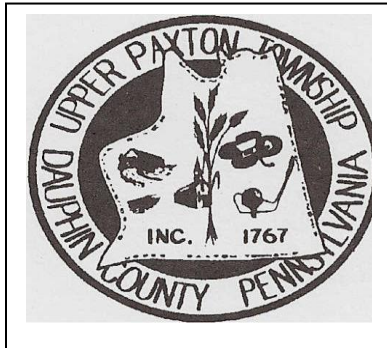


Upper Paxton Township Newsletter



Upper Paxton Township, Dauphin County

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Controlled Access Coming to Compost Lot

The Township Supervisors have found it necessary to install an access control gate at the Isle of Q Road Compost lot. Beginning May 1st, to access the compost lot, township residents will need a key card. To obtain a card, residents will need to stop at the township office building and sign a form acknowledging that they will abide by the compost lot regulations. A yearly \$25 fee will entitle use of the facility through mid-January 2020.

It is unfortunate that this control measure is necessary, but as is often the case, a few people ruin things for many. The township pays (\$4,500 in 2018) to have a company come in and remove the woody materials. A large grinder is used to shred the branches and other woody materials into mulch which is then hauled away. A grapple hook is used to lift the material into a hopper. The grapple hook cannot pick up grass clippings, leaves, or garden waste so it is critical to keep those materials separate. One of the major problems that led to the need for controlled access is that materials such as stones, bricks, painted and treated wood, shingles, root balls, other construction materials, garbage, and even the entrails of deer were dumped at the compost center. The problems with these other waste materials are numerous: 1. The township needs to spend time and resources to remove them; 2. Running some of these materials through the grinder could damage the grinder and the township could find itself without a way of disposal; 3. The waste materials are not compatible with the final mulch product and render it useless.

With the additional monitoring of the compost lot, the township will be better able to identify the "bad guys" and keep this much appreciated service open for the benefit of our residents.

Key cards will be available at the township office after April 25th.

Spring Clean-up

Spring Clean-up for township residents is scheduled for Saturday April 13, from 7 a.m. until noon. The event again takes place at the township complex on State Route 25. Volunteers are needed to help with the collection process. You can volunteer by contacting the Township office in advance at 717-692-4655.

Remember, there is a \$25 charge for the collection of refrigerated items that contain the gas Freon. Also, there is a \$3 charge for car & light truck tires (\$5 for tires on wheels & also an additional charge for larger tires). Once again, this year, the Dauphin County electronics collection program will receive the allowed items on our clean-up day. Please check the county web-site to know what items are suitable for the electronics collection.

ALSO, THERE WILL BE A REPURPOSED AREA where items will be placed that are deemed reusable for other citizens. You will be directed to that area with your items, and they will be available to pick up for the weekend, on a first come, first served basis.

Your Township Facility

Have you been by the new township complex lately? The paving was completed early last fall, just in time for the Veterans Day celebration and dedication of the township Veterans Memorial Wall. Well over one hundred people shared in the honoring of our area veterans on that crisp Sunday afternoon.

The newly seeded lawn, and the plantings around the building, the flag pole, and memorial wall island are doing well. This spring we plan to add six Honey Locust trees to enhance the property and make some adjustments to the stormwater pond behind the building, so it drains completely.

These projects were completed during the past two years without any tax burden to our residents, and while maintaining a solid financial foundation for the future. In addition, a new truck is on order and should be outfitted and in our possession late in the year. And yes, the funds are in the bank, awaiting its arrival. We are maintaining an aggressive posture towards improving approximately fifty miles of township roads, as you will see in another article.

All this is to say that your township supervisors are committed to giving you, the residents, the best possible conditions in which to live. Numerous groups are now taking advantage of the new meeting room in our office complex and finding its central location to be a plus for their needs. If you have not done so, take an extra minute someday to drive through the township complex parking lot, take note of the Veterans Memorial Wall, and allow a little pride to swell up inside. We live in a great region!

Grass Clippings

It's that time of year again. Grass clippings do not belong on our roads! We ask all of our residents to clean up after cutting their lawns, and not let grass and leaves wash down the roads. These clippings end up affecting the stormwater runoff by clogging the drains and catch basins. They cause township workers precious time to keep them clean and create an added expense. Thank you for helping to keep the stormwater moving from our streets to the area creeks and streams and not backing up and clogging basins.



Ordinance Revisions

Your Supervisors have been working for several years to review, revise and "clean-up" some of our township ordinances. This has not been done for many years, allowing for unplanned overlapping, and some minor

contradiction. Their goal is to be sure that every zoning ordinance and general ordinance is in agreement, creating a clear understanding of township law.

