

The King of Prussia Gazette

Preserving Upper Merion's Past to Enliven its Future

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Montalvo

I am happy to report that the King of Prussia Historical Society continues to grow and to expand its reach. Our Facebook page has over 2,000 followers; our newsletter reaches over 300 people; membership is up and our finances are sound. Your willingness to support us by being members is the foundation of our ability to preserve our heritage and to educate. Yet there is more work to be done!

Because the search for a permanent home is taking longer than anticipated, we aim in the coming year to acquire a temporary space in which to store our archive and to begin the work of properly cataloguing, scanning and photographing what we have.

Also, sometime in the next year we hope to get a historical marker program up and running. There are many sites in the area deserving of recognition and preservation, and with your help and the support of the greater community, we hope to display their stories in a manner that will enlighten current residents as well as future generations.

These endeavors will require the help of volunteers as well as financial support. Toward that end, we welcome on board Liz Daleandro as our new Director of Development. Liz brings boundless enthusiasm and a wealth of experience as President of the Upper Merion Mother's Club. Through Liz's insight, we have come to realize that the King of Prussia Historical Society serves a variety of different audiences. With this realization in mind, we are implementing various new event and fundraiser ideas (in addition to continuing our popular speaker series) aimed at broadening our base of support. Look for them in the coming months!

Also look for the Upper Merion Police Department's new van, decorated with the names of our local communities past and present. We received an e-mail from Officer Joseph Davies back in June telling us about the idea and asking for a list of place names. This request generated quite a bit of discussion among the Society leadership. Between old village names and the names of new developments, the list grew quite long and eventually led to the interactive map of Place Names of the Upper Merion Area Through Time, now posted on our website. We are happy to see that those names are also now memorialized on the van. Great idea, Officer Davies!



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