

Upper Milford Township Newsletter

Chairman
Daniel J. Mohr

Vice-Chairman
Henry H. Kradjel

Supervisor
Steven E. Ackerman

Spring / Summer 2007

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Editor: Kim Shaak

Upper Milford Township Purchases King's Highway School

Since the last Township Newsletter several things have taken place regarding the King's Highway School. January 18th, 2007 the Board of Supervisors approved the agreement of sale between Upper Milford Township and the East Penn School District for the purchase of King's Highway School at a cost of \$875,000. The Township took ownership of the 5 acre property on April 25th, 2007 and the selection process for obtaining professional services for the necessary renovations is currently moving forward.

The King's Highway School Ad Hoc Committee held a meeting on January 30th, 2007. At which time the

committee discussed various names for the new building and facilities. The committee has not made a final decision on the official name of this newly acquired facility.

If anyone has a suggestion for the name of the facility or would like information please notify Kim Shaak at (610) 966 - 3223 or kshaak@uppermilford.net.

At this time, there is no regular meeting date set of the King's Highway School Ad Hoc Committee.



Upper Milford Township (Vera Cruz) Sewer Project Household Income Survey:

Project planning for the Vera Cruz Sewer Project, which proposes to provide public facilities to approximately 285 households and several businesses, is continuing forward. The Township has contracted with a non-profit company, RCAP Solutions, Inc. with their main offices located in Gardner, MA, for the purpose of conducting a project area household income survey. This *confidential* household income survey will be for the purpose of determining if the median household income for the project area is below the overall Upper Milford Township figure of approximately \$67,000 per household.

Depending on the final information obtained from the independent household income survey the residents and owners of property in the project area may benefit through the availability of



low interest loans and / or additional grant funding.

The household income survey will be conducted in early to mid-summer and will be a random survey sampling, therefore not every household will be surveyed. It is extremely important, and mandated by the agencies that manage the funding and grants, that those households that are randomly selected to receive an income survey, complete and return the survey form.

This survey will be directed to households and is not dependent on ownership of the property.

If you are in the project area and receive a request to complete the household income survey form please do so as soon as possible. It should be noted that the Township will not be made aware of any of the individual survey results.

Planning on Digging?

- Call Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc (POCS) three business days before you dig at 1-800-242-1776 or 8-1-1
- PA Act 287 as amended requires excavators as well as private land owners to call POCS three business days prior to any type of digging occurs with powered equipment.
- Mark your area in white before calling with a dig notification.
- By calling you allow the facility owners the opportunity to locate and mark their underground facility in advance of the planned excavation (gas and liquid pipelines will mark underground facility lines using yellow stakes, flags or paint).
- Protect and preserve markings until they are no longer required for a safe and proper excavation.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Recreation News:

By: Roselynn Parry

Ground breaking and construction of the new refreshment / storage building at Lenape Park has finally taken place. A new facility has been a long standing priority of the Recreation Commission and has been in varying stages of planning over many years, as those who've worked with the Upper Milford Youth Association and Recreation in the past will probably recall. Of course, being 2007, the project is now incurring 2007 costs.

The current refreshment stand / shed building has been outgrown by an ever expanding Township population in youth recreation programs. But the building has also been deteriorating badly from the water ponds around it and into it whenever there is a storm or rain. Whatsmore, it is built back to back to the old pitted toilets. Thankfully, the Township has now acted to situate a new facility in a drier area. The new building has been carefully planned to alleviate the problems encountered in the current building.

Growing pains are evident in the way recreation facilities have been stressed by the steady growth in UMYA programs. Tom Cichiocki, UMYA President, has reported that the number of Township children playing soccer has increased from 100 in the year 2000 to 216 in 2006. In baseball programs for 2000, 18 children played T-Ball. In 2006, 52

children participated. There were 198 children in softball and baseball in 2006 – a 90 % increase since 2000. All of these programs are conducted on three fields with soccer and baseball programs forced to use the same fields. There is no Township basketball facility, which forces UMYA players to use gyms that the Macungie Youth Association and the Emmaus Youth Association have thankfully been willing to share.

