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Winter 2008
Newsletter

Welcome to Upper Milford Township
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Dear Residents:

Welcome to our new and improved newsletter. Produced at no cost to taxpayers through the generous support of our advertisers, this publication is aimed at keeping residents informed of important issues in the township.

As you will see on the pages inside, much is going on in the township. We are pleased to be in a position to apply salt brine to our streets in the event of snow or ice. The new system will help make travel through the township safer in winter.

Speaking of winter, you'll find an informative article about our policies for snow removal, along with a helpful diagram showing how you can avoid having your driveway plowed in.

Congratulations to Bill and Bernie Stahler for earning their Basic Certification in emergency management. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to residents of the township.

As we head into the holidays, the Board of Supervisors wishes you and your family good health and good fortune. Please be careful as you travel.

The Upper Milford Township Board of Supervisors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Supervisors	front cover	Concerns About Household Open Burning	page 8
Couple Earns Certification	page 2	Fire Company News	page 9
Help Us Help You.	page 2	Vera Cruz Sewer Project Update	page 10
Permits Required	page 3	Salt Brine Application Coming to Upper Milford Roads	page 10
Planning on Digging?	page 3	From The Emmaus Public Library	page 10
Water Conservation Tips	page 4	You Can Help Promote Stormwater Management Efforts	page 11
History 101 - Vera Cruz	page 5	Be Prepared for Winter Weather	page 12
Invasive Plants: A Common Problem	page 6	Township Directory	page 13
Lehigh County Offers Grant Program	page 7		
PA House of Representatives Information	page 7		
Emmaus Public Library Children's Wing	page 7		

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Contact us or check our website for information about Bible studies and special programs.

9:15 AM	10:30 AM
Sunday School	Sunday Worship Service

SPECIAL SERVICES 7:30 PM

Christmas Eve, Dec 24th	Ash Wednesday, Feb 25th
Holy Thursday, Apr 9th	Good Friday, Apr 10th

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Email: info@uppermilford.net • **Web:** <http://www.uppermilford.net>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The office is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

EMERGENCY: 911

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Steven A. Ackerman – (610) 967-4315
Henry J. Kradjel – (610) 967-1536
Daniel J. Mohr – (610) 967-5726

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Daniel DeLong – (610) 966-3223 (O)
Emergency – (484) 357-6140

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

William Stahler – (484) 357-6139

ROAD EMERGENCY

Call (610) 966-3223. After normal business hours, press extension 400; you will need to leave a message, including the following information: name, address, phone number, brief description of emergency. The on-call person will give you a return call.

SOLICITOR

Worth Law Offices – (610) 437-4896

ENGINEER

CMX – (215) 361-6050 (office); (215) 361-6160 (fax)

ZONING OFFICER

Alan Brokate – (610) 966-3223

ASSISTANT

ZONING OFFICER

Harry Kleiner – (610) 966-3223

PLANNING COORDINATOR/ SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Brian Miller – (610) 966-3223 (O)

TAX COLLECTOR

William Weber – (610) 966-5355
Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Physical Address: 5563 Acorn Drive, Emmaus, PA 18049
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 265, Old Zionsville, PA 18068
Appointments can be scheduled with Mr. Weber.

DEER PICK UP

State Road – (610) 798-4280
Township Road – (610) 926-3136

For a police, fire or medical emergency, DIAL 9-1-1

FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)

Citizens Fire Company – (610) 965-9444
Western District Fire – (610) 966-0739

AMBULANCE (NON-EMERGENCY)

Macungie – (610) 966-2601
Emmaus – (610) 967-5615

POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)

Pennsylvania State Police – (610) 395-1438

MEETING SCHEDULES

Board of Supervisors: first and third Thursday of each month; workshop meeting at 7 p.m.; regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board: second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: the Monday before the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Recreation Commission: third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Council: alternates between UMT and Emmaus; fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

Open Space Committee: second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Couple Earns Certification

Upper Milford Township's Emergency Management Coordinator William Stahler and his wife, Bernadine, Deputy Coordinator, have completed all required courses in a matter of 15 months and recently were awarded Basic Certification, the first level in a three-step certification process.



