



Garrett Hill-Rosemont Parade  
Vincent Pizzi - Bryn Mawr Fire Company

Hello Friend:

It is this time of year that we look forward to the Garrett Hill-Rosemont Parade and Celebration. Please join your family, friends and neighbors to celebrate Independence Day and our community spirit that makes Garrett Hill, Rosemont and Bryn Mawr a great place to live. Check out [garretthillpa.com](http://garretthillpa.com) to learn more about this year's Fourth of July celebration.

It has been a challenging year for all of us and for many reasons but I am optimistic. In the past months our Township has faced some very serious issues concerning our prior Township Manager and many of the personnel policies.

Please see *Township Management* on page 3

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## Budget Update

As you can imagine, our 2009 operating budget is in deep trouble due to the national economic downturn. In December 2008 the Commissioners approved a reduced operating budget in response to the depressed economy. Despite our best effort

Please see *Budget Update* on page 2

## Garrett Hill Overlay District Zoning

Since October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Garrett Hill Coalition (GHC) and the Steering Committee members (GHSC) have worked tirelessly to guide the Garrett Hill overlay district planning. The Board of Commissioners officially appointed the GHSC during our December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting back in 2007 and since that time our planner (URS) developed the plan with guidance from the GHSC. The plan was completed many months ago but since that time the plan has been challenged by a few business and property owners within the district. It is important that this plan is reviewed by the Planning Commission and approved by the Board of Commissioners so that our Community can benefit from new zoning that will preserve and enhance our Garrett Hill Community.

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*"GHC has worked hard to create zoning changes that will preserve and enhance Garrett Hill"*

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## Pedestrian Safety



*Pedestrians who step into a crosswalk have the right of way – you must stop your vehicle to allow their safe passage.*

**Pedestrian safety** is still a big issue for our Ward. I continue to work to help transform our neighborhoods into a safer walking town. For example, the speed limit was reduced from 35 to 25 MPH on Lancaster Avenue from Spring Mill (320) to Allendale Road through the 7th ward in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January 2008.

The newest enhancement has been the Pedestrian Alert Panels mounted at the crosswalks throughout Garrett Hill, Villanova University area and other areas of the Township. I have requested that crosswalks are well painted, have proper signage and expect our police department to enforce the State Law that requires drivers to yield to pedestrians when they step into crosswalks. Please do your part to stop your vehicle for any pedestrian who steps into the crosswalk - it is the law!

I plan to continue working at reduced speed limits in our neighborhoods. However, this will require a legislative change to allow our police to legally post and enforce speed limits below 25 MPH. Currently the state will not permit speed limits below 25MPH except in active school zones. Residents in most of our neighborhoods are crying out for reduced speed limits to make it safer for those walking and our children at play. I hope we can see drivers slow down and drive at people speeds when traveling our local streets.

### **Budget Update from page 1**

at predicting the effect of our downturn we are now faced with a projected \$4M shortfall by end-of-year due to reductions in our realty transfer tax, fees, permits and business tax revenues.

For example, realty transfers revenues are down 61% for May over the prior year. Revenues from our fees are off 40%, permits are down 73% and business taxes have held up due to aggressive auditing and collections but 54 (30 in 2008) businesses have filed final returns (closed operations) in Radnor.

I have worked hard over the past two budget cycles to cut spending and drive fiscal responsibility. I must say I was not as effective as I'd like due to resistance from the Administration and fellow Commissioners to change course.

I am pushing for major cuts in operational spending for the remainder of 2009 and those cuts could effect some services in the short term but my goal is to find and eliminate any inefficiencies, prevent a major deficit in 2010 and to prevent a large double-digit (20%+) tax increase.

*The projected \$4M revenue shortfall by end of year will challenge our operations*



## Community Policing

Back in the fall of 2007 I arranged a community meeting on **crime and crime prevention** in response to many burglaries that occurred in our area in the spring and summer of 2007. Since that time we have seen a dramatic decrease in burglaries. Unfortunately, we are still experiencing some burglaries and there are still continuous thefts from cars in our neighborhoods. Please take precautions to secure your home and vehicles and report any information or suspicious activity to our police department at 610-688-5600. I have requested additional patrols, community policing and expect police on bicycle patrols this summer when possible.