All of these facts highlight another long-standing, top goal for Recreation in Upper Milford Township – more playing fields for our children. An immediate need is practicing areas for current teams. A longer-term goal is acquiring more playing fields for UMYA...growing pains...

Anyone know of any areas in the Township that could become available to UMYA programs for soccer, baseball or softball? Please contact the Upper Milford Township or the UMYA at <http://www.uppermilford.net> or <http://www.umya.org>.



Pavilion Rentals:

Pavilions at Jasper and Lenape Parks can be reserved, for a fee, by either calling the Township Office at 610-966-3223 or by stopping in at the Township Office during office hours (8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.). The Township will accept reservations up to a year in advance.

Yard Waste / Recycling

The Township accepts yard wastes dropped off by residents at the Township's Yard Waste Drop Off area behind the Township's Garage, accessed via Church View Road. Materials may only be dropped off by Township residents and this service is not offered to lawn maintenance or landscape businesses.

Grass, leaves, and brush or branches must be kept separated and unloaded at the appropriate location as identified by the signage at the site.

Branches are limited to 4" diameter and must be no longer than 8'.

The Township, most of the time, has a supply of single ground wood mulch available to the public. Residents may load their own vehicles at any time or the Township will load your truck or trailer by appointment only. Appointment hours are based on employee availability so please call prior to stopping by.

Telephone books may be recycled by dropping them off in the foyer at the Township Offices.



Recycling:

Electronic Recycling:

Arrangements can be made by calling (610) 797-7608.

Household Hazardous Waste:

Arrangements can be made by contacting Lehigh County at (610) 799-4177 or checking their website at <http://www.lehighcounty.org>.

Help to keep our Township clean by picking up trash and debris in front of our properties and alongside the roads.

Current List of Trash Haulers:

A.J. Blosenski, Inc.—610-942-2707; Allied Waste Services—215-723-0400; Chest-Mont Disposal—610-524-3200; CHRIN—Commercial Only—610-258-8737; John's Hauling—small truck—610-965-3160; Reiss Brothers Hauling—610-346-7535; Waste Management—Allentown—610-285-6321

Upper Milford Township does not provide centralized solid waste or recyclables collection or disposal. Township residents are required to contract for their own solid waste and recycling collection and disposal services.

Permits Required

Upper Milford Township is a zoned community and the following permits are required:

Bonfire Permit - Required at least ten (10) days in advance of the proposed bonfire.

Building and / or Zoning Permit - Required for new construction, additions or alterations to exterior of existing structures, deck, patio, pool, spa or hot tub, electrical work or wiring, plumbing, HVAC, and shed.

Driveway Permit - Required for the construction of a driveway or other means of ingress or egress onto a Township or PennDOT road.

Fence or Wall Permit - Required for the installation of any fence or wall over 2' high.

Grading Permit - Required if not in conjunction with another permit.

Moving Permit - Required when moving into, out of, or within Upper Milford Township. There is no fee for this.

Occupancy Permit - Required prior to occupying a newly constructed building.

Park Permit - Required in order to reserve a pavilion in a township park.

Peddler's Permit - Must be obtained before engaging in solicitation or peddling in Upper Milford Township.

Sewage Permit - Required for the installation of a new septic system and for the repair or enlargement of an existing system.

Tree Cutting and Logging Permit - Required if more than 10 trees / year or more than 30 % of total number of trees on lot.

Use or Change of Use Permits - Required for any activity, occupation, business, or operation carried on or intended to be carried on in a structure or on a lot.

Other permits may be required for certain activities. For specific information call (610) 966-3223.

How a Septic System Functions

There are two types of anaerobic (without oxygen) on-lot systems—gravity distribution systems and pressure distribution systems. In both types, there are three major components: (1) the septic tank, (2) the distribution box (gravity system) or dosing tank (pressure system), (3) the absorption area or drainfield.

Sewage flows to the septic tank, where the primary treatment process takes place. In the tank, the heaviest matter settles to the bottom (forming sludge) and the lighter matter (scum) floats on top of the clear liquid. The sludge and scum should be pumped out regularly every three years.

