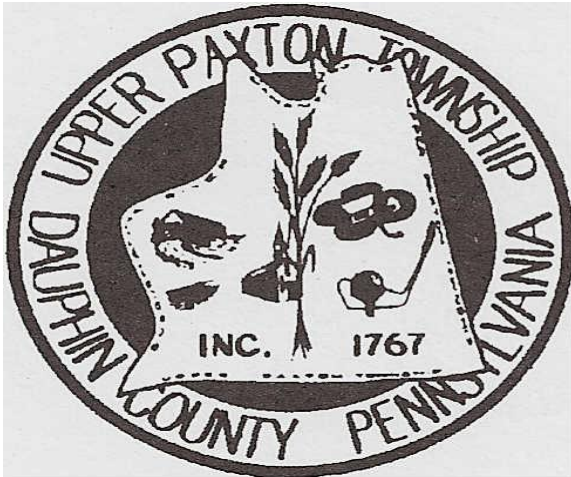


Upper Paxton Township Newsletter

Spring, 2021



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ACT 537 = HEALTHY DRINKING WATER

In 2020, Upper Paxton Township began a PA DEP, mandated review of Township water and sewage, for those residents not serviced by The Millersburg Area Authority. Our goal is to ensure that all “on site systems,” (wells and septic systems) are working well, providing healthy water and safe disposal of sewage in all areas of the Township. As of January 2021, results were to be compiled and presented to the Supervisors to review. The Township’s Sewage Enforcement Officers (SEO) and HRG, our engineering consultants for this project, set up and carried out the plan, under the guidelines of the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

It has been over twenty years since a mandated DEP study was done in Upper Paxton Township. The Covid 19 Pandemic has slowed the survey process and additional surveys will need to be collected at approximately 30 residences to meet the PA DEP guidelines. If you are interested in assisting with the completion of the OLDS (On Lot Disposal Systems) and well water surveys, please contact the Township in order to schedule a time.

Upon the completion of the remaining OLDS and well water surveys, the Township’s Engineering Consultant will summarize the results and incorporate this information into the phase one Needs Analysis report. Map exhibits identifying the status of OLDS and well water surveys will be prepared and included within the Needs Analysis report. A public presentation presenting the results of the Needs Analysis will be made at a future Board of Supervisors meeting, and a formal report will be submitted to PA DEP in Spring 2021.



RECENT ROAD PROJECTS

Last summer saw the completion of a needed road shift, and a long overdue resurfacing of Landfill Rd, connecting Route 209 to Route 25, via Hoy Rd. The project involved moving a portion of the road away from a steep creekbank, rebuilding and resurfacing the entire length of the road, and then adding guide rail.

Our township crew did much of the mid-season work, before the paving contractors arrived. With guide rail added for safety, this cross-township connector has never looked so good!

You may remember the summer floodwaters of 2018 greatly damaged a stretch of West Pearl Street, under the railroad bridge. A temporary repair was done at that time, but the state was requiring a “more permanent” solution to the road. This, you will recognize, is the entrance to the Borough’s MYO Park. Every season of flooding was hard on the unpaved road. This summer’s low water allowed for the project to be completed, with two stone and concrete walls built to support the widened two-way road.



High flood waters in December, closed the passage, as anticipated, but the project held up well and served its purpose.

TOWNSHIP EQUIPMENT UPDATES

The past year has seen the addition of several pieces of new equipment. Last winter, a 2020 Western Star truck was added to our plowing fleet. Then, arriving in early 2021, a new, versatile Track Loader was added to our workforce. The addition of this versatile machine, with its many accessories, allows more work to be accomplished by our own roadcrew, thus, less work will need to be contracted out. For example, it has an attachment to grind asphalt, directly from road surfaces to repair damaged driving areas. It ultimately will save us from some of those expensive construction and repair contracts.

TRUCK RECONDITIONED



In addition to these new purchases, the township workers are utilizing their “off road time” to repair and update their equipment. Thousands of dollars were saved when our workers disassembled and removed the toolbox assemblies of one of the trucks, then sanded and repaired, painted, and upgraded the equipment. We are grateful to have such a highly motivated team of workers, who added five years to this truck’s life! Thanks guys!

SPRING CLEANUP

Spring Clean-up for Township residents is scheduled for Saturday April 10, 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 \$4 charge for car & light truck tires (\$6 for tires on wheels & also an additional charge for larger tires). **Upper Paxton Township residents** can bring electronics on the clean-up day. Electronics will be unloaded first, followed by items containing refrigerants, then tires, and lastly junk. Residents are asked to load their vehicles accordingly to facilitate rapid movement through the unloading area. Following these guidelines will aid the unloading process. **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 for others to pick up through the weekend, on a first come, first served basis. Please follow the directions of the Township officials when reviewing the repurposed area. Every effort will be made to avoid congestion along the side of the highway from those wanting to pick up items.

