



4th Ward Newsletter

From Commissioner Dan Siegel

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April 2010

4th Ward Constituent Town Meeting on Monday, April 26, 2010

On Monday, April 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., I will hold a 4th Ward Town Meeting to provide **you** with an opportunity to meet with Township Manager Lawrence Gentile, Police Chief Carmen Pettine, other Township officials, and me. The meeting will be held at the Quatrani Building located behind the Township Building at 2325 Darby Road in Havertown.

The Town Meeting - which I hold twice a year - is designed to allow 4th Ward residents to air their questions and concerns, to receive answers to those questions, and to assure that there is an ongoing open dialogue between Township residents, Township officials, and your Commissioner. If you cannot attend, please send me an email (to dansiegel@4haverford.com) and I will answer or forward your email to the appropriate Township official for a response.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR E-NEWSLETTERS

For the LATEST NEWS about the 4th Ward and Haverford Township, please sign up for my periodic e-mail newsletter. In the past few months, I have sent updates about snow emergencies, trash and recycling, construction at Haverford Reserve and the Bubble Gum factory, and other subjects. The newsletters provide timely information - and save the Township money. To sign up, go to www.4haverford.com and fill in the box at the bottom of the page.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

The Finance Department would like to remind business owners, operators, and rental property owners of the Township's Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Requirements. All businesses located within the Township are required to file business tax returns and renew business licenses on an annual basis with the Township's appointed collector, Keystone Tax Bureau. Returns and license renewals are due each year on April 15.

To ensure that all Township businesses are properly licensed and filing annual returns, the Township has implemented an audit and compliance program. All retail, wholesale and service related business activities in the Township are subject to the Tax. Activities such as rental properties (both residential and commercial), home based businesses, nonprofit or educational organizations engaging in business related activities, are also subject to our business tax requirements. Basic information on our business tax environment is located on the Township's website (www.haverfordtownship.org); more detailed information and forms can be obtained by contacting Keystone Tax Bureau directly at (610) 993-8609 or at www.keytaxbur.com.



Freedom Playground, a state-of-the-art, custom-built play structure that will cater to people of all abilities and needs, will be built by community volunteers at Haverford Reserve (the former Haverford State Hospital site), over the course of one week, **April 20-25, 2010.**

We need 1,500 volunteers - Skilled, unskilled people and organizations. Freedom Playground is asking everyone to volunteer to work one four-hour shift during Build Week.

We need Tools - If you have tools, please contact the Freedom Playground committee with a description of the tools or equipment you could lend to the project.

Friends of the Playground - Would you like to volunteer your time to help Freedom Playground before Build Week by helping occasionally with current events? Or would you like to join our committee?

For more information on Freedom Playground, please visit:

<http://www.freedomplay.org/>



YMCA UPDATE

The Board of Commissioners has approved the lease agreement with the YMCA for its use of the former Philadelphia Gum Factory on Eagle Road. Demolition of the existing building is scheduled to be completed this year, with construction of the new facility to follow.

SNOW REMOVAL COSTS

The Township estimates that the numerous winter storms have cost \$500,000 more than previously budgeted. The Township Manager and the Board of Commissioners will be considering ways to handle this massive expense, and try to maintain all Township services.

2010 CENSUS - BE COUNTED

The Census Bureau has begun gathering the limited information required to measure demographic changes to our community. **Our Township benefits from a complete count; it allows us to be eligible for funding and grants commensurate with our needs - all based upon the statistics gathered by the Census.** Workers have already begun verifying addresses for each property and soon will be mailing Census forms seeking the names, ages, gender, race and other information about all of the persons residing in the home. If a Census worker knocks on your door, it is because the Census Bureau did not receive your completed form. Census workers will have a badge and a confidentiality notice, which I encourage you to view before answering any questions. **Census takers will not ask personal information, such as your Social Security number, bank or credit card information, and cannot solicit donations and will not contact you by email.** Though the Census asks for salary range for a household, you are not required to provide that information. Information is strictly confidential and the statistical information provides a "snapshot" in time of our community.

With the new short form, completing the census should take you about ten minutes. Please take the time to fill out the form and return it to make sure the township gets the funding it needs.

A Message from the Township Manager



WEEKLY CURB-SIDE COLLECTION OF YARD WASTE

Nearly two million tons of yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings and brush are produced in Pennsylvania each year. Until 1988, much of this yard waste went into Pennsylvania's landfills. Then, in 1988, the Pennsylvania Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101) became law. It requires more than 400 communities to collect yard waste for composting and prohibits landfills from accepting truckloads of yard waste for disposal. Yard waste can be easily composted to produce beneficial products such as soil conditioners or mulch. Yard waste composting is a sensible solid waste management alternative for Pennsylvania municipalities.

Haverford Township initiated a Leaf and Yard Waste Recycling Program to comply with the new Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirements. Recently, Haverford joined hands with Marple Township to reduce leaf disposal fees by jointly purchasing mulching equipment that enables us to remove leaves from the waste stream. This new program has already saved Haverford Township taxpayers over \$100,000.00.

Communities applying for recycling grants are required to initiate curbside leaf and yard waste recycling programs or risk losing grant money earned by recycling glass, plastic, aluminum, steel cans, and newspaper. The amount of grant money awarded will not increase from leaf and yard waste collection. To comply with these new requirements, we will begin Curbside Collection of Yard Waste began on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, and will continue to be collected most Wednesday until October 27, 2010. No yard waste will be picked up on a holiday.

What Materials Qualify For Yard Waste Collection

Brush, leaves, and branches. Branches and brush must not be more than one-and-a-half inches in diameter, must be less than 3 feet long, and must be tied together. Bundle them securely with twine or rope. Do not use wire.

All yard waste must be in brown biodegradable bags or trash cans that can be easily lifted (less than 40 pounds). Plastic bags cannot be used and WILL NOT be collected.

Yard waste must be at your collection point by 6:30 a.m.

Unacceptable Material

Litter/Trash/Garbage

Kitty Litter/Pet Manure

Plastic bags and containers in excess of 40 pounds.

Branches over 3 feet in length/Branches over 1-½ inches in diameter.

Please feel free to drop by the municipal building or call us at (610) 446-1000 if you have questions.

Larry Gentile
Township Manager

“Other Developments”

Haverford Reserve Recreation Center

The Board of Commissioners have approved proceeding with the next phase for the Community Recreation & Environmental Center at Haverford Reserve. In this phase, the architect will prepare detailed plans based upon the proposed construction costs for the facility, which includes a double gymnasium, walking track, community rooms, and an environmental nature area. The building is designed to be a “green” building, which will save energy and reduce operating costs.

Please visit my website to see the architect’s presentation of the design. Please note that this is a large file and will take time to download.

I will keep you apprised of further developments.

Township Facilities

The Township Property Committee, which I chair, has been analyzing the condition of Township facilities. At the February 8, 2010 meeting, I made a presentation summarizing the Committee's findings. We have concluded, consistent with the 1988 and prior Comprehensive Plans, that the Township Building, Police Station, and Vehicle Maintenance Building at the Public Works Yard, are inadequate because they (1) fail to meet various Codes and other requirements, and (2) require 100 percent more space for staff, etc. We plan to make more formal recommendations at future meetings.

Please visit my website to see the presentation. Additional updates will be presented at future Commissioner meetings.

Dan Siegel
Fourth Ward Commissioner
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