and 29, White Springs Farm.** A proposal for 341 age-restricted and age-targeted units on 85 acres.

Plans Requesting Tentative Approval

- ◆ **Black Rock and Egypt roads, northeast corner.** The Bock Group proposes to build either a bank or a Chicago Grill restaurant.
- ◆ **Hopwood Road between Morgan Lane and Donneybrook Way.** Cold Springs proposes 12 residential lots on about 16 acres.

Students Help to Plant Trees in Park Preserve

To beautify the township and increase awareness of the watershed and the environment, the Science/Save Our Planet club of Spring-Ford High School, with Township Supervisor Phil Barker and public works employees Dominic DiSantis and George Fieo, planted trees in the Mildred Hess Park Preserve on Oct. 11. The volunteers included club advisor Patricia J. Voorstad and club members Patrick Devine, Nick Goman, Sam Goman, Dana Hoyer, Kelly Hoyer, Jane Kim, Kalan Kriner, Emily Ormsby, Melody Vogt, and Scott Zanar.



Public Works Update

After opening the new township compost site in October, the Public Works department is gearing up for winter. Read on for news, tips, and reminders from the crew.

New Public Compost Site Open

The new 4.3-acre compost site, located at 1094 Longford Road, opened in late October. Residents drop off plant material and then, after the composting process is complete (about 45 days), the nutrient-rich compost will be available to the public for fertilizer and other uses. The drop-off times in effect at launch were Wednesdays from 1–6:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8–11:30 a.m. These times are subject to change, so check www.uprov-montco.org for the most up-to-date drop-off times and other details.

Here are a few guidelines to get you started at the new compost site.

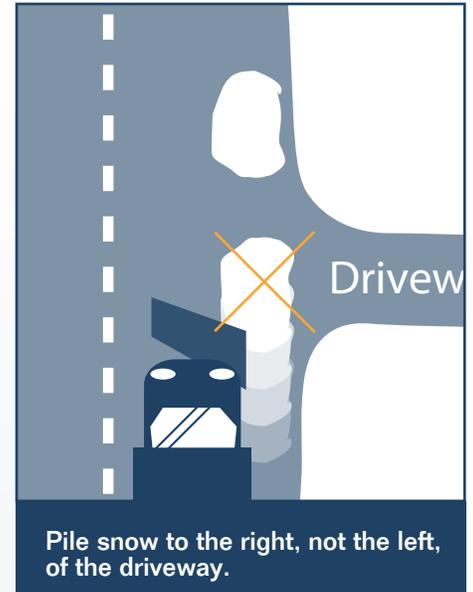
1. For now, the compost site is available only to residents, so bring a photo ID to show your residency.
2. Use biodegradable bags (available at home improvement stores) to bring only the following materials:
 - Leaves
 - Grass clippings
 - Ornamental shrubbery stumps
 - Branches up to 5 inches in diameter
 - Decoration-free Christmas trees (which will also be accepted at the township building Dec. 26-Jan. 31)
3. Don't bring construction materials or railroad ties.
4. Plastic bags, such as garbage bags, will not be accepted.

Clearing Snowy Roads

Upper Providence, PennDOT, and private communities are all part of the winter team when it comes to clearing snowy and icy roads. Plowing begins on designated Snow Emergency Routes to provide safe access for emergency response vehicles, and then continues onto main roads.

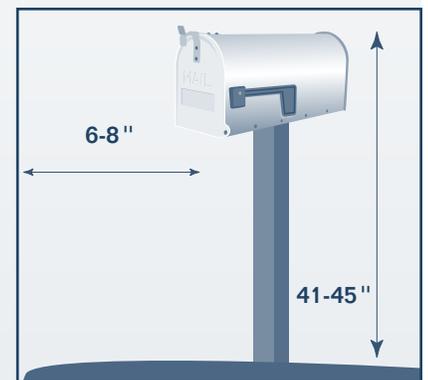
You can help crews clear roads faster and stay safe by following these simple winter rules and reminders:

- Park all vehicles off the street before, during, and after a snowfall.
- Do not throw snow onto the roadway when shoveling, or you may be fined.
- Shovel an area for trash and recycling containers on the curb or your driveway, but not in the street.
- Parents, please watch your children closely, and instruct them that it is extremely dangerous to play or stand near the street when snowplows are working. Do not leave sleds or toys in the street.
- Remove snow from the end of your driveway and in front of your mailbox.
- Shovel snow to the right of the driveway to avoid having plows push snow back into your driveway.



Proper Mailbox Placement

To prevent damage from passing snowplows, mailboxes should be installed so that the top is 41-45 inches from the ground. They should be set back 6-8 inches from the front face of the curb or road edge. The township is not responsible for damage caused by improper mailbox placement.



UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP



www.uprov-montco.org

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♦ Edward T. Murphy, *Vice-Chairman* ♦ Robert A. Fieo
Township Manager ♦ George Waterman

 Update is written and designed by Word Work Communications.
www.wordwork.com

Bus Trips

All trips depart from the Upper Providence Township Building unless stated otherwise. To make your reservation, contact the Recreation Department at PandR@uprov-monto.org or 610-933-9179, unless stated otherwise.

Lancaster Sight and Sound Theater

DATE: Friday, November 27

DEPARTURE: 10:30 a.m.

DEPART LANCASTER: 6 p.m.

COST: \$96 (adults)/\$76 (teens)/

\$56 (kids 4-12)/\$36 (under 4)

We travel to Lancaster for “The Miracle of Christmas” show at the Sight and Sound Theater. After the show, enjoy a family-style dinner at Hershey Farm restaurant.

2010 Alaska Trip in the Works

More info soon on

www.uprov-montco.org/recreation.html

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

DATE: Tuesday, December 1

DEPARTURE: 10:00 a.m.

SHOW TIME: 5:00 p.m.

DEPART NYC: 7:30 p.m.

COST: \$105 per person

DATE: Saturday, December 5

DEPARTURE: 8:30 a.m.

SHOW TIME: 2:00 p.m.

DEPART NYC: 6:30 p.m.

COST: \$150 per person

DATE: Thursday, December 17

DEPARTURE: 8:00 a.m.

SHOW TIME: 2:00 p.m.

DEPART NYC: 5:00 p.m.

COST: \$95 per person

Orchestra seating tickets along with popcorn & soda voucher

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular, the iconic American tradition beloved by generations, will delight audiences of all ages. Before or after the show, you will have freetime to shop or explore the sights of New York City. Fees include transportation, orchestra seating tickets, As of press time, our buses were nearly sold out, so act quickly to reserve your seat.



CURRENT RESIDENT OR

POSTAL CUSTOMER

- Fall/Winter Issue**
- WHAT'S INSIDE:**
- ◆ Community Day was a hit! See pages 1 & 5.
 - ◆ Look into the future with the Comprehensive Plan. See pages 1-2.
 - ◆ Visit the new compost site. See page 4.

Township of Upper Providence
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