



The Whitemarsh Vista

The Whitemarsh Township Residents Association Newsletter

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Keeping our promise to keep you informed

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Plans to Celebrate Township's Tricentennial

At the first official BOS meeting of the year, General Lafayette, dressed in full military uniform, delivered a proclamation to the Board of Supervisors declaring 2004 the 300th anniversary of the township.

The proclamation, presented to the new Board of Supervisors for signing, announced the formation of Whitemarsh 300, a committee of citizens and public officials whose mission is to organize events throughout the year celebrating this important milestone in township history.

According to the organizers of Whitemarsh 300, the goal of the tricentennial activities will be to "build

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New Hands Take the Township Helm

On January 5 the newly constituted Board of Supervisors conducted its first, primarily ceremonial meeting of 2004 before a crowded room of well-wishers, friends and family.

Joining standing Board members Peter Cornog and Mike Zeock, were the three newly elected Supervisors, Steven Brown, Joe Corcoran and Jon Weiss. As its first order of business, the new Board voted in the township leaders for 2004. Peter Cornog was elected chair of the Board and Mike Zeock, vice-chair. The Supervisors appointed a new solicitor, Neil A. Stein, Esq., of Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein, a land use, environmental and general real estate law firm in Blue Bell, and a new township engineering firm, Schorr De Palma. All other township positions remain unchanged. Following the abbreviated Board meeting, the Supervisors joined the audience for a small reception to celebrate their inauguration and the beginning of the new township year.

Many of the township's new leaders began their public service work as volunteers with the WTRA. Steve Brown, Joe Corcoran and Neil Stein are all former WTRA board members. Jon Weiss was a founding member of the WTRA's Environmental Committee and Peter Cornog served with the WTRA in its early days, prior to having a Board of Directors.



New Board of Supervisors, from l to r: Jon Weiss, Mike Zeock, Peter Cornog, Steve Brown, and Joe Corcoran

Working to preserve the special character of our communities

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community spirit, nurture neighborhood pride and educate ourselves about our rich heritage." Other local organizations, such as the Plymouth Meeting and Fort Washington Historical Societies, the William Jeanes Library and the Whitemarsh Community Art Center, will be helping to organize events during the year. Community groups and individual citizens are encouraged to participate



The Marquis de Lafayette (a.k.a. township resident Carl Holman) reads a proclamation announcing the 300th anniversary of Whitemarsh Township and the plans for a yearlong celebration.

and to suggest ideas for the growing tricentennial calendar.

Among the activities already planned (details taken from the township's website):

Monday, April 5, 2004 - Architecture in Whitemarsh Township. A look at three centuries of the rich and varied architecture of Whitemarsh Township. Location: Annie H. Wilson Room, Plymouth Friends Meetinghouse, Butler & Germantown Pikes, Plymouth Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Free

Saturday, April 24, 2004 - Whitemarsh Community Day. The annual community pride day, featuring family activities, special performances by local bands, choruses, a 10-K Run, bicycle race, and much more. Location: Miles Park. Free

Monday, July 5, 2004 - "4th of July Parade." The biggest in Whitemarsh history with more bands, a float competition, a house decorating contest along Germantown Pike, and a special post-parade event at Miles Park.

Saturday, September 18, 2004 -Heritage Fun Fest. A community picnic at Miles Park, including an historic re-enactment, field games, a visit from Governor Rendell and other special guests, and fireworks

Saturday, October 30, 2004 Heritage Gala at the Highlands. Honoring Mr. Fitz Eugene Dixon, owner of Erdenheim Farm.

Duane McCarthy and Irene Webster, Co-Chairs of Whitemarsh 300, are hoping for as much community participation as possible. Anyone with an idea for an event or simply an interest in volunteering is encouraged to contact them through the Township Offices at 610-825-3535. More information about Whitemarsh 300 can be found on the Township website at www.whitemarshwp.org or by calling the Township at the number above.

Want to Help the WTRA?