Corky Held of the Lehigh County Emergency Services Agency presents certificates to Bernie and Bill Stahler on behalf of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Bill and Bernie received their certificates and plaques in July at the monthly supervisors meeting in Lower Milford Township. Corky Held of the Lehigh County Emergency Services Agency presented the plaques on behalf of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Office.

The only hurdle for them to attain the Professional Level Certification is to wait for one year between each subsequent level.

This is quite an accomplishment, considering the Stahlers are unpaid volunteers who attended classes two nights a week on average over the last eight months to reach this training milestone.

Help Us Help You

Volunteers are the lifeblood of small town government.

Without the help of civic-minded individuals who donate their time and energy, Upper Milford Township would not be able to function efficiently.

The Board of Supervisors is currently seeking residents to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board (one position), the Joint Environmental Advisory Council (one position) and the Pension Board (two positions). If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, please visit www.uppermilford.net to download an application or call Township Manager, Dan DeLong, at 610-966-3223.

Our two fire companies -- Citizen's Fire Company, (also known as the Vera Cruz Fire Department) and the Upper Milford Western District, (also known as the Old Zionsville Fire Company), are always looking for help. You don't have to be a firefighter – the companies need assistance with fundraising, clerical duties, cleaning and event organization.

For more information, call Citizen's Fire Company at 610-965-9444 or Upper Milford Western District at 610-966-0739.

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PERMITS REQUIRED

Upper Milford Township is a zoned community. The following are required:

BONFIRE PERMIT: required at least 10 days in advance of the proposed bonfire.

OCCUPANCY PERMIT: required prior to occupying a newly constructed building.

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 and HVAC work; sheds and accessory structures.

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 inspection of a new septic system and for the repair or enlargement of an existing system.

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 two feet high.

TREE CUTTING AND LOGGING PERMIT: required if more than 10 trees/year or more than 30 percent of total number of trees on lot. Call the Township office for specific information.

GRADING PERMIT: required if not in conjunction with another permit.

USE OR CHANGE OF USE: required for any activity, occupation, business, or operation carried on or intended to be carried on in a structure or lot.

MOVING PERMIT: required when moving into, out of or within Upper Milford Township. There is no fee for this permit.

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

PLANNING ON DIGGING?

Call Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc. (POCS) three business days before you dig at 800-242-1776 or 8-1-1. PA Act 287 as amended requires excavators as well as private landowners to call POCS three days prior to any type of digging with power equipment.

Mark your excavation area in white paint 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 facilities using yellow stakes, flags or paint).

Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER



With the winter season approaching here are some things to keep in mind when the snow and bad weather starts;

When does snow removal begin? When the Road Department receives word that a storm is on the way, the crews begin preparation, so that they may be on the roads as soon as possible. Before snow and ice make driving conditions hazardous, Township crews will be on the road spreading salt and anti-skid. When approximately three inches of snow has accumulated, the crews will begin to plow the streets. Major through streets receive priority over the local and dead-end streets.

