

UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP *Update*

www.uprov-montco.org

FALL/WINTER 2008 ♦ VOL. 8, NO. 3

Boldly Fighting Fire in Upper Providence Township

For more than 100 years, firefighters have been courageously serving Upper Providence Township. From the horse-drawn apparatus of the early 1900s to the trucks with ladders reaching today's taller buildings, what remains the same are the volunteers. Unpaid but greatly appreciated, they regularly take risks most people won't entertain to save lives and property. Today, 120 volunteer firefighters from six fire companies serve Upper Providence Township. In addition, nine township employee firefighters respond to daytime calls in the township.



Township employee firefighters battle a training fire during a practice drill. For more on township employee firefighters, see page 2.

Volunteer Fire Companies Standardize Procedures for Better Service

Six volunteer fire companies protecting Upper Providence Township used to mean six different sets of procedures, six ways to perform the same tasks, and six ways to handle responsibilities and make decisions. That's why township officials worked hard this year to standardize how the six volunteer fire companies operate.

Within just one year, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services recently standardized:

- Emergency response procedures,
- Firefighter training requirements, and
- Qualifications for becoming a firefighter or officer.

"Standardizing operations will improve the performance of the six volunteer fire companies, enhance safety, and improve overall service," said Don Stiteler, director of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. "The fire companies will still maintain their own identities while operating under the umbrella of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services."

Goals for 2009

Next year, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services will focus on creating mission and vision statements. "Our aim is to get everyone to focus on our goals as emergency

responders," Mr. Stiteler said. "Mission and vision statements will provide direction and guidance in reaching our goals and providing top notch service."

In 2009 the department will also embark on an accreditation process that involves a thorough self-evaluation. Using an internationally recognized benchmark system, the department will evaluate its policies, procedures, training methods, and more to enhance the service it provides to Upper Providence residents and businesses. ♦

8,000 Residents Come Out for 2008 Community Day

More than 8,000 people came out for the biggest annual event in Upper Providence Township on September 20. The 5k race that kicked off the start of Community Day raised \$1,000 for the Special Olympics. The registration fees of nearly 100 runners were donated to the local chapter of the Special Olympics, which also joined in on the fun. Members of the Montgomery County Special Olympics track team participated in the race, running alongside Upper Providence residents to show their appreciation for the residents' fundraising efforts.

Winners received gift cards to the event's sponsors: Wawa, Acme, Max and Erma's Restaurant, and Trappe Book Center.

(continued on page 2)

8,000 Residents Come Out for 2008 Community Day

(continued from page 1)

“Community Day was a big success this year, with almost 8,000 residents in attendance,” said Sue Barker, recreation director for Upper Providence Township. “The weather was great, the food was delicious, and the residents made it so much fun.”

Main Stage Music, Kids Activities, and More

Later that afternoon, Upper Providence residents danced to the musical performances of The Cool Beans Band, The Mango Men, and Beatlemania Now. A Business Expo and Craft Fair rounded out the day, and kids and adults alike enjoyed a ride on Hendershot Hitch’s horse-drawn wagon. Kids got hands-on animal experiences with pony rides and a petting zoo, climbed the rock wall, jumped in the moon bounce, slid down the double slide, and more.

“Community Day is a good introduction to Black Rock Park for some of our residents,” Ms. Barker said. “After Community Day, we see a surge in activity at the park. I’m glad to introduce more people to our Parks and Recreation system each year.”

Volunteers Needed for 2009 Community Day

Community Day is planned by a volunteer committee that starts meeting in January. The Community Day Committee is looking for 10 residents interested in giving back to their community by helping plan and run the event. The group is also responsible for selecting a charity to receive donations raised at Community Day. To volunteer, contact Sue Barker at 610-933-9179 or PandR@uprov-montco.org.

“Community Day is the biggest event of the year held by the Parks and Recreation Department,” Ms. Barker added. “I’d like to thank the supervisors for their support, and the Community Day Committee members for their time and effort.” ❖



Children played with hula hoops and danced to musical performances at Community Day on September 20. For more photos from Community Day, see page 4.