The liquid and some suspended solids flow out of the tank to a distribution box or dosing tank, which is then directed to the absorption area. This liquid exits the pipes into a layer of gravel and then percolates through the soil for additional treatment. The bacteria in the soil neutralizes many of the contaminants in the wastewa-

ter.

Signs of an on-lot system in trouble include:

- Toilet runs sluggish.
- Sewer odors in the house and / or drinking water.
- Sponginess around septic tank, distribution box or dosing tank and absorption area.
- Surfacing raw sewage.
- Dosing pump runs constantly or not at all.
- Dosing tank alarm light is on.
- Backup of sewage into laundry tubs or other fixtures.

For more information regarding septic systems you may call the Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer, Brian Miller at (610) 966—3223.

2007 Official Directory

Emergency

911

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Daniel J. Mohr H: 610.967.5726
Henry H. Kradjel H: 610.967.1536
Steven E. Ackerman H: 610.967.4315

TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Daniel DeLong O: 610.966.3223
Emergency 484.357.6140

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATOR:

William Stahler C: 484.357.6139

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT:

Frank Weber O: 610.966.3223
Emergency 484.357.6142

SOLICITOR:

Worth Law Offices O: 610.437.4896

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:

Schoor DePalma O: 215.361.6050
Fax: 215.361.6160

ZONING OFFICER:

Alan Brokate O: 610.966.3223

ASSISTANT ZONING OFFICER:

Harry Kleiner O: 610.966.3223

PLANNING COORDINATOR / SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFCR:

Brian Miller O: 610.966.3223
Home Office: 610.967.2205

TAX COLLECTOR:

William Weber O: 610.966.5355

DEER PICK UP:

State Road O: 610.798.4280
Township Road: O: 610.926.3136

FIRE: (Non-Emergency)

Citizen's Fire Co. O: 610.965.9444
Western Dist. Fire O: 610.966.0739

AMBULANCE: (Non-Emergency)

Macungie O: 610.966.2601
Emmaus O: 610.967.5615

POLICE: (Non-Emergency)

PA State Police O: 610.395.1438

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKER ORDER FORM - \$15



Name

Address

City

State

Zip



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ADDRESS NUMBER REQUESTED
(IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS LESS THAN FIVE DIGITS "X" OUT BOX.)

Mounting Preference

_____ Horizontal
_____ Vertical

L-Bracket Package Available: \$3.00/pkg
(This is for alternate mounting methods.)
Package includes: 2-brackets, 4 nuts and bolts

COST OF MARKER:
ADDRESS MARKER _____ X \$15 \$ _____
L-BRACKET PACKAGE _____ X \$ 3 \$ _____

TOTAL COST \$ _____

MAIL TO:
Upper Milford Fire Departments
4093 Main Road West
Emmaus, PA 18049

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Upper Milford Fire Departments

PLEASE ALLOW 2 – 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<http://www.veracruzfirecompany.com> or <http://www.uppermilford.net>

E-mail: info@veracruzfirecompany.com

“We can’t help you if we can’t find you!”

By: George Devault

Vera Cruz and Old Zionsville Fire Companies teamed up to improve public safety in Upper Milford.

Bright green metal address signs – with reflective, 4-inch high white numbers – are now guiding first responders straight to the right homes throughout Upper Milford Township. The signs are \$15, which went on sale last year, and are being sold by firefighters in Vera Cruz and Old Zionsville. These signs not only benefit the fire companies but also the Ambulance Corps. In Emmaus and Macungie, Pennsylvania State Police, and also the mail and delivery vehicles will benefit by this public safety program.

“Many Township residents now display only small house numbers that are meant to guide mail and newspa-

per carriers,” said Joe Kernick, Fire Chief of Old Zionsville. “These numbers may be on the mailbox, a fence post, the front door or even a nearby tree. They are hard to see and do not always line right up with the house they belong to.”

Perhaps the most serious problem facing emergency workers is the many long lanes in Upper Milford Township that provide access to as many as a dozen homes. Mailboxes with half-inch high numbers are clumped together at the beginning of the lane, but there is nothing to direct emergency crews to individual homes.