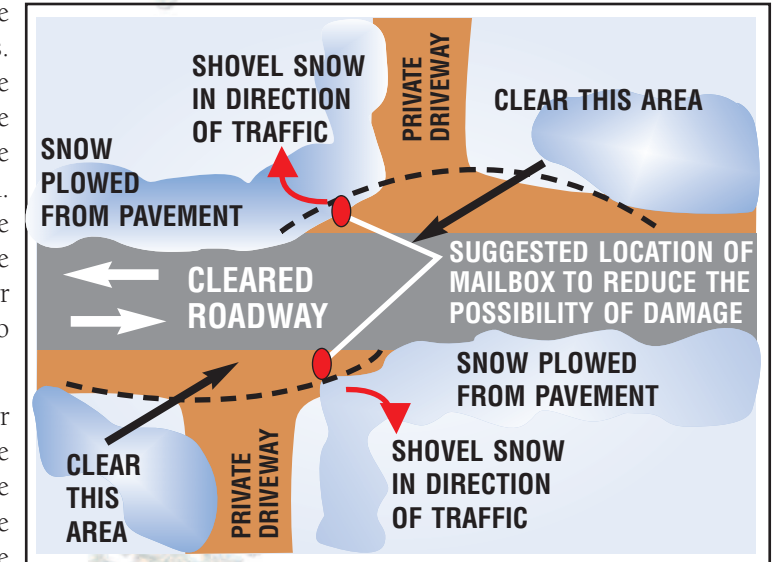
When will my street be plowed? Depending on the severity of the snowstorm, residential streets are usually plowed within 4 hours after the storm ends. Of course, a blizzard could cause the time period to be longer.

Will my cul-de-sac be plowed? Cul-de-sacs will be plowed with the other residential streets. Due to the circular design of these streets, it is often difficult to equally distribute the snow along the curb line. Do not become alarmed if one area of the cul-de-sac has more snow after plowing than another. Some cul-de-sacs have a snow pile easement and the operators will try to deposit the snow within the designated area.

Should we move our cars from the street? When a storm is forecast, move vehicles to off-street parking when possible. Parked cars can be both a hazard and hindrance to snow removal efforts.

How wide of a path will the plows clean? If possible, the plows will clean your street curb to curb without piling it on sidewalks. However, this is not always possible because of parked cars on the street. When cars are parked on the streets, the crews will try to remove as much snow as possible.

What about driveways and sidewalks? When cleaning your street, the crews have no place to push the snow except to the side of the road. This creates the unavoidable problem of already cleaned sidewalks and driveways being covered with snow. The best solution to avoid this situation is to wait until the streets have been cleared before cleaning driveways and sidewalks. Remember--do not shovel snow from driveways into the roadway. This practice is illegal under the state motor vehicle code and is also hazardous. The Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code provides for a maximum fine of \$300 for this violation. Property owners are reminded that they are responsible for the actions of anyone they may hire for snow removal. The diagram on the right shows how to clear snow from your property. If cleared properly, the plow blade has a chance to "unload" its build up of snow before passing your driveway.



What if my mailbox becomes covered with snow? Your mailbox and the access to it for the U. S. Postal Service is the responsibility of the resident. Again, because the crews have no place to put the snow, roadside mailboxes may become blocked. Heavy snow coming off the plow may damage mailboxes. This is not intentional, but does occasionally happen. Please make sure your mailbox is sturdy and in good repair. The Township will not be responsible for repairs to mailboxes, fences or shrubs placed within the legally defined rights-of-ways of its roads, unless they are actually struck by the snow removal equipment.

My lawn or landscaping was damaged by the snowplow, what should I do? As with any objects that are placed within the legal road right of way by the property owner, the Township will not be responsible for correction or replacement if so damaged during the course of snow removal. Your Township snow removal personnel are responsible for over 55 miles of roadway with the state crews being responsible for an additional 25 miles of roadways within the Township. Our truck operators are human, and during a storm they work long hours trying to do their best for the benefit of all.

YOU CAN HELP PROMOTE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

Stormwater is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what are commonly called storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called stormwater runoff.

Upper Milford Township, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is currently taking steps to prevent stormwater pollution through a Federally mandated program that seeks better stormwater management. The Township adopted a Stormwater Management Ordinance on September 14, 2005. It identifies illegal discharges into stormwater systems and provides penalties for violations. Listed below are some ways that individuals can prevent stormwater pollution:

- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as oil, cleaning supplies and paint. Never pour them into the storm sewer system;
- Properly and efficiently use pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides to prevent excess amounts into runoff;
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their wastes in the toilet;
- Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of on the street or in the driveway. Or better yet, take your car to the carwash where the water is treated and recycled.

WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY.