Dauphin County officials have been helping with this process, suggesting ways to state these guidelines and clarify their meanings. A new ordinance provision is to permit open space development in a limited area. This spring, the final process includes assuring that township residential expansion, occurring in future years, maintains the integrity and quality of our predominant agricultural region.

Once complete, these changes will go through the adoption process, allowing for public review and comment. This process will be announced, as required by public law. Again, there is no desire that these changes have a drastic effect on our quality of life, as we know it, here in the township.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping will be done the week of April 29th to May 3rd. Please keep trees and other vegetation cut back so it does not obstruct visibility at intersections and driveways.

2018 & 2019 Roadwork

The roadwork for 2018 included reclaiming Rife Road and Summers Road, patching of bad spots, and crack sealing on multiple township roads. These projects were done to help maintain those roads for as long as possible. There was some pipe and underdrain work completed on Matter Lane to correct some water issues. Patching potholes and repairing pipe ends was also done.

The big news was that after four years the Chelton Avenue Stormwater Project was completed, and the road was reopened.

For 2019 we are planning to repave the township portion of Rising Sun Road from State Route 25 to the Millersburg Borough line. Also, on the agenda, are plans to chip seal the following roads: St. Davids, Romberger, Water Company, Rife, Summers, Etzweiler, Grange Hall, Kahler, and Isle of Q. Placement of Bituminous Fiber Reinforced Seal Coat is planned for Koons and Wagon Roads. These projects are all contingent upon cost and the effects of winter weather on the roads.

There are no plans this year to do any new road surfacing; however, there is a plan to get to other roads in the future. This work all depends on how much money we have to spend from year to year.

Our goal is to improve all of our roads and get them in decent shape. We have approximately 50 miles of roads so this is something that will take time. Thank you for your patience.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers help keep taxes down and provide a sense of accomplishment and pride. There are 3 areas where the township could use your help.

1. Clean-up Day - April 13: The more help that we have, the faster we can move the long lines along. You would not be expected to work the entire morning, helping for an hour or two would be appreciated.
2. Electronics Collection Day: The 2nd Saturday of each month from 9 to 12 electronics are collected for recycling.
3. Kocher-Hottenstein Glen Park: Help is needed to clean-up the park and plant trees.

Call or stop in at the township office if you are willing to donate some time.

2019 Budget News

The Township Supervisors adopted a \$1,291,542 budget for 2019. This budget allows the township to continue to maintain and improve a number of roads and to continue to upgrade equipment without any new taxes. Approximately \$425,000 of this budget amount directly relates to road paving, improvement projects such as pipe replacement, and the winter treatment of our roads. It is important to have reliable equipment for snow removal and maintenance projects on our 50 miles of road. Therefore, budget emphasis is also placed on continuing to update trucks and equipment that are 20 or more years old. A new all-wheel drive dump truck has been ordered and that comes with a \$162,000 price tag. Approximately \$200,000 of the budget relates to pass-thru money that is collected by the township but largely passed on to other entities. Examples of these funds are the fire tax and public safety funds, street lighting funds, fees charged for engineering and technical reviews.

The township has been aggressive in developing a plan to allow as many reserve funds as possible to be invested to increase our income. It is important to maintain a reserve fund to help to cover unforeseen emergencies. We are staggering the investment of these reserve funds throughout the year to allow the maximum return without placing the township in a precarious financial condition should an emergency need occur.

Your township is debt free with no mortgages, loans, or bonds.

Kocher – Hottenstein Glen Park

The Kocher - Hottenstein Glen Park is a long narrow 9.6 acres that extends from Rising Sun Road on the northeast end, to what would be an extension of Manor Drive in Millersburg Borough, on the southwest side. This parcel was donated to the township in 2007 with the provision that it must be preserved as open space with no active recreation improvements such as basketball courts. The Emerald Ash Borer killed the Ash trees in the park posing a threat of adjoining property damage and injury if they would fall over as well as a maintenance concern. The township entered a \$20,000+ contract to cut the dead trees with the understanding that the contractor would not need to remove the trees and branches. The idea was that township residents could go in and remove the remaining wood for firewood. A very wet summer and winter have kept springs active and the site remains inaccessible to vehicular traffic. The township is aware that significant work will be required to restore the park. However, roadwork priorities will limit our township's manpower availability to work in the park. The public could help to restore this area by volunteering to cut trees and brush into manageable lengths, to remove wood for firewood, and to help plant trees in a reforestation initiative. Contact the township office if you are willing to help.



Veteran's Memorial Dedication held on 11-11-18.

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