“We recently responded to a fire alarm on just such a lane. A few hundred yards from the road, the lane split into a Y. We had the address,

but that didn’t help any, because we didn’t know whether to turn left or right. I had to get out of my truck and walk up to a house with my flashlight to see where we were,” said George Devault, Fire Chief of Vera Cruz Fire Company. “That’s very frustrating and very dangerous because every minute matters in a real emergency.”

Remember, **“We can’t help you if you if we can’t find you!”**

See page 4 for the address sign order form.

~ Fire Companies are always looking for New Volunteers ~



If you are interested in helping please contact your local service provider. Citizen’s Fire Co. at (610) 965—9444, website <http://www.veracruzfirecompany.com> or e-mail at info@veracruzfirecompany.com or Western District Fire Co. at (610) 965—8723.

Reminders from the Zoning Department:

By: Assistant Zoning Officer, Harry Kleiner

- Please remember to keep your pets, particularly dogs and cats, under control on your property. Roaming animals that deposit waste randomly are not appreciated. Those who love their pets will understand that such activity is not good for their beloved pets, either. Please help by exercising better supervision of pets!
- Everyone likes to get into the swing of spring by starting projects, cleaning up the property and sprucing up around the house. No one likes excessive noise, particularly at odd hours of the day or night. Please curb your enthusiasm to get the job done by being considerate of those around you. Awareness of noise is a good first step in being a considerate neighbor! This goes for barking dogs, too!
- Open burning is permitted, though

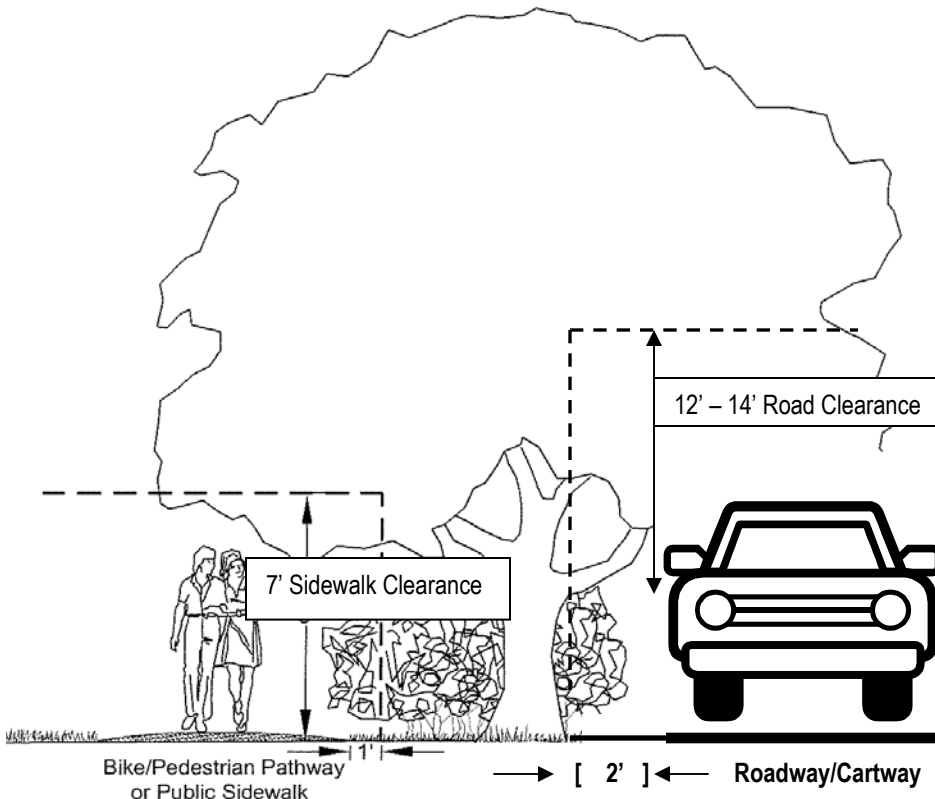
limited to residential users in the Township and subject to provisions and conditions. If you are unsure as to what burning is permitted and how, please obtain a copy of the Burning Ordinance No. 97 and amendment No. 107 (available at the Township Office and on our website). A reminder that the Lehigh County Communication Center needs to be called prior to a burn and when it is extinguished and that number is (610) 437—5252.