Public Works Crews Plan a Busy Winter

Upper Providence Public Works crews will be hard at work this winter, clearing snowy roads and making it easy to dispose of your holiday trees.

Say Goodbye to Trees, Hello to 2009

When it’s time to take down the lights and tinsel, bring your decoration-free tree to the township building, 1286 Black Rock Road, and follow signs to the tree drop-off.

You may drop off your tree, free of charge, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 31. The Public Works Department will chip them for mulch.

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.
- 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.
- 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. ❖

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 in our area, 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.
- ◆ **Campus Drive, between Troutman Road and Route 29.** Three additional buildings for 289,300 square feet by the Berwind Group. This project has received preliminary approval.
- ◆ **200 Cresson Boulevard.** Comcast requests approval of its parking lot to accommodate overflow parking on the existing 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.

- ◆ **Egypt Road, south side, just west of Hollow Road.** Nine flex-use buildings located on 42 acres by Gambone Brothers.
- ◆ **1021 Egypt Road.** Corrado Properties proposes building a 320-square-foot addition to an existing building, a new 10,500-square-foot office building, and a 4,500-square-foot day care center.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **106 Montgomery Avenue.** Audubon Land Development proposes creating leaseholds within the existing Gen Oaks Industrial Building.

Plans Requesting Preliminary Review

The projects listed below have received tentative approval and are awaiting preliminary review in 2008 and 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.
- ◆ **Black Rock Road, between Route 29 and Hollow Road.** A request for 40 residential lots on 35 acres by Troutman/Bentley.

- ◆ **Brower Avenue, south of the railroad.** Audubon Land Development proposes to move Spacemall Storage Facility to Brower Avenue from its current location at 120 Mill Road.

Plans Requesting Tentative Approval

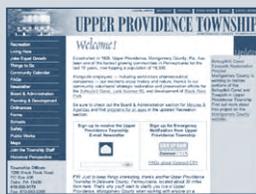
- ◆ **Black Rock and Egypt roads, northeast corner.** The Bock Group proposes to build either a bank or a Chicago Grill restaurant.
- ◆ **Campus Drive.** Residence Inn proposes to construct a 125-room Residence Inn Hotel adjacent to the existing Marriot Courtyard Hotel.
- ◆ **Hopwood Road between Morgan Lane and Donneybrook Way.** Cold Springs proposes 12 residential lots on about 16 acres.



▼ *Community Day 2008 was a hit. For more photos, visit www.uprov-montco.org.* ▲



UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP



www.uprov-montco.org

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Phone: 610-933-9179 • Website: www.uprov-montco.org
Township Supervisors ◆ Robert A. Fieo, *Chairman*
◆ Philip A. Barker, *Vice-Chairman* ◆ Edward Murphy
Township Manager ◆ George Waterman

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

Pick Up Discount Movie and Ski Tickets

Movie tickets

Whether you're in the mood for a romantic comedy, an action flick, or an animated feature, pick up discount movie tickets at the township office before you head out and save up to \$2.75 per ticket. Buy some for yourself, or give them as a gift.

Regal Cinemas

\$7 adult ticket

United Artists Theatres

\$7 adult ticket

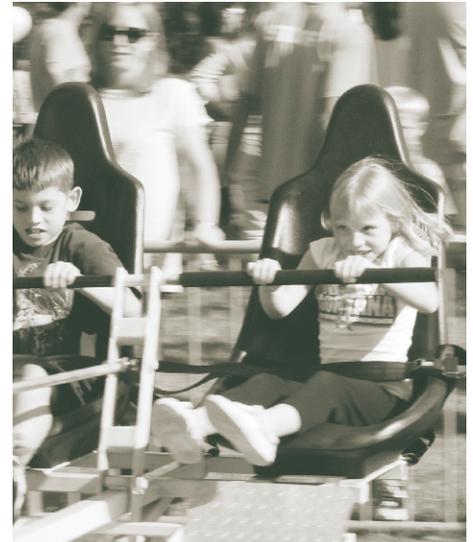
2008-2009 Discount ski ticket sales

Discounted ski tickets are available for purchase starting December 15 at the Upper Providence Township office. Sorry, no phone or mail orders. Cash, check, or credit/debit cards are accepted. Offered on first paid basis while supplies last.