All the soap, scum and oily grit runs along the curb. Then into the storm drain and directly into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters including the Delaware River. And that causes pollution which is unhealthy for fish. So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy. Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street. Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

If you have questions regarding storm water, please contact your municipality or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Office. For general questions, you may also contact DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (717) 722-5661 or visit www.dep.state.pa.us. Thanks to the Washington State Water Quality Consortium for permission to adapt and use this poster.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency NPDES/Stormwater Program: <http://www.epa.gov/> (Keyword: NPDES)
- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection "Stormwater Management Program": www.dep.state.pa.us (Keyword : Stormwater Management)

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS



The leaves have changed and the days have gotten shorter. Homeowners have put the lawn mower away and are putting their leaf blowers and rakes to good use. As winter approaches, what can you do to conserve water through the cold months ahead?

PLENTY. Here are just a few suggestions on how you can preserve our most precious natural resource:

- #1** *Have you flushed out your water heater recently?* Ask your plumber or read your water heater's instruction manual if you need help. By flushing out your water heater, you will remove mineral deposits that are likely to settle at the bottom of the tank and on your heating elements. Left unchecked, this sediment can lead to leaks or, even worse, flooding and major water loss inside your home.
- #2** *Washing dishes and doing laundry has been made easier through the convenience of modern appliances.* Just be sure you have a full load of dishes or laundry when you get started on your chores.
- #3** *Resealing your driveway this year?* Instead of power washing your macadam driveway before treating it, try sweeping with a broom.
- #4** *If you are washing your car one last time* before the bitter winter weather hits, consider using a bucket instead of a hose, or go to a commercial car wash where water is recycled between wash cycles.
- #5** *When you purchase new plumbing fixtures* such as showerheads, faucets, laundry washers and dishwashers, compare the water usage statistics for different models before buying. Many appliances are being made with water conservation features already built in.
- #6** *Remember to clear your gutters to avoid them becoming clogged with leaves and other debris.* Blocked gutters can lead to poor drainage, possibly even basement flooding and other problems, and prevents you from collecting rainwater in the spring for your landscaping needs.
- #7** *Check your toilets for leaks.* Place a couple of drops of food coloring in the toilet tank and wait 10 minutes. If the colored water appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Get leaks fixed as soon as you find them.

These tips are presented by the Emmaus and Upper Milford Township Joint Environmental Advisory Council. Visit us online at www.uppermilford.net; click on Environmental Advisory Council button.

History 101: VERA CRUZ

The Vera Cruz area was inhabited by the Delaware Indian Nation the Lenni Lenape branch being the chief group. The jasper quarries provided raw materials for tomahawks, arrowheads, and other tools that were traded through the entire eastern part of the country.

Evidence of these jasper mines is visible even today in the deep depressions scattered in the woods at Jasper Park and in the countless arrowheads found throughout the area. By the late 1600s, however, white settlers were moving into the area, bringing forging techniques that replaced these jasper tools.

Land was being sold to these immigrants and Indian trails such as "The Warrior's Path," "the Old Indian Road," Leibert's Gap, and Vera Cruz Pass (over which the Indians had carried their jasper to trade) became the King's Highway or the Great Philadelphia Road. Mile-marker stones were placed along the Great Philadelphia Road as it passed through Vera Cruz just as through Shimerville. One was on the boundary between Paul Schreiber's place and Benjamin Seem's farm. Another, exactly one mile away, was opposite the former creamery. This stone reportedly was found in 1951 in the top of a cistern on Sam Schuler's property.

Situated on Fetterman's Creek and at the crossing of two principal public roads, one from the King's Highway to Emaus (old spelling) and Allentown, and the other from Shimersville to Saucon Township. Vera Cruz in 1884 had one tavern, one post office, one store, one shoe store, one carriage shop, one creamery and 22 dwellings.

Early accounts of the village from 1738 name John Baumgartner as a landowner. He sold 100 acres to Gabriel Koehler, who sold to Felix Huber in 1758, who sold to Christian Fischer, a storekeeper. Christian's store later was licensed to dispense liquor and provide lodging.

