

REPORT

Volume 2, Issue 2

THE REPORT IS NOW ON-LINE AT:

www.HopewellTwp.org

MORE ACRES PRESERVED WITH TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE TAX DOLLARS

The Township Committee and the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FHVOS) are adding to the acreage preserved with the municipal open space tax. These recent efforts will bring the total acres preserved to 2,183. The latest addition is the 251 acre estate of Edward A. Martin that extends from Bayberry to Carter roads.

This spring, development easements were acquired on the 40 acre Faille farm, off of Van Dyke Road. The estate of Charles V. Else was also acquired this year, adding another 65 acres, centrally located off of Route 31. All told, another 356 acres will be preserved by the end of the summer.

The total value of these 2,183 acres preserved to date with municipal open space tax is \$24,000,000. The total Township cost of the 2,183 acres is \$13,800,000, and the price tag per acre so far, is \$6,322. However, this number is reduced as grants come to the Township from other sources.

Continued on Page 4

This spring, readers were asked to let us know if they still wished to receive a paper copy of the Report. So far 5,100 have not replied. The Township saves thousands of dollars in printing and postage for the newsletter by making the Report available online to those who prefer to view it on the web site. We are pleased that so many residents are willing and able to go on-line to read the Report. The summer issue is available online currently. Old issues will be kept in the newsletter archives.

We recognize that some residents are not able or find it inconvenient to access the newsletter on the web site. Those who have subscribed will still receive the Report in paper form. If you haven't subscribed yet, but wish to do so, call the Township Administration office at 737-0605 and provide your name and mailing address including zip code.

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

Page

Real Bikers Wear Helmets	2
Hopewell: A Historical Geography	2
Sense in the Sun	2
Recently Enacted	3
Farmland Preservation Plan Adopted	4
From the Neighborhood - Pleasant Valley	5
Changes to Bulky Waste Collection	6
Brush Collection	7

REAL BIKERS WEAR HELMETS

Have you noticed that competitive bicyclists and serious recreational bicyclists always wear helmets? They know that while broken bones can heal, head injuries can often lead to death or permanent disability. A bicycle helmet reduces the risk of serious head injury by 85%.

New Jersey's bicycle helmet law states that anyone under the age of fourteen riding a bike, even as a passenger, must be wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet. Helmets that don't fit, may provide a false sense of security. A properly fitted helmet:

- (1) is snug on the head
- (2) sits two fingers width above eyebrows
- (3) has a snug strap under chin
- (4) does not have a hat worn underneath

Because brain injuries don't believe in age discrimination, every bicyclist, regardless of age or ability, should wear a helmet on every ride. That includes riding around the neighborhood. Did you know that most serious bicycle crashes occur on quiet neighborhood streets? This is especially true for young children. Make it a household rule: "No helmet, no bike."

If cost is a concern, remember that a good helmet will last for years, as long as it hasn't been in a crash. That's more than you can say for a pair of sneakers! Any helmet that has been involved in a crash has done its job. Replace it. Replacement is also necessary as children out-grow their helmets.

Everyone riding on wheels (bicycles, roller blades, roller skates, skate boards, and scooters), regardless of age, should wear a helmet.

For more information on fitting a bicycle helmet, go to:
www.helmets.org/pamget.htm

SENSE IN THE SUN

A pale face now sure beats a wrinkled one later. Limit your exposure to the sun and reduce your risk of skin cancer. Use sunscreen, stay in the shade, or keep your skin covered with light clothing. When it gets hot out, drink plenty of water to make up for loss through perspiration. For more information on prevention and early detection of skin cancer, go to: www.cancer.org.

HOPEWELL: A HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

The latest edition is available for sale. Copies are available for \$35 at the Municipal Building lobby or Administration Office.