No Refunds or Exchanges.

2008 Community Day Fun

Community Day was well-attended by nearly 8,000 residents, volunteers, and community organizations on September 20. Here is a glimpse of the fun and activity. For more photos, visit the Community Day 2008 photo gallery on www.uprov-montco.org.



Ticket Type	Gate Price	Discounted Price	Savings
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Bear Creek Macungie, PA www.skibearcreek.com			
Weekday*	\$44.00	\$28.00	\$16.00
Weekend*	\$57.00	\$49.00	\$8.00
Night (4 p.m. to 10 p.m.)	\$32.00	\$21.00	\$11.00
*open to close			

Jack Frost Blakeslee, PA			
Big Boulder Lake Harmony, PA www.jfbb.com			
Adult Midweek*	\$40.00	\$33.00	\$7.00
Adult Weekend*	\$48.00	\$40.00	\$8.00
Youth (age 7-18)*	\$32-\$36.00	\$30.00	\$2 - \$6.00
*open to close			

Blue Mountain Palmerton, PA www.skibluemt.com			
Weekday Lift*	\$52.00	\$35.00	\$17.00
Weekend/Holiday Lift*	\$59.00	\$43.00	\$16.00
Night Lift (Mon-Sat.)	\$32-\$34.00	\$27.00	\$5-\$7.00
Tubing Weekend All Day*	\$28.00	\$24.00	\$4.00
*open to close			

Camelback Tannersville, PA www.skicamelback.com			
Midweek.	\$44.00	\$39.00	\$5.00
Weekend/Holiday.	\$53.00	\$47.00	\$6.00
Night/Morning/Afternoon	\$26-\$37.00	\$23.00	\$3 - \$14.00

Elk Mountain Union Dale, PA www.elkskier.com			
Midweek*	\$45.00	\$39.00	\$6.00
Weekend/Holiday*	\$53.00	\$48.00	\$5.00
Night	\$24-\$26.00	\$22.00	\$2 - \$4.00
*day or twilight			

Shawnee Mountain East Stroudsburg, PA www.shawneemt.com			
Midweek*	\$43.00	\$32.00	\$11.00
Weekend*	\$50.00	\$38.00	\$12.00
*open to close			

Snö Mountain Scranton, PA www.snomtn.com			
Midweek*	\$42.00	\$34.00	\$8.00
Weekend*	\$51.00	\$42.00	\$9.00
*open to close			

Seven New Employee Firefighters Boost Workday Fire Coverage

Seven Upper Providence Township employees recently completed Firefighter 1 Certification in order to respond to daytime fires and other emergencies in the township. According to Don Stiteler, director of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the township needed more daytime fire coverage, despite the 120 volunteer firefighters serving the township.

“Many of our volunteer firefighters commute rather far to work during the day and are not close enough to respond to daytime fire calls,” Mr. Stiteler said. “The regular fire companies will still respond to daytime calls, but now we have seven more people to supplement volunteer staffing during the day.”

Now nine employee firefighters, which include Mr. Stiteler and Joshua Overholt, fire marshal, will respond to daytime fires directly from the township building. A fire truck is stationed at the township building from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for their use, courtesy of the Oaks and Mont Clare Fire Companies, who take turns loaning one of their trucks to the cause. ❖



Upper Providence Township employee firefighters (from left) Joe Kukucka, Tom Broadbelt, Steve Bonifacino, Joshua Overholt, John Pierson, Bill McGregor, Matthew Light, and Lee Milligan.

Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Program

To recognize our volunteer firefighters for the time and energy they spend fighting fires, and to help them recover some of their costs, Upper Providence Township started a volunteer firefighter incentive program.

“It’s a way for the township to say thank you to our volunteer firefighters,” said Don Stiteler, director of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. “It will also serve to keep their motivation up and offset some of the costs they face when responding to fire calls.”

Incentive checks, issued to the volunteer fire companies, will be divided among the members based on the number of calls they’ve participated in, the hours of training they’ve attended, and their levels of experience and responsibility. Similar to a bonus, the township hopes to compensate volunteer fighters on an annual basis. ❖

Oaks Fire Company Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Oaks Fire Company celebrated its 100th anniversary with a parade and housing ceremony on September 6. A crowd assembled to hear opening remarks and speeches by Rev. Daniel K. Olsen of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, F.F. Pat Colgan, chair of the 100th Anniversary Committee, and Joe LoCasale, president of the Oaks Fire Company. The banquet hall was then renamed and dedicated to the late James R. Mossie, a 46-year veteran of the Oaks Fire Company.

Fire companies throughout Montgomery, Berks, Bucks, Chester, and Delaware counties participated in the parade, which started at the Wyeth parking lot and ended at the Oaks Fire Company for the housing ceremony.

Housing is a tradition used to dedicate fire trucks or a new fire station. All of Oaks Fire Company’s trucks were housed after the parade, which means the firefighters manually pushed the fire trucks back into the firehouse bays. The tradition stems from the early 1800s when vehicles were horse-drawn. ❖



Members of Oaks Fire Company march in the parade during the fire company’s 100th Anniversary celebration.

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-montco.org or 610-933-9179, unless otherwise stated.

New Year's in Myrtle Beach, Your Way

DATE: Sunday, December 28 to Friday, January 2

COST: \$649.95 per person (double occupancy)

Celebrate New Year's in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Cost includes transportation by deluxe motor coach, three nights in a deluxe oceanfront hotel, two nights lodging en route to and from Myrtle Beach, five breakfasts, one dinner, a ticket to "The One," a show at the Alabama Theatre, and more.

Bear Creek Mountain Resort Ski Trip

DATE: Saturday, January 10

DEPARTURE: 7:30 a.m.

RETURN: 7 p.m.

COST: \$85 per person

Enjoy skiing, snowboarding, and tubing on more than 86 acres. Leave the driving to us and spend the day on the slopes of a first-class resort. Cost includes transportation and a day lift ticket.

Atlantic City, New Jersey

DATE: Sunday, February 22

DEPARTURE: 9 a.m.

RETURN: 7:30 p.m.

COST: \$10 per person (*must be 21 or older*)

Atlantic City provides a mix of attractions that offer something for everyone. Action-packed Atlantic City has casinos, world-class entertainment, fine dining, shopping, and more. Optional show and coin package available—call 610-635-3543 for details.

Renault Winery / Casino Trip

DATE: Sunday, March 22

RAIN DATE: Sunday, March 29

DEPARTURE: 9:30 a.m.

RETURN: 9 p.m.

COST: \$65 per person

Enjoy a guided tour and luncheon at the Renault Winery in Egg Harbor City, N.J. After lunch we head to a Boardwalk casino in Atlantic City.

Ireland

DATE: Thursday, April 16 to

Friday, April 24

COST: \$2299.95 per person (double occupancy)

This whirlwind trip to the Emerald Isle includes two nights in Killarney, one night in Waterford, two nights in Dublin, and one night in Ennistymon—all in deluxe hotel accommodations. Cost includes airfare and transfers, 12 meals, sight-seeing, hotel service charges, and more.

Fire Protection Issue

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- ◆ Fire companies standardize procedures for better service, see page 1.
- ◆ Community Day 2008 drew 8,000 people, story on pages 1 and photos throughout.
- ◆ Oaks Fire Department celebrates 100th anniversary, see page 5.

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