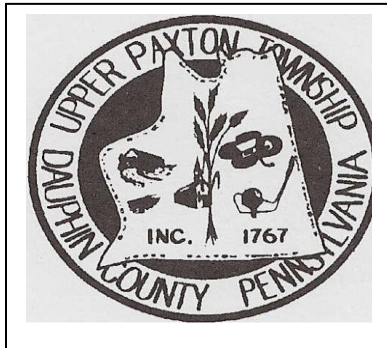


Upper Paxton Township Newsletter



Upper Paxton Township, Dauphin County

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On Lot Sewage System Study to Begin –Public Meeting to be Held

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, Act 537, requires each municipality in the state to develop and maintain an up-to-date Sewage Facilities Plan to address sewage management, either through on-lot systems or a sewage treatment facility. The main purpose of the plan is to protect the health, safety and welfare of our residents. The existence of untreated or improperly treated sewage in surface or groundwater allows disease organisms to come in contact with people through drinking water, insects, animals or direct contact. A second but equally important purpose of the study is to help prevent future problems from occurring and to aid in land planning, preferably by directing new development to areas where adequate sewage disposal facilities are available or projected to be available.

Approximately 50% of the households in Upper Paxton Township are connected to the Millersburg Area Authority and have their sewage treated at the plant adjacent to the MYO Park. Those households connected to the MAA public sewer are not part of this study. The remaining households that have some type of on-lot sewage treatment will fall within the scope of this study. What the study will entail is a personal contact with approximately 15% of the township households that have On-Lot Disposal Systems (OLDS). If you are contacted, a free test of your well water will be provided, and you will be asked to participate in a survey about your OLDS. The Upper Paxton Township Supervisors ask for your cooperation and that you treat the professionals assisting us with courtesy.



Brian McFeaters



Carrie McFeaters

To assist the Township with this mandated study, we have contracted with the engineering firm of Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG). HRG will be assisted by the Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer Brian McFeaters. Brian McFeaters and Carrie Mcfeaters will be the individuals that will be making direct contact with our residents to obtain water samples and complete the survey. Please look at their pictures so you will be comfortable knowing who they are and that they are authorized by the Township to make contact with you.

Public Meeting: A public meeting to discuss Act 537 will be held in conjunction with the regular Township meeting on March 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Municipal Building, 506 Berrysburg Road. The Township Supervisors, our Engineer, and our Sewage Enforcement Officers will be present to answer your questions.

Dedication to Upper Paxton Township

The Board of Supervisors is experiencing changes as 2020 unfolds. After twelve years of exemplary service to Upper Paxton Township, Ron "Pickle" Hepner decided to retire from the board. For many of those years, Pickle served as Chairman of the board. In addition, he served on COG and the county Tax Committee, and is widely known for his honest and energetic devotion to public service. Pickle will be truly missed in service, but, hopefully, will still be observed visiting the township facilities. When you see our former colleague around town, at church, or a sporting event, be sure to say, "thanks Pickle, for a job well done!"



Ron "Pickle" Hepner

Robert "Bob" Coleman

At the Township reorganizational meeting, January 6, 2020, we welcomed Bob Coleman to the Upper Paxton Township Board of Supervisors. He comes with years of experience as a member of the road crew, and former Roadmaster. Now he begins his tenure on the management side of township service. As the choice of the people, we wish him well as he embarks on this new, vital journey.

Spring Clean-up

Spring Clean-up for Township residents is scheduled for Saturday April 18, 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 refrigeration 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). Our Township residents can participate in the Dauphin County electronics collection program on the clean-up day. Please check the Township website for a list of items that 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.

2020 Road Improvements

We expect that each year some residents say, "is this finally going to be the year the Township fixes our road?". For some who have long awaited improvements the answer is yes. All roads can be broken down into one of three categories: high traffic volume, average traffic volume, or low traffic volume. Over the past several years, it has been difficult to improve low volume roads when high volume roads also need attention. The year 2020 is the year that a few of these low volume roads get their due improvements. Matter Lane, Lebo Road, Spice Alley, and Plum Street are on the current radar scope for major restoration. Improvements to a much heavier traveled road, Landfill Road, is also designated for improvements but they come with challenges. A section of Landfill Road is threatened by the Little Wiconisco Creek eroding the streambank adjacent to the road. Temporary improvements were made to repair the depression in the road caused by the bank erosion, but a more permanent solution is needed. Options are being reviewed to stabilize the streambank. Once the streambank is stabilized, road improvements from end to end can occur. The alternative to stabilization is to relocate the threatened portion of the road and this is quite costly. Just because you did not see your road on this list does not mean that improvements won't be made. There are numerous patches and repairs that will be made on other roads. As always, Mother Nature with her freeze & thaw winter conditions wreaks havoc on our roads and this in turn changes our priority list of projects for 2020.