In 1786, Christian's son, John Fischer opened a tavern that he operated for nearly 30 years, until about 1816 when his other son, Jacob Fischer, took over and ran the tavern until 1825. Other early proprietors of the tavern were John Foster (1825-1855), Henry Acker and Beneville Stoudt.



The store in Vera Cruz was kept by Copeland Boyd between about 1811 and 1813, and by Alexander Weaver from 1851 until 1854. It was Weaver who is said to have named the village Vera Cruz in 1851 after he and the locals gathered around the stove and read a newspaper headline about a revolt in Vera Cruz, Mexico, then rushed outside to witness a fight taking place near the store.

Jokingly, Weaver said, "Now we have a name for our village. Why not call it Vera Cruz?" The name stuck and a post office was established within the general store in 1861 with the storekeeper, Charles Bernard as Postmaster.

The railroad delivered mail to Vera Cruz Station until its last day of use on July 1, 1933 using the Dillinger Tunnel. Started in 1874 and completed the following year, the Dillinger Tunnel is a 20-foot by 20-foot dark, damp railroad passage through the granite of South Mountain, one-third of a mile long on the south side of Vera Cruz. Most of the laborers who worked on the tunnel were Irish and lived in shanties with about 75 men to a building.

Only one man is known to have lost his life in the arduous construction. On a rock above the tunnel's northern entrance is a white figure somewhat resembling a man. Many "ghost" stories connect this figure and the man who died. O-o-o goosebump time?



The information about Vera Cruz in this article is taken from "The History of the Counties of Lehigh and Carbon" by Matthews and Hunferford, 1884, and from the fine articles written by Vera Cruz Community

Association members for various issues of their annual Vera Cruz Homecoming Booklet.

To read an in-depth telling of Vera Cruz history, find a copy of one of the booklets given out each summer at the August Vera Cruz Homecoming. Their booklets usually contain a page or two of well-written history about the area and cover more information than a short article such as this one can possibly cover.

And with that, this wee bit of Vera Cruz history comes to an end.

Roselynn Parry, UM Historical Committee

SALT BRINE APPLICATION COMING TO UPPER MILFORD ROADS

The Township Public Works Department will be utilizing a state-of-the-art salt brine application process this winter to enhance the control of icing on Township roads.

Salt brine will be applied by an Upper Milford Township truck equipped with a 1,000-gallon salt brine tank. Initially, the use of this salt brine technology will occur on selected main roads.

Some of the advantages of this ice and snow bonding prevention method are to reduce salt use while allowing for a more effective pre-treatment of roadways before inclement weather arrives. The salt brine will adhere to the road surface and can be applied several hours or days before a predicted winter storm.

Salt brine has been successfully used in many areas around the region to improve safety conditions for motorists and has proven to be very effective in pre-storm planning and treatment. This is due primarily to the method and timing of its application.

In its granular form, salt works by creating a brine solution by absorbing moisture from the snow or rain before its effectiveness is realized. Salt brine reduces the reaction time because it's already in liquid form, and is more evenly distributed. Salt brine can also have some residual effect of providing ongoing anti-icing value by remaining on the pavement for several days.



A salt brine solution dispensed from this truck will help keep Upper Milford roads passable this winter season.



The Vera Cruz sewer project is moving forward.

VERA CRUZ SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Upper Milford Township, the Lehigh County Authority (LCA) and Spotts Stevens McCoy Engineers and Consultants (SSM) thank all residents for completing and returning the information questionnaire for the Vera Cruz Sewer Project. The information is being used by SSM in preparing the preliminary collection system designs.

SSM continues to develop and design options for the sewer project for the purpose of determining the best and most cost effective alternative to use. We anticipate that a public meeting will be scheduled in mid January 2009 to allow the public to review the plans.

Individual households and owners will be notified of the meeting when a date is set.