- The rampant growth of vegetation is a problem throughout the Township, particularly involving trees and shrubbery too close to the traveled portion of the roadway. Branches extending out into the space of the roadway area must be trimmed back. Please see the chart (below) for particulars. Certain areas of the Town-

ship (Little Lehigh Acres West, and Mink Estates Area) and others are currently being addressed. Please help us fix this problem by studying the chart and addressing the problem at your property if your trees require trimming!

- Finally, a general word about permits. Most any activity, addition or changes to your property, with the exception of routine maintenance and some landscaping, will require a permit. Here in Upper Milford Township we are no different from most other jurisdictions in this regard. Please check with the Township when contemplating any activity, project, improvement or change on your property to see what (if any) permit is required. A hearty 'Thank you' from the Zoning Department!

Tree Pruning within the Township:



Trees should be pruned and maintained to provide a minimum of 12 to 14 feet clearance directly above the curb and edge of shoulder. To reduce the frequency of pruning, we recommend that limbs and branches be pruned beyond the curb or, in some cases, to the edge of the right-of-way. Clearance above sidewalks should be a minimum of 7 feet.

Additionally, lines of sight at curves and intersections must be maintained. The removal of branches etc. will improve driving conditions and will result in reduction of liability for the homeowner and the Township.

Preserving Natural Areas and Working Farms:

A letter from the Open Space Committee.

Dear Neighbor,

Some really exciting things are happening in Upper Milford Township and the Upper Milford Open Space Committee wants Township residents and property owners to know about some of the possibilities.

As you know, Upper Milford Township (UMT) is fortunate to have a lot of natural resources, such as high quality streams, wetlands, cultural and historic areas, steep slopes, among other wonderful features.

We also have fine parks and recreation areas, as well as prime agricultural land. However, it is hard not to notice that the broader region of Southwestern Lehigh County (Alburtis, Emmaus and Macungie Boroughs, and Lower Milford, Lower Macungie and Upper Milford Townships) is experiencing the joys and frustrations that result from the pressures of development and population growth.

As a community, we get to decide how this works out.

First, a little background: in 2004, Alburtis, Emmaus and Macungie Boroughs, and Lower Milford, Lower Macungie and Upper Milford Townships gathered together and finalized the "Southwestern Lehigh County Comprehensive Plan" (available on the UMT website <http://www.uppermilford.net>). This plan considers the complex issues of open space preservation, community renewal, orderly growth, and improved infrastructure. The plan also encourages Upper Milford to consider several options for open space preservation.

Do you know as much as you'd like about conservation options?

Also in 2004, Upper Milford Township published their "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Environmental Plan" which, among other goals, sought to inventory our resources, develop a plan for recreation and open space, preserve our rural character, and to protect natural and environmentally sensitive areas. In the section entitled "Land Preservation / Open Space Inventory and Analysis" the Township is called on to establish an Open Space Committee. The Supervisors did form the OSC and that group is us. We want to get you thinking about these issues along with us. Our group, the Upper Milford Open Space Committee, is figuring out how to maintain, preserve, and enhance the rural character, wonderful natural features, find agricultural resources, and beautiful open space that caused us to come to and stay in Upper Milford. We need the support of the elected officials and the help of all residents in order to do this well.

An old proverb among native people say "we do not inherit the land from our parents, we borrow it from our children". To be good stewards we must preserve these fine features for generations to come. We believe that preservation of land should always be an individual's choice.

Among the many tasks that we face, two are: 1) how do we decide which features and properties to protect and preserve? and 2) how might we fund the effort?

FUNDING: It goes almost without saying that no one wants to pay more taxes than we can afford and no one wants to have fewer benefits than we need. The community decides how to reconcile costs and benefits. Locally, the Board of Supervisors has the final authority but the residents advise and direct them. It belongs to another time and placed to have detailed discussion of funding: bond issues, millage increase, grant applications, bequests, and other creative ideas. Ultimately, the Supervisors and the voters will decide on the specifics.