COMPOST LOT KEY CARD RENEWAL

The yearly fee for 2021 has been reduced to \$20.00. You can pay this fee at the Township office or drop your check in the mail. **Payment should be received by March 31, 2021.** At payment, your 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 are available. Each year, cards that are not renewed will be made inactive on March 31st. Please make your check payable to **Upper Paxton Township.**



FIREWORKS

The Township received numerous complaints over the course of Summer 2020 with respect to the use of fireworks. The Township does not currently regulate the use of fireworks, but in light of the complaints, is considering whether the Township should regulate their use. **Most of the complaints** stemmed from the late hours that people were setting off fireworks, and instances of multiple, reoccurring fireworks sessions in a single evening (that is, fireworks going off at 9pm, only to start again at 11pm, midnight or later!). The Township encourages its citizens to act reasonably in the use of fireworks and take into consideration the effects of fireworks displays on others (people and their animals) in the community. The Township welcomes any written suggestions from residents as to the regulation of fireworks.

State law currently permits Pennsylvanians to purchase and use “consumer fireworks” which contain up to 50 milligrams of explosives. Anything with more than 50 milligrams of explosives requires special licensing and permits. When setting off fireworks, you must be more than 150 feet from any business or occupied structure (any vehicle or structure adapted for overnight accommodation, whether or not people are actually there). Also, you must have the express permission of the owner of the land where fireworks are being set off (public or private), you must not set off fireworks within or toward a building or vehicle, and you must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance when engaging in such activities.

Pay attention to weather conditions – wind and dry conditions create significant hazards in the use of fireworks. Have a water source available to deal with unexpected issues. If a Township-wide burn ban is in effect, you should not be igniting fireworks. Act reasonably and responsibly.

MILLERSBURG AREA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The past decade has been hard on local healthcare transports, ambulance associations, and emergency teams, in general. Residents have come to “expect” their ambulance service to arrive, when needed, in a timely fashion. What if that did not happen?

At a recent Township meeting, the Millersburg Ambulance Association spoke of

trying times, and the pain they are feeling because of a nationwide financial crunch. The following are excerpts from an article given to the Township from the Millersburg Area Ambulance Association:

The Millersburg Area Ambulance Association has had the privilege to provide Emergency Medical Service to Upper Paxton Township, Millersburg Borough, and its surrounding Communities for many years. During that time, the organization has transitioned from an EMS provider within the fire department

(AMBULANCE continued)

to a separate entity. By necessity, they have gone from a volunteer organization to becoming a paid service largely due to the increased volume of calls. They were no longer able to staff the ambulance with volunteers as the emergency call volume reached over 800 calls a year. Their call numbers continued to grow. While the operational/administrative needs continued to be filled by volunteers, the ambulances were staffed by paid members. The wages for the EMS crew were paid for with a yearly membership drive, and insurance payments from the calls. Grants and donations help keep them afloat as well.

As the years have passed, volunteerism is almost extinct. Vehicle expense, fuel cost and insurance premiums have drastically increased creating a financial toll on the Ambulance community in general, and The Millersburg Area Ambulance Association is no exception. In 2010, with the creation of the Affordable Cares Act, unforeseen issues created loopholes for EMS agencies, making it more difficult to receive insurance reimbursements. Co-pays and Co-insurance policies were implemented, making it difficult for the EMS services to collect payment. Be assured, EMS cannot, and will not, ever refuse service due to inability to pay, however the loss of funding has added o a significant financial shortfall. Additionally, a change in the law that

governs Fireman's Relief funds deemed Millersburg Area Ambulance Association was no longer able to receive/use Relief Funds under the current statutes, adding an additional income loss for the Association. Responsible budgeting, and several generous estate donations have helped the Association in the past. Dedicated individuals have helped keep the ambulance in service, with little compensation. The past decade has seen the closing of many EMS organizations, or mergers with larger EMS organizations that receive steady funding from external sources. Many of these EMS organizations are hospital based. Millersburg Area Ambulance Association, a not-for-profit organization, hopes to remain a small independent organization, serving our community. Unfortunately, the time has come that we are no longer able to do that without help. The Millersburg Area Ambulance Association has reached out to both municipalities in our coverage area for guidance and assistance so we may continue to provide much needed Emergency Medical Services to our Community.

Realizing the importance of this organization to our community, the Supervisors are committed, this year, to work with the MAAA to further discern the issues that affect ambulance associations in general and seek to find solutions for our local services. **Support our hometown ambulance by purchasing your MAAA membership!**



MILLERSBURG FIRE COMPANY



The Millersburg Fire Company recently completed the refurbishment of Engine 20. The 2001 Engine was assessed, and the fire company determined it was more feasible to complete a refurbishment and extend its service life for another 10 years as opposed to its replacement. The refurbishment included valve repairs, compartment door replacement, upgrades to lighting and safety equipment and corrosion repair/painting. In April, the Engine was taken to Fire Line Equipment in

New Holland, PA for the work. We appreciate the Apparatus Committee, Fire Line Equipment and the company members who put time into this project. The Millersburg Fire Company wishes to thank the Upper Paxton Township Supervisors, Millersburg Borough Council, and everyone in our community for their support of the fire company.