From the Emmaus Public Library



Remember that you can download audiobooks onto your computer and then your MP3 player without charge from NetLibrary, using your library card to acquire an account. Your library card will also give you access to free downloadable video using the link to MyLibraryDV on the library webpage. (<http://www.emmauspl.org/>)

eAudio Books

The library webpage gives you access to several other databases: ReferenceUSA (every sort of information you might want about companies and people, that is, phonebook information) and the POWERLibrary (more than 35 selected subscription databases for research on every topic, including auto repair).

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


The Vera Cruz and Old Zionsville Fire companies have teamed up to improve public safety in Upper Milford Township. 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, which went on sale last year, are being sold for \$15 by firefighters in Vera Cruz and Old Zionsville.

These signs benefit not only the fire companies but also the ambulance corps. In Emmaus and Macungie, Pennsylvania State Police, the Postal Service and delivery vehicles will benefit in this public safety program. “Many Township residents now display only small house numbers that are meant to guide mail and newspaper carriers,” said Old Zionsville Fire Chief, Joe Kernick. “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 Vera Cruz Fire Chief, George Devault. “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!”



REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKER ORDER FORM - \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone# _____

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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

ADDRESS NUMBER REQUESTED _____
(If your address has less than five digits "X" out Box.)

COST OF MARKER:

Address Marker	_____ x \$15	\$ _____	
L-Bracket Package	_____ x \$ 3	\$ _____	
TOTAL COST:		\$ _____	

MAIL TO: Citizen’s Fire Company
Vera Cruz District #28
Upper Milford Fire Departments
4093 Main Road West
Emmaus, PA 18049

Upper Milford Western District Fire Co. #1
Zionsville District #19
Upper Milford Fire Departments
P.O. Box 302
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

**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

What is an invasive plant? Many people immediately think of weeds and other unwanted vegetation as invasive plants. But how many of us really know the correct definition of an invasive plant? And how many people can accurately name at least one invasive plant as characterized by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)?



Japanese Knotweed is an invasive species found in abundance in Upper Milford Township.

An invasive plant is more than just a weed or patch of unwanted vegetation. It is defined by DCNR as “a species that has become a weed pest, a plant which grows aggressively, spreads and displaces other plants.” Sounds just like a weed you don’t want that takes over, right? But it is a lot more complicated than just the basic definition. Let’s take a look at some of the other factors and characteristics of an invasive plant.

Invasive plants can be trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or flowers (yes, even flowers) and they have certain factors they share:

- They are not native to North America.
- They spread through root or shoot reproduction.
- They mature quickly.
- They produce numerous seeds (if spread that way) that sprout quickly.
- They can adapt to many different conditions.
- They are exploiters and colonizers of disturbed soil areas.

More important is the impact these invaders have on our environment, particularly those we find right here in Upper Milford Township. Invasive plants tend to destroy our native plant habitats. They simply overpower the existing native vegetation and displace it completely. When that happens we lose our insect and wildlife populations as well, since these invasive plants do not appeal to the insects or wildlife that feed on native vegetation. Further, the colonies created by invasive species do not provide the same cover and nurturing systems provided by native plants geared to concealment, nesting space and homes for indigenous insect and animal species.

Finally, invasive plants have few predators so they can easily proliferate in addition to escaping a cultivated garden where they are sometimes grown as landscape plants. Property owners often are unaware of the damage invasive plants can do.

There are currently more than 50 listed species of invasive plants and 16 more on a “watch list” that are known to be a burgeoning problem in the Mid-Atlantic area, including Pennsylvania. Plants that are pests, such as common

Dandelion or poison ivy, may seem to be invasive plants; however, these pests are not on the list and are not considered invasive plants. They are native plants and do not retain some of the characteristics common to invasives.