### Quick Security Tips

- Keep all doors and windows closed and securely locked.
- Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights and small radios.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lighted using motion sensing lights when possible.
- Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Have mail stopped or collected while away.
- Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway and check on your home daily.
- Keep some shades and blinds up and curtains open to maintain a normal everyday appearance.
- Never change your outgoing answering machine message telling people that you are away.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways.

### Township Management from page 1

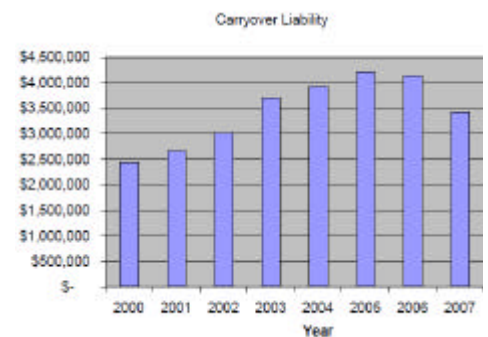
I worked with my fellow Commissioners to change a long-standing personnel practice in our Township government that allowed unlimited carryover of vacation, sick time and comp time. This practice continued for decades unchecked and has led to over \$4.2M in unfunded liabilities. For example, employees were routinely paid out on separation their accrued vacation, sick time and comp time. This practice was not supported by our administrative code and basically deferred personnel costs from current budgets which came to a head in 2006.

Over the past six months, we took on this issue and worked to change the policies so that accrued vacation would be taken as vacation, sick time would be used for sickness and comp time would not be paid out to salaried workers. Our Police and RATE unions are still able to accrue time under their respective contracts but we hope to get our unions to recognize that this practice can not continue because it is fiscally irresponsible. I personally led the charge to create a funding mechanism to set aside funds year-over-year to fund this liability so we are not forced to borrow money to pay the debt. I expect the Board to take official action shortly and begin the funding strategy by next year.

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*The carryover practice continued for decades unchecked and led to over \$4.2M in unfunded liabilities.*

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## Student Housing

**Student housing** continues to have a negative impact on our neighborhoods with continued noise and parking issues for our permanent residents. While we must respect the right of landlords and their tenants, I believe we can take steps to encourage home ownership to help make our neighborhoods more family friendly. I am encouraging increased enforcement and compliance of our rental ordinance and will work to strengthen the current ordinance in the coming year.

Over the past year, I have been working with the University Administration and the Student Government Association at Villanova University to create opportunities for the students to integrate into our community in meaningful and positive ways.

For example, the first annual Villanova Community Dinner was held on February 26, 2009 in the Radnor-St. David's Room in Connelly Center. The community event was organized by the Villanova SGA's External Affairs Committee with the intention of strengthening the relationship between students and the surrounding community. The dinner gave residents and students a forum to discuss ways to reduce the impact of the University on our community.

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FRIENDS OF THE  
 WILLOWS COTTAGE

Despite the fiscal challenges we face, civic-minded folks have come together to solve problems. For example, The Friends of the Willows Cottage was formed to save and restore the Willows Cottage.

The cottage was slated for demolition last year but volunteers led by Mark Janiczek (Janiczek Homes) have worked tirelessly to transform the condition and find a use for the cottage. As a result of their volunteer effort, The Radnor Conservancy and Greener Partners joined forces and now Radnor has its first Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm operation. See [willowscottage.org](http://willowscottage.org) for more information.

### Tired of wet basements?

Water conservation and stormwater management can work hand in hand. Please do your part to reduce your impact on stormwater runoff by using rain barrels and rain gardens to capture rain water runoff at the source.



If you would like receive the newsletter via email, please register at the community website [RadnorWard7.com](http://RadnorWard7.com) or email me directly. If you have any issue or concern and would like to share it with me, please feel free to call my home at 610-519-0253. Thank you.