2020 Township Budget

The challenge is not how to explain the budget, the challenge is how to write an interesting article about income and expense numbers. We have adopted a balanced budget in the amount of \$1,586,550 and we did not increase taxes to do so. That is probably what 90% of our residents want to know and they will stop reading at this point. For those who have more of an interest in our budget, we welcome you to stop in the Township Building or look at our web site to review our total breakdown of income and expenses. The 2020 Township Budget does reflect a significant increase of \$254,357. Fortunately, we were able to secure 2 grants that totaled \$207,000 to offset a major part of this increase. These grants were for reconstruction of the West Pearl Street/MYO Road in the area of the railroad underpass. (See MYO Rd. Article) The other major expense that contributed to the budget was a \$55,000 consulting cost associated with the Act 537 On Lot Sewage System Study noted on the first page of this newsletter. As always, our largest expenditure is for road maintenance and improvements. Direct expense for road improvements, winter maintenance, road crew salaries, and other related items equals approximately \$720,000. Another \$225,000 are pass-thru monies that come in as fire tax, streetlight tax, and other incomes but pass through to the fire company and PPL for street lighting. This overview highlights the big expense items.



Grants Obtained to Improve the Road to MYO Park

In the summer of 2018, West Pearl Street (commonly known as MYO Road) was severely damaged by flooding. This was the sixth time in recent history that the road needed major repair in the area of the railroad underpass. Since the repair work required reconstruction of the stream embankment, a Department of Environmental Protection Emergency Permit was required. As a condition of the permit, DEP mandated that a permanent improvement be done that could withstand flooding without the road being washed away. The proposed improvements are expensive and would have placed a tremendous burden on the Township budget. Fortunately, the Township was able to obtain two grants through Dauphin County to offset much or all of the construction cost. A \$100,000 Gaming Grant was obtained and then a Community Development Block Grant for flood repairs in the amount of \$107,300 was awarded to the Township.

When the construction is completed, a two lane-two-way road will drop down to approximately the same elevation as currently exists. The paved road will replace the dirt road that is most often full of puddles and holes. A low retaining wall will be constructed creek side to protect the road from being washed out. We know that the lower road often floods but it is necessary to maintain the low elevation to allow fire equipment and trailer trucks that service the sewage treatment plant access. A second wall will be constructed to allow the upper elevation single lane road to be open when the lower road floods. Construction is scheduled for the summer of 2020.



Compost Center

The Township Compost Center on Isle of Q Road has experienced a positive year of activity with its new system of control and great cooperation by Township citizens. The new year is upon us, and it is time to renew your card for another year of service. The yearly fee again is \$25.00. You can pay this fee at the Township office or drop your check in the mail. **Payment should be received by March 1, 2020.** At payment, your 2019 card will renew for the year (you will not need a new card). If you have not purchased a card and would like to do so, new cards for 2020 are now available. Each year, cards that are not renewed will be made inactive on March 31st. Please make your check payable to **Upper Paxton Township.** **For your protection, the Compost Center is under surveillance, 24 hours a day.**

2020 Census = Township Dollars

The census is intended to count every living person in the United States, both citizens and non-citizens. The census is important because the data determines how federal dollars are distributed to local government. **Each resident counted can add to the funds we receive.** For the first time ever, you may complete the census form online. There will also be an option to complete your form by mail or by phone. Each household will receive notification by mail in March of 2020. In May, the Census Bureau will begin following up with people who haven't filled out the questionnaire.

Glen Park Update

The Hottenstein – Kocher Glen Park has not been forgotten, however, competing road projects, a state mandated study, and a state mandated resolution to a road frequently damaged by flooding has impacted improvements and maintenance to the park. Last year we reported that many of the ash trees killed by the Emerald Ash Borer were cut down. We had hope that residents could use the downed trees for firewood, however, wet conditions made this impossible. Deed restrictions limit the use of the park land to passive activities such as hiking or bird watching. Our current plans for the park call for reforestation wherever possible with trees and shrubs that are beneficial for birds and wildlife. In addition, we envision a maintained trail system that would allow access to the park. In the spring, we are hopeful that free trees from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will be available to begin the reforestation. Your help would be welcomed if you could spare a day to help plant. Call the Township office if you would be willing to volunteer.

Dog Breeding in Upper Paxton Township

Canine breeding can be a natural part of owning a dog. Responsible breeding practices are essential in both Upper Paxton Township and the state of Pennsylvania. However, if you are breeding multiple dogs during a twelve-month period, we direct you to the Township ordinance amended March 14, 2015. It can be found on the Township website, Chapter 27, under Zoning Part II, General Regulations. The Township ordinance regulates the number of breeding females allowed, as well as the lot acreage required for special exception kennels. There are other requirements in the ordinance, as well as required compliance with the Pennsylvania Dog Law. (Act 119 of 2008). In summary, if you are breeding multiple dogs within the Township, this needs to be done in the open, with the full knowledge of the Township. If you are using the breeding of dogs as "a cash crop," for financial gain, there are strict regulations in both the Township and the state of Pennsylvania that must be met. **To conceal this practice, and raise dogs in the privacy of your property, is to be in defiance of the law. Please comply or face the full penalty of the law.**

Traffic Cones, Street Signs & Barrels – A Little Help Please!

Traffic cones, white & orange traffic barrels, barricades and reflective marker stakes are critical safety items that are routinely used to warn drivers of a potential danger or area to avoid. This past year, the Township has experienced a rash of these items as well as street signs disappearing or vandalized along our roadways. Removal of these items presents two problems; first, without such warning items in place, an accident could occur, or a vehicle could be damaged by hitting a hole, second, replacement of these items cost you as a taxpayer. Those little traffic cones or a reflective barrier stake cost \$25 to \$35 each, a street sign \$150+ to replace and a barricade several hundred dollars. If you know the location of these missing items or someone who is intentionally damaging these items, please report it to the Township. These acts of vandalism take money away from beneficial Township projects.