There are so many invasive plants classified by the DCNR in Pennsylvania it would be impossible to include every one of them in this small space. There are several prominent invasives we have

all seen at one time or another here in Upper Milford Township. One of Upper Milford’s worst invasive pests is the Japanese Knotweed plant, commonly found along stream banks and roadway areas. This pest is hard to prevent and even harder to eradicate. Simply cutting it down is not enough; it will re-grow. The entire plant must be removed (if done by hand), including each and every piece of vegetation, stem, root, and particle. Even a small piece left lying on the ground has the capability of rooting and producing a new plant.

There are herbicides available that will remove the plant. However, these methods are best left to plant experts and qualified landscape or plant nursery professionals who should be contacted for assistance.

A few other common invasives in Upper Milford included on the DCNR list are: Norway Maple, English Ivy, Callery Pear, Common Privet, Multiflora Rose, Orange Daylily, Purple Loosestrife, Periwinkle and Oriental Bittersweet. Surprised? Many people are not aware that some of the more common garden plants are included in the invasive plants category. The DCNR and all environmental groups and agencies are asking the public to stop using these plants as ornamentals and landscape plants in the garden or as ground cover and erosion control in the wilds.

Here in Upper Milford Township, we have seen the damaging effects of Japanese Knotweed, Multiflora Rose and others can have on our beautiful native landscapes and stream areas. Education about these invasives and the will to help preserve our wonderful natural areas are key to keeping Upper Milford Township the great natural resource and quality of life we currently enjoy.

The Township has more information about invasive plants for residents who are interested. Please stop by the Township office or call us at 610-966-3223.

Harry Kleiner, Assistant Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement

Pennsylvania House of Representatives Information



Karen D. Beyer represents the 131st District, which includes Upper Milford Western District. Her satellite office is at 5831 King's Highway South (Township Building), Old Zionsville, PA 18068. Phone: 610-966-3223. A representative from Beyer's office will be at the Township office every other Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Douglas Reichley represents the 134th District, which includes Upper Milford Eastern District. His office is at 1245 Chestnut Street, Suite 5, Emmaus, PA 18049. Phone: 610-965-9933.

Some of the services available at the district office include obtaining certified copies of birth and death certificates, absentee ballots, and voter registration forms.

LEHIGH COUNTY OFFERS GRANT PROGRAM

Low-to-moderate income homeowners are eligible for grants of up to \$20,000 from Lehigh County to assist with the cost of code related improvements. The Housing Rehabilitation Program is administered by Community Grants, Planning & Housing, Inc. on behalf of the Lehigh County Department of Community and Economic Development. The program offers five-year forgiveness loans to income eligible owner-occupied households. As long as the property is not transferred within five years the loan will be 100 percent forgiven – it does not need to be repaid.

This program is to assist owner-occupied properties only (multi-family dwellings are eligible IF the owner lives in one of the units). Income limits are determined by the number of people living in the household.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME LIMIT
1 person	\$36,900
2 person	\$42,150
3 person	\$47,450
4 person	\$52,700
5 person	\$56,900
6 person	\$61,150
7 person	\$65,350
8 people or more	\$69,550



The purpose of the funding is to bring a property up to code. It is not for projects primarily completed for aesthetics, such as remodeling a kitchen or bathroom. Typical eligible improvements include roof and heating system repair, updates to plumbing and electrical systems, abatement of lead-based paint and improving energy efficiency.

For more information about the program, call CGP&H at 800-619-9979, extension 27.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! EMMAUS PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILDREN'S WING

Planned Expansion of Approximately 4,000 SF

The Emmaus Public Library Board has made a commitment to eliminate the current congestion in the library and to expand the area that provides services to children. Therefore, we have initiated a project to raise funds for the creation of an addition to the present building. The new wing would chiefly address the needs of the children and the children's collections of the library. The library's collection, as well as the use of the building, keeps growing. The expansion will relocate the children's department to a larger area, offer teens a place of their own, expand study and lounge areas, and provide more space for the library's collections.