The WTRA is always looking for volunteers. Anyone with expertise in land use or environmental law, communications, civil engineering, land preservation or other areas related to our mission of preserving open space and advancing smart growth is encouraged to contact us at 610-828-5351 or info@wtra.org.

Town Watch

Butler Pike Mini-Storage (Butler Pike)

At the January 19 Zoning Hearing Board meeting, the developer requested a continuance until March 1 at 7:30 pm. At that time, residents opposing the development will present additional testimony.

Hill at Whitemarsh (Flourtown Road and Thomas Roads)

New underground parking ordinance approved by BOS, enabling Hill's underground garage to now meet township standards. BOS Public Meeting on 2/19 to review Tax Incremental Financing plan (TIF) that would permit Township to allocate future Hill at Whitemarsh tax payments toward purchase of Erdenheim Farm Flourtown Tract.

Militia Hill Townhomes (Butler Pike and Flourtown Road)

The developer has received Zoning Hearing Board approval for the storm basin design. The Township has completed one land development review and the developer is revising plans to address comments. The Township has not yet received revised plans for review. (The Flourtown Road re-alignment is part of this development plan.)

National Label Property (Cedar Grove and Joshua Roads)

Proposed Continuing Care Retirement Community. In December, the Township approved a Zoning Code amendment to the Limited Industrial District allowing an age-restricted residential use for this property. The applicant must now submit a land development plan for township review and seek the usual approvals. No meetings on this project are currently scheduled.

Quarry (Stenton Avenue near Joshua Road)

Still in litigation.

Stoddart Property (Germantown Pike and Church Road)

Proposed in-fill development. Responding to concerns by area residents, the Township Environmental Advisory Board and Montgomery County Planning Commission, the developer has agreed to a 3-lot rather than 4-lot subdivision, thus enabling the preservation of a greater number of trees and avoiding disruption of the property's steep slopes. The developer appeared before the Planning Commission in early January for a brief update on this new direction. The township expects the developer to be back before the PC sometime in February with more details.

Whitemarsh Honors its First “Citizen of the Month”

At the January 15, BOS meeting, Charles (Charlie) Hough, retired architect and current Planning Commissioner, was honored as the first of 12 outstanding Whitemarsh citizens to be designated throughout 2004 as part of the township’s tricentennial celebration.

Hough, a longtime resident of Whitemarsh, was honored for his many years of service to the Township, as a Planning Commissioner (both now and in the 60s-70s) and as a Zoning Board member. Hough has also made significant contributions to the Plymouth Monthly Meeting of which he is a longstanding member, among other duties, serving as its Board of Directors president for 18 years.

On receiving the award, Hough said he was pleased to be honored but a little uncomfortable with the term ‘outstanding citizen’. “Citizen, yes,” he said, “but there are so many outstanding people in this township.” He ended his brief comments by saying that “those of us who do give time to the township do it for selfish reasons: we want to contribute but we also get a lot of pleasure out of it. Grassroots administration and government is ‘where it’s at.’”

Over the next 11 months, the township will be honoring other



Charlie Hough accepting the first “Whitemarsh Citizen of the Month” Award.

outstanding citizens nominated by members of the community. “Each month we plan to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution toward the betterment of our township,” said Judith McGovern, co-chair, along with John Loughridge, of the “Citizen of the Month” committee. “These will be people working

behind the scenes whose tireless efforts often go unnoticed and who give of their time for the sole purpose of serving others,” she added.

McGovern said the committee is planning to honor citizen leaders from a diverse cross section of community life, including the civic, business, education and religious sectors. Each honoree will be recognized with a plaque and a citation read before the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. A picture of the award winner, along with a printed summary of their accomplishments and contributions, will be hung in the township offices during the month they are being honored.

McGovern encourages residents to contact either her or John Loughridge if they have someone they would like to nominate for the award. She can be reached by email at WPMCGOVERN@aol.com or by phone at 610-825-8885. Jack Loughridge can be reached at 610 828-5700.



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