(More Acres Preserved continued from page 1)

Between the Green Acres program and the State Agriculture Development Committee, the Township has received \$450,000 in grants. The Township expects to draw down close to \$2 million in Green Acres grants during funding rounds of the state legislature over the next two years. Some additional funds will be forthcoming from the FHVOS and Mercer County Open Space Committee. These revenues will help to offset the debt service payments on the acquisitions. These will reduce the actual Township cost per acre by \$1,000 or more.

Until more of these funds are received, the Township Open Space Tax will be used mainly for debt service payments on the \$13,800,000 leveraged for preservation. In August, the Township Committee must decide whether the November 4, 2003 election ballot should include a question authorizing an increase in the open space tax so that more lands can be preserved.

Such an increase would be up to the Hopewell Township voters to decide. The increase would become effective in 2004. Currently, the township open space tax is 3 cents, which brings in close to \$675,000 each year. Each cent of open space tax costs \$25 a year, and the current 3 cents open space tax costs \$75 a year, per property valued at \$250,000.

The Committee plans to contact voters over the next month to see if any increase in the open space tax will be supported.

Comments about the open space tax and preservation projects to date can be made to Chris Smeltzer, Township Administrator at (609) 737-0605 or sent to:

mail@HopewellTwp.org.



RECENTLY ENACTED

LAND USE ORDINANCE UPDATED WITH GRANDFATHERING PROVISIONS

The land use ordinance which was adopted in late 2002 was recently amended to clarify the impact of the new zoning on non-conforming properties in the Mountain Resource and Valley Resource Conservation zones. The ordinance details which activities (new construction, expansion, etc.) would be grandfathered, so as to prevent undue hardship.

PRESERVATION EFFORTS

The Township Committee adopted a bond ordinance appropriating \$5,450,000 for the purchase of the Edward A. Martin property located along Carter and Bayberry roads. This funding ordinance was leveraged with \$265,000 in municipal open space tax funds. One cent in municipal open space tax brings in \$225,000.

CAT REGISTRATION CHANGES

Chapter X, "Fees and Permits" of the Township code has been amended to provide that cat registrations will be required on an annual basis. For existing registered cats, the new annual program is effective when the cat's current registration cycle expires. All cats must be vaccinated for rabies. Proof of rabies vaccination must be provided at the time of registration. The fee of \$7 will be due on or before July 30th.

Copies of these ordinances are available from the Township Clerk's office in the municipal building.

SWIMMING POOL PERMITS

For safety reasons, final approvals from the Township Construction Office are required before newly installed swimming pools are used. If your contractor informs you that your pool has been inspected and approved but you have not received a Certificate of Approval from the Construction Office, contract us at 737-0612 so that we may verify the status of your pool's approval. 3

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN ADOPTED

The recently adopted Farmland Preservation Plan will guide local action toward viable, active farming in the township. The Hopewell Township Agricultural Advisory Committee's vision is to bring the aesthetic, economic and health benefits of local farming to all in the community.

The Farmland Preservation Plan establishes preservation objectives and methods. These include those currently supported by the Township Master Plan, such as encouraging economic viability and farmland preservation. In addition, the Farmland Preservation Plan emphasizes the importance of local ordinances that foster agricultural businesses in the Township and permit agricultural uses in all zoning districts. The recent adoption of the Valley Resource Conservation (VRC)



and Mountain Resource Conservation (MRC) zoning districts will maintain large contiguous tracts of farmland in areas containing prime agricultural soils. The Township's Right-to-Farm ordinance, adopted in 1993, informs the public of agricultural activities and permits wholesale and retail marketing of agricultural products.

The potential for successful local agricultural business results from Hopewell's unique rural character, diversity of farm size, and

contiguous farmland in an otherwise suburbanized region. The Farmland Preservation Plan identifies farming potential in the Township, existing farmland and existing preserved farms. These include public and non-profit farms that provide educational, recreational and economic benefits to the public within the region. These farms demonstrate the importance and success of some recently promising agricultural businesses such as equestrian, hay production and specialty crops.

It's not surprising that agriculture is taking place on approximately half of all township land.

