

Dear Upper Dublin Residents:

In November 2006, a ballot question on open space and recreational improvements was approved by 67% of the voters. This approval authorized the Township to borrow up to \$30 million for the acquisition of land, recreational improvements and investment for the protection and conservation of natural, historic and cultural resources. This level of support from the community for such investments ranks as one of the highest ever experienced in the Philadelphia area.

Working closely with an Open Space Advisory Group composed of residents, in a framework established by the 2005 Open Space Plan, the Township recently completed the acquisition of more than 38 acres, and is negotiating for conservation easements on several large parcels. Current expenditures to date are about \$6.7 million. The Township has also secured a commitment from Montgomery County from the Green Fields/Green Towns Program for an additional \$1.4 million in grants for trail and pathway construction throughout the community. Details on these initiatives and the complete Open Space Plan are available for your review at www.upperdublin.net.

The Township's financial strength has allowed us to avoid borrowing money for open space purchases until just recently. As a safeguard, all public borrowing first requires a review by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). It was in the course of this review that technical errors in the advertisement of the November 2006 Open Space ballot question were discovered. The direct mail notification to all households, numerous news stories and televised meetings prior to the vote has been deemed by the DCED to be insufficient. As a result, the Township must obtain the voters' reaffirmation in the form of a ballot question on Election Day this November. **It is important to note that the question is not for new or additional money but the same \$30 million approved in 2006.**

Upper Dublin Township's record of effective Open Space acquisition supports national efforts to slow sprawl, lower future school taxes, and reduce traffic congestion and flooding. The reverse side of this letter details the Ballot question voters will consider on November 4th. Please contact me (or your Commissioner) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Paul A. Leonard

Township Manager/ Secretary