

Upper Paxton Township Newsletter

Spring, 2024



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Spring Cleanup

Spring Cleanup Day for Upper Paxton Township residents is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 7:00 a.m. until 12 noon. There is a \$25 fee for items containing refrigerant. There is also a \$4 charge for car & light truck tires and \$6 for tires on wheels. There will be an additional charge for larger tires. The intent of cleanup is to accept items that cannot be put out with your weekly trash. No hazardous waste or construction waste will be accepted. There will also be a repurposed area. Please pack your vehicle so that electronics can be removed first, then items containing refrigerant, tires and lastly junk. Professional flaggers will be directing traffic. The waiting line will extend down Rising Sun Road. To avoid turning around, travel up Rising Sun Road from State Route 209. If you are interested in volunteering to help with cleanup day, please call the township office at 717-692-4655. Please note, many arrive early, but we will not begin unloading until 7 a.m. Later morning hours generally find the line reduced to only a few vehicles.



With Appreciation

With heartfelt appreciation, the township thanked John Orr at their December meeting, for twelve years of dedicated service to the residents of Upper Paxton Township. John's



many contributions to our community have benefited all of our residents, while maintaining a high level of transparency and integrity. Coming from years of County service, John brought a high level of expertise to our local government working on numerous projects that included road improvements, storm water issues and EMS discussions. When you see John, be sure to say "thanks," as he has left a significant positive mark on our township!

Introduction of Our Newest Township Supervisor

Supervisor Elect Rich Wiest officially joined the Board as the newest Upper Paxton Township Supervisor at the Reorganizational Meeting held on January 2, 2024. Rich has worked part-time for the township since 2000 plowing snow and cutting grass. He started working full-time with the township in 2020 and became roadmaster shortly thereafter. In his spare time Rich enjoys farming and spending time with his grandchildren. We look forward to his continued contributions on behalf of our residents. Welcome Rich!



Compost Lot Cards

It is time to renew your entrance cards for the Compost Lot located on Isle of Q Road. Those not renewed will be made inactive after April 30th. Please make your check payable to Upper Paxton Township and mail it to 506 Berrysburg Rd, Millersburg, PA, 17061. **We are offering a free year** for anyone volunteering at least three hours of service to the township on Clean-up Day, April 27. For everyone renewing their card for another year, please note, **you will not receive a new card**. If you have not purchased a card and would like to do so, new cards are available at the township office during regular hours.

Our Ambulance Service

More than three years of discussions are leading us into a more stable existence with our Millersburg Ambulance Association. Contributions from Millersburg Borough and Upper Paxton Township have helped stabilize the financial picture and enabled the association to hire and bring a more

balanced outlook to this vital organization. Currently, the township had designated \$120,000 to the association, from their 2024 budget, to be paid in three equal installments, every four months. Because these are taxpayer dollars, MAA is providing extensive monthly reports, for a transparent operation. The funding, along with increased hiring, has helped insure a more balanced inflow of money from their increased services. **The township reminds its residents that joining MAA with your yearly membership helps the financial picture and is vital to their stability.** We are aware that a fund to purchase a new ambulance is long overdue, and hopefully a Dauphin County Gaming Grant can be secured to augment this effort.



EMS Study has Begun

The Upper Dauphin Council of Governments (COG) has spent much of 2023 discussing the regional EMS challenges we face North of Peter's Mountain. The effort of 15 local municipalities has gained us the awarding of \$51,000 to contract for a comprehensive EMS study, involving municipalities, EMS companies, government officials and others who can provide input. Our township offered to put up the money to help move the study forward. That will not be necessary due



to this Gaming Grant, resulting from money from the Hollywood Casino. The study was awarded from three proposals and will take about nine months to complete. Everyone is hopeful that the study will provide direction for the upper end of the county. The study is not binding, and extensive agreement will be necessary.

Another Grant Awarded to UPT!



Our township has been awarded a Gaming Grant from Dauphin County for \$144,000 toward the replacement of the township salt shed. This shed houses the road treatment materials and allows for mixing of materials as needed to keep township roads clear. The shed is also made available, through agreement, to both Gratz and Millersburg Boroughs for their winter needs. This service is done for them at cost. With all directions pointing forward, we anticipate demolition and construction to take place over the summer months in 2024.

Millersburg Fire Company

The Millersburg Fire Company #1 responded to a total of 201 Emergency calls in 2023. There were 125 responses in Upper Paxton Township, 52 responses in Millersburg Borough, and 26 responses on mutual aid to surrounding areas. The dedicated personnel that volunteer with the fire company contributed over 15,385

manhours during calendar year 2023 on administration, training, public relations, maintenance, and responses.

The fire company is currently working on a three-year replacement plan to replace aging radio equipment.

The current radios were put in service 16 years ago and are beginning to experience failures. The company was successful in securing \$77,450 in grants in 2023, and so far in 2024, we have secured \$125,932 for this project. We were able to replace 7 portable radios and 4 apparatus radios with the 2023 grant awards. We are applying for a Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant in 2024 to complete the project.

In August 2023, the fire company signed a contract with Sutphen Fire Apparatus for a new Ladder Truck to replace the



current 1997 Sutphen Ladder Truck. The new Sutphen SPH-100 Ladder Truck will have a 100' Aerial Platform, 2000 Gallon

Per Minute Pump, 800' of Supply Hose and carry associated tools and equipment to better serve the community's needs and expectations.

We want to thank the community for their support and **if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity to serve the community and would like to join the Millersburg Fire Company #1 please give us a call at 717-692-2121.**

2024 Road Projects

The township budget for 2024 includes a number of road projects. With several issues currently in the financial picture, but costs yet to be determined, it was decided by the Supervisors to only spend PA Liquid Fuels money this year. This is the state contribution to the township from Motor Vehicle Fuel Taxes. That figure for 2024 is \$230,488.26. The road improvement projects for 2024 include: paving on various township roads, dirt road maintenance, and the start of a multi-year project on Snyder Mill Road.

CHAMPIONS ... AGAIN!



**Congratulations to our Millersburg Lady
Indian's Basketball Team
on their Back-to-Back Championships
Basketball AA Champions
2023 & 2024!
We are Township Proud!**

STREET CLEANING

The winter months require an abundance of salt and anti-skid to keep our residents safe, while driving in the snow and ice. Each year, as necessary, we contract to rent a street-sweeping machine to "clean-up" the residual winter residue. This year, the street-cleaning week will be May 6 – May 10. Not parking along the roads during that week, will aid our workers with a clear path, insuring better results! **THANK-YOU!**