The Farmland Preservation Plan declares Township support of local agricultural goals:

- Maximizing the long-term usefulness and viability of farming by maintaining critical masses wherever they currently exist.
- Continuing the long-standing acquisition programs operating within the Township borders.
- Maintaining a core of increasingly interlocking preserved farmlands with common boundaries.

Using both proven and innovative sources of funding as an essential part of preserving active farming in the community is recommended by the Farmland Preservation Plan. Funding mechanisms and farmland preservation programs are available through local, county and state government agencies and from non-profit organizations. Through state and county agricultural development boards, the Township and individual property owners can apply for conservation easement purchase or direct purchase of farm property. Other recommended financial programs include

FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD - PLEASANT VALLEY

Were it not for the giant steel towers lifting electricity across her hills, the Pleasant Valley would be like so many postcard-worthy regions of New England that appear to have escaped the passage of time. Some of the fields along the narrow Valley and Pleasant Valley roads here have been worked continuously since the 1700s – their sturdy barns and farmhouses still sheltering livestock and families – with few modern houses spoiling the spectacular viewsheds.



Compared to many other parts of Hopewell, time has been gentle to this fertile valley lying between the Sourlands and Baldpate mountains in the northwest corner of Hopewell Township.

The most familiar property is the Howell Living History Farm, the keystone of Pleasant Valley and the original farmstead of the pioneering Phillips family.

Blacksmith Joseph Phillips was among the first to buy land here in 1732. His son, Henry, a major in the Continental Army, established the area's first gristmill and blacksmith shop. Generations of Phillips are buried in the family plot, still visible behind the community's former one-room schoolhouse, near Hunter Road.

Pleasant Valley has drawn important people since the 1600s, most notably the family of Governor Daniel Coxe, the English physician who owned much of western New Jersey at the time. The 504-acre estate established by the Coxes along the Delaware River near present-day Valley Road served as a country retreat for many influential colonial figures until 1765 when it was purchased by Samuel Stout, patriarch of another prominent Hopewell family. Today, all that remains of this once-grand estate is the stone barn along Route 29, a few foundations and a stone tomb where Stout's remains were interred.



At its height, two mills, a blacksmith shop and a ferry once operated out of Pleasant Valley. There was a schoolhouse until 1935. Pleasant Valley never quite developed into a village despite its activity.

Nonetheless, the survival of so many highly intact 18th century farmsteads and its unspoiled agricultural landscape helped Pleasant Valley win recognition to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district in 1991.

CHANGES to BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

The Public Works Department will not be collecting bulk (or brush) in the months of July and August, due to the road improvement programs. These services will resume in the month of September.

The first pick up for each household will be at no charge through June, 2004. Thereafter, the bulk pickup program will be available for a non-refundable charge of \$10 for each collection cycle. Anyone requesting a bulk pickup, should call 737-0799 Ext. 668 or Ext. 650, or visit the Public Works office, Monday thru Wednesday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. before the week scheduled in applicable zone for bulk pickup. It will be necessary to mail or drop off the non-refundable payment of \$10 by the Wednesday prior to that week. Those who wish to pay by mail should send the payment to: Bulk Program, Public Works Department, 201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560.

The bulk truck will not return for those who put out bulk materials late or for those who do not pay after their first collection at no charge. The amount of bulk allowed per month is 4 bags or boxes and up to 5 bulky items specified when signing up for this service. The weight of the boxes/bags should not exceed 40 pounds each. Containers should be strong enough to support the weight. Wood fence must be cut into 4 ft. lengths, and all concrete removed from posts.

Only building materials that would fit into a 32 gallon container (plywood, sheetrock, etc.) with a total weight less than 40 pounds are accepted.

