

Upper Dublin Ward 2 Newsletter

Meet Your Commissioner!

November 2018, Winter

Meet Meredith Ferleger



Hello! My name is Meredith Ferleger and I am your Upper Dublin Ward 2 Commissioner. I assumed the role January 2, 2018 after your former Commissioner, Sharon Damsker, moved out of the Ward. For the last ten months, I have immersed myself in my role. I have loved hearing from many of you and look forward to meeting each and every one of my constituents.

I have lived in Upper Dublin Township since I was six years old, and I am a 2005 graduate of Upper Dublin High School. I received dual bachelors degrees from Syracuse University and a joint JD/MBA from Villanova University. I am currently an attorney with the law firm Dilworth Paxson LLP in Philadelphia specializing in real estate, zoning and land use. I live with my husband Michael, our 2.5 year old son Maddox, and our two cats, Shady and Marshmallow.

I hope to serve Upper Dublin as Ward 2 Commissioner for a long future because I have a deep love for Upper Dublin, and I am committed to working to ensure the responsible and continued growth of the Twp. I am available to you ANYTIME. Please feel comfortable reaching out to discuss ideas, concerns, or just to say hello. My e-mail is mferleger@upperdublin.net. My phone number is 267-518-3637. For those with Facebook, you can find me by searching "Upper Dublin Commissioner Meredith Ferleger". I am constantly updating the page with important information and events.



In this newsletter, I will outline some important updates and Twp happenings. **If you wish to continue receiving a regular newsletter, please e-mail or call me with your contact information.** I am happy to make accommodations for those without e-mail.

Ward 2 Transportation/Traffic Updates

In March 2018, the Twp approved a Resolution committing a local match to the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program to provide funding for construction of a Critical Connection sidewalk along Susquehanna Road between Honey Run Road and SPARK Drive. The Commissioners also approved Resolutions for traffic signal improvements in or around Ward 2 through the PennDOT Green Light Go Program for:

Limekiln Pike, Dillion Road, and Meetinghouse Road	Susquehanna Road, Pinetown Road and Broad Street
Susquehanna Road and Route 309 off-ramp	Susquehanna Road and Butler Pike
Susquehanna Road and Camp Hill Road	Susquehanna Road and Fort Washington Avenue

The Commissioners also passed Resolutions approving PennDOT Applications for traffic signal approval at:

Fort Washington and Montgomery Avenue	Fort Washington and Prospect Avenue
Summit and Montgomery Avenue	Summit and Prospect Avenue

This will result in the installation of pedestrian-activated warning beacons to improve pedestrian safety at high-traffic crosswalks. The Twp's traffic engineer is working through the PennDOT approval process.

Library

On January 9, 2018, the Twp formed a Facilities Steering Committee comprised of twelve residents, one Commissioner and the Library Director. The Committee was tasked with contributing to a master plan for Twp assets and facilities, specifically developing a recommendation for the future use of UDT properties at 520 Virginia Drive (520) and the Twp property at 801/805 Loch Alsh Avenue. The Committee considered and studied immense data. Ultimately, the Committee made a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to relocate the Twp Library and repurpose the building at 520 Virginia Drive. The Board held a special meeting on May 22, 2018 where a preliminary design for the new library was presented to the Board and the community. I appreciated hearing from so many of you. Suggestions and opinions ranged from highly supportive to

concerned. My fellow Commissioners and I have listened to community input and are working to amend the proposal, where possible. The entire UD community should be proud and pleased to learn of the Twp's receipt of a \$750,000 Keystone grant through the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation. We were one of four municipalities in PA to receive the full grant amount! This grant will go a long way towards the upgrades to 520. Read more at <https://www.upperdublin.net/520-virginia-drive-project>.

Greater Fort Washington District

Since 2017, Twp staff, the Planning Commission and a consultant have been working on significant changes to the zoning regulations for the Fort Washington Office Park (FWOP). Throughout the U.S., and in particular along the East Coast, municipalities are re-planning and rezoning their 1960s-era industrial parks and 1980's-era office parks. Upper Dublin is extremely fortunate to have the FWOP, which is envisioned to be transformed into a mixed use, walkable, live-work play environment that will benefit both new and existing residents. We have been presented with several iterations of the Greater Fort Washington District proposal and have been diligently working to tailor an ordinance to ensure that any new development has minimal impact to our existing residents while encouraging development suitable for the Twp. You can read more information at <https://www.upperdublin.net/proposed-new-zoning-district-for-the-fort-washington-office-park/>

Water Quality Concerns

In recent years following the closure of the Willow Grove Naval Air Base, concerns have arisen regarding the quality of the water that services our homes. Presently, the standard set by the EPA and PA Department of Environmental Protection of acceptable levels of PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) is 70 parts per trillion (ppt). However, this "acceptable" level has come under immense scrutiny in recent months. The Twp is serviced by three water providers: Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., North Wales Water Authority (NWWA) and Ambler Borough Water (ABW). The Commissioners passed a resolution supporting PA House Bill 705 that would set the acceptable level of PFOA and PFOS at 5ppt. Unfortunately, the state legislature has been unable to successfully move forward any legislation on the water quality issue.

Ward 2 is predominantly serviced by NWWA, with a small portion served by ABW. NWWA has consistently tested below the suggested 5ppt limit. Detailed information concerning this topic can be found on the Twp website at <https://www.upperdublin.net/statement-on-public-water>. If you would like more information on this issue or would like to encourage legislative action, please contact your State legislators: Vincent J. Hughes (State Senator), Todd Stephens (District 151) and Representative-elect Ben Sanchez (District 153).

Field of Dreams

Upper Dublin School District (UDSD) currently leases space in the FWOP, paying over \$400K a year to house its transportation vehicles and services. This temporary arrangement arose in 2009 when the prior facility was eliminated to accommodate a new UD High School Athletic Complex. With the goal of conserving taxpayer dollars, the UDSD is currently considering seventeen locations for a potential new facility, including the field located directly behind the Twp building, *not* the fields along Fort Washington Avenue and Loch Alsh Avenue. The Twp and Commissioners are keeping a close eye on this proposal as we have heard constituents' concerns for traffic, impact on local schools, air quality, availability of playing fields, safety and general availability of open space. I will continue to scrutinize carefully any proposal that is eventually brought before the Board.

Twining Valley Golf Course

The Twining Valley Golf Course, which extends along Twining Road and includes 105 acres, currently comprises a golf course, club house, Burn Brae Firehouse and the fire training grounds. The Twp has owned the land since the 1960s and ran operations until 1981 when the property was leased to a private operator. That lease expires in November 2019, and the Twp has decided to take back this land to open it up to use by our residents. In 2015, the Twp conducted a Feasibility Study to identify how Twp residents envision using such a unique asset. The Parks & Recreation Department also conducted comprehensive surveys to receive input from residents. Conversion priorities for the land include reuse/rental of the fitness center, trail loops with connections to neighborhood sidewalks, park pavilion space, expanded parking, off-road trails, nature-based playground, bike park, a new dog park and an event pavilion. These priorities are intended to be phased over time depending on funding streams that become available for each identified community priority. More information can be found at <https://www.upperdublin.net/twining-valley-upper-dublin-golf-fitness-club>.