DONOR DESIGNATIONS:

- Laura Ingalls Wilder Club - \$10-\$99
- Charles Dickens Club - \$5,000-\$9,999
- Mark Twain Club - \$100-\$499
- Jane Austen Club - \$10,000-\$49,999
- Louisa May Alcott Club - \$500-\$999
- William Shakespeare Club - \$50,000+
- Emily Dickinson Club - \$1,000-\$4,999

ARCHITECT ~ Howard Kulp Architects, **ENGINEER** - Barry Issett, Inc., **CLERK OF WORKS** ~ David Brown, Volunteer Engineer for EPL Board, **GROUND BREAKING** ~ Estimated 2009, **ESTIMATED COST** ~ \$1,000,000.00: \$700,000. Building; \$300,000 Furnishings

EMMAUS PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPANSION FUND

Yes, I do want to contribute to the Expansion Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Emmaus Public Library

11 E. Main Street, Emmaus, PA 18049, 610-965-9284

(Your donation is tax-deductible. The Emmaus Public Library is a 501c3 organization).

FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY...

Concerns About Household Open Burning



You may not think that burning household trash in a burn barrel contributes to air pollution, but think again. A study conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Health shows that burn barrel emissions from between 2 and 40 households burning their trash daily in barrels can produce levels of toxic emissions comparable to a well-controlled municipal incinerator that burns 200 tons of trash per day. These chemicals can include acid vapors and dioxins. Burn barrels also emit heavy metals, such as lead, cadmium, and chromium, as well as unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide. The closer you are to waste that is burning, the higher the risk of inhaling dangerous pollutants.

What are the potential health effects of breathing the pollutants from burning trash?

The short-term effects are usually coughing or irritation of the respiratory tract and eyes. Smoke can be a vehicle for deep penetration of pollutants into the lungs.

Long-term exposure to these pollutants may lead to cancer and emphysema.

Dioxins are linked to increased risks of cancer, delays in child development, and damage to the immune system.

How is household open burning regulated?

Pennsylvania law allows open burning of "domestic refuse" as long as the fire is on the property of a structure occupied solely as a residence by two families or less and when the refuse results from the normal occupancy of the structure. "Domestic refuse" does not include such items as demolition waste, insulation, shingles, treated wood, paint, painted or stained objects or furniture, tires, mattresses, box springs, metal, insulating coating on wire, television sets and appliances, automobiles, automotive parts, batteries, PVC products, waste oil and other petroleum products.

Under state law, local officials have the authority to address the needs of their communities by enacting open burning ordinances for household waste with requirements that are equal to or more stringent than state regulations. Municipal ordinances cannot be less stringent than the state requirements.

What alternatives do I have to burning?

Because of the potential health and fire risks of open burning, DEP strongly recommends that you recycle and reuse as much of your trash as possible or take it to a licensed landfill or municipal incinerator. Instead of burning your trash, consider the following alternatives:

REDUCE—Buy products in bulk, which require less packaging, thereby producing less waste. Buy only what you need.

REUSE—Donate unused or unwanted items to local charities, have a yard sale, give the items to friends, or repair items when applicable.

RECYCLE—Contact your municipality or waste hauler to find out what materials are collected for recycling. Encourage them to collect additional materials.

COMPOST—Turn leaves, yard waste, and kitchen fruit and vegetable scraps into a soil amendment by starting your own compost pile.

GRASSCYCLING—Leave grass clippings where they fall. The clippings decompose and act as a natural fertilizer, reducing the need to buy commercial fertilizer.

BUY RECYCLED—Buying recycled products closes the loop on the recycling process and creates the market to help recycle and reuse materials that would otherwise be disposed of in landfills or burned.

Where can I get more information about open burning?

Information on open burning is available on DEP's Open Burning Web site at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us>, keyword: Open Burning. You can also call DEP's Bureau of Air Quality at 717-787-9702.

Where can I learn more about recycling, composting, and grasscycling?

For more information, visit <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us>, keyword: Recycling.

Please contact Upper Milford Township for the Township's adopted open burning ordinance "107, 97" and any amendments that may be applicable.