BULK & BRUSH ZONE COLLECTION WEEKS

ZONE	1	2	3
September	8	15	22
October	6	14	20
November	3	10	17
December	1	8	15

These items ARE NOT INCLUDED in the Bulk Waste Pickup:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| All Construction Materials | FREON Appliances |
| Asbestos Materials | Household Trash |
| Asphalt Materials | Large Tree Stumps |
| Cement Blocks | Oil Based Paint |
| Chain Link Fence | Pesticide Containers |
| Chemicals | Propane Tanks |
| Chicken Wire | Roofing Materials |
| Concrete | Treated Lumber |

**Mercer County
Hazardous Waste
Disposal Day**
September 20, 2003 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
**John T. Dempster Facility on
Lawrence Station/Baker's Basin Rd.
in Lawrence Township**

If you should have any questions, please call the PW Department at 737-0799, Ext. 668 or 650. The office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Any residents that would like to donate their unwanted items can call:

Rescue Mission 1-800-528-8825

Vietnam Veterans 1-800-775-8387

Salvation Army 609-599-9803

Purple Heart 609-239-1553

Home Front 989-9417

(gently used, unbroken household items only)

(Farmland continued from page 4)

option agreements, installment purchases, donations of permanent development easements and land dedication through development.

Hopewell Township has recently applied to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) program for funds to purchase farmland. The adopted Farmland Preservation Element is a required component of the PIG application. This year the Township identified two preservation areas located in the central and northeast areas of the municipality. SADC has approved Hopewell Township's application. A decision on Hopewell Township's 2004 PIG funding will be made later this summer by the SADC.

SENIOR AND VETERAN'S DEDUCTIONS

Applications for senior and veteran's deductions are available in the Assessor's office located in the Public Works building. Totally disabled veterans, if qualified, are entitled to certain real property tax exemptions. Forms are also available in the Tax Collector's office at the municipal building.

BRUSH COLLECTION SERVICES

The Public Works department provides brush and landscape debris collection by zone. There are three zones. Brush is collected in Zone 1 during the week containing the first Monday in the month; Zone 2 during the week containing the second Monday; Zone 3 during the week containing the third Monday. Along Rtes. 29 and 31 (where a police escort is needed) the brush pickup will be the last week of the month. A map showing the zones can be viewed at the Public Works page on the Township web site: www.HopewellTwp.org. Zone information is also available by contacting the Public Works department at 737-0799 Ext. 668 or Ext. 650.

No phone calls are needed for brush pickup. Place all your brush at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. on Monday of your scheduled pickup week (noted in the table on page 6). The brush will be removed sometime during that week. In order to allow for safe and efficient collection, the following rules should be followed:

- Collection shall be limited to brush and tree prunings.
- Tree trunks and limbs in excess of six inches in diameter shall not be collected.
- Limbs should be cut to 5 ft lengths.
- All limbs and brush shall be placed in an orderly manner with all butts (6" maximum) facing the roadside. The size of the pile may not be larger than four feet high by fifteen feet wide and is limited to **one** pile per property.
- All small brush must be tied with twine in bundles not to exceed six inches in diameter.
- All forsythia, willow vines, firethorns and briars must be tied in bundles not to exceed six inches in diameter.

REMEMBER:

All brush must be out by 7:00 am on the Monday of your pickup week, as the truck will not return.

Hopewell Township Report is a newsletter issued by Hopewell Township, 201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08650.

Hopewell Township Report Contributors: Our thanks goes out to the following individuals who contributed the articles, information or photographs inside: Lesa Aldridge, Michael Chipowsky, Gary Guarino, JoAnn Meyer, Richard Grant, Victor Silvestrov and Marisa Wieczorek and William White.

Editor: Christine Smeltzer, Township Administrator

Township Committee Liaison: Vanessa Sandom

Comments, corrections, questions, stories or reports? Volunteer **Reporters** are welcome. Contact Chris Smeltzer by phone at 737-0605 or by mail: 201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560 or by email: mail@HopewellTwp.org



201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road
Titusville, NJ 08560

2003 Township Committee

Fran Bartlett, Mayor

Marylou Ferrara, Deputy Mayor

Jon Edwards, Committee Member

Arlene Kemp, Committee Member

Vanessa Sandom, Committee Member