PARTICIPATION: We are not writing just to get your support for the idea of preserving natural resources. We know that we have the support: every survey about quality of life conducted in the region and in the local community states that overwhelmingly people do not want to lose the wonderful environment that we have. The OSC knows it has your support in protecting natural and environmentally sensitive areas and to preserving our rural character because you choose to continue to be in this small piece of paradise known as Upper Milford Township. We can do a lot as individuals; sometimes we can do more as a community. That is why we are writing this letter.

PRESERVATION: Collectively we need to decide what land features we should try to protect and preserve. The OSC is working on a rating and ranking system which includes evaluating attributes such as watershed (sources of drinking water, ground water resources, high quality streams), scenic value, environmental values (including endangered species, wetlands, and woodlands), historic value (we have much more than the Indian Jasper Quarry), and prime agricultural land.

The OSC and the Township needs to know who would like to learn a little about the advantages and implications of preserving

their property. How do we do that: Should we have an open meeting? Should we have a workshop? Should we have someone from existing agencies involved in land preservation contact you about eligibility and alternatives? Should we focus on some aspects rather than other issues? There are folks who have already preserved some of their land individually through easements and deed restrictions, or have linked up with public / private preservation programs.

Who else in the Township might be interested? These opportunities, issues, and questions are reasons we are sending this letter.

Here is what the OSC thinks:

1. We should preserve our natural resources and prime farmland as much as we can, as wisely as we can, and as soon as we can.
2. We need to creatively figure out and suggest to the Supervisors and the voters where we can find the financial resources to accomplish the preservation and protection.
3. We need to know who in the Township wants to partner in this effort—with your thoughts and ideas, with your land, with your efforts.

Are you interested? What do you think we need to know? What do **YOU** think?

If you are willing to share your thoughts about this project, if you have ideas about land preservation (where? or how? or what?), or if you are interested in learning more about preserving your property as a "natural area, agricultural resource, or beautiful open space" in order to help maintain, preserve and enhance the rural character of Upper Milford Township, contact:

Upper Milford Township
Phone: (610) 966—3223
Fax: (610) 966—5184
E-mail: info@uppermilford.net
Mail: PO Box 210
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

By: Camille Lore

Household Hazardous Waste Program:

Lehigh County will sponsor two, one-day Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal programs.

The HHW Program is designed to help residents dispose of oil-based paints, solvents, cleaners and other products not safe to dispose of in municipal waste streams. Lehigh County has contracted with Clean Harbors Environmental Services to collect, package and dispose of this type of waste.

The agreement provides for two, one-day drop off dates: June 2nd and October 27th from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Lehigh County Wastewater Pretreatment Plant in Fogelsville.

The HHW Program is offered at no cost to the participant. Residents interested in participating in the program must **pre-register** by calling the Office of Solid Waste Management at (610) 799—4177 Ext. 229. People who were already on their waiting list will be receiving a postcard from this County

Office with all of the pertinent information.

Items not accepted:

- Latex—based paints
- Motor Oil
- Antifreeze
- Car Batteries
- Medical Waste
- Ammunition
- Propane Tanks

Items Accepted:

- Oil—Based paints
- Paint thinner, turpentine
- Stains, varnishes
- Batteries
- Gasoline, gas / oil mix
- Kerosene

- Mercury, thermometers
- Fluorescent tubes
- Roof tar, driveway sealer
- Pool / spa chemicals
- Photo chemicals
- Insecticides / pesticides
- Weed killer, fertilizers
- Glues / adhesives

Location and directions will be provided to those individual households who pre-register.

Meeting Schedules:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month
Workshop Meeting at 7:00 pm; Regular Meeting at 7:30 pm

ZONING HEARING BOARD:

2nd Monday of each Month at 7:30 pm

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Monday preceding the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm

RECREATION COMMISSION:

3rd Monday of each Month at 7:30 pm

OPEN SPACE AD HOC COMMITTEE:

The 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Alternates between Emmaus and UMT, 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP

5831 King's Highway South
PO Box 210
Old Zionsville, PA 18068
Phone: (610) 966—3223
Fax: (610) 966—5184
E-mail: info@uppermilford.net
Website: <http://www.uppermilford.net>

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays the office is closed.