

# Haverford State Hospital Update



## Indoor Facility Planner Hired

The Township has enlisted the services of Martin Kimmel from the firm of Kimmel Bogrette to advise on the construction cost, operating cost and cost recovery models for various options on the Recreation / Environmental Building proposed for the former hospital site. Funding for the consultant acquired with help from State Rep Greg Vitali.

The consultant will present his report to the Board of Commissioner in late March to assist them in their funding decisions.

These Preliminary plans were approved in November by the Board of Commissioners.

The Recreation component consists of walking and bike trails, 4 multiuse ball fields, 2 picnic pavilions, a dog park, a splash park, basketball courts, an amphitheater and 120 acres of open space.

The indoor facility we recommended is between 40-50,000 square feet; (about the size of the Skatium) containing a walking track, 2 full size basketball/volleyball courts, a wellness area, a community lap/ leisure pool, community meeting rooms and a environmental area.

## Dear Taxpayers / Recreation and Open Space Enthusiasts,

The recently signed Haverford State Hospital agreement represents a great comeback victory for the residents of our township. This plan reflects what most of us said we favored in surveys and public meetings.

The previous agreement signed in 2003 had maximum development, undersized fields on steep slopes, and no room for parking. It was inaccessible, of little use and ill-conceived. The engineering required was prohibitive.

Critics of the new agreement seem to differentiate between the 'taxpayers', and those of us who support the new plan. However, we are all taxpayers. Our difference is in what we value.

As someone who recently turned 60, and as parent and grandparent, I know there are some things in life more valuable than money. Among them are a healthy environment and a strong community. This plan supports both. Whereas any additional funds from the 2003 plan may have been a short-term gain financially, the additional usable acreage for recreation and open space from this plan, will be a gain now, and for generations to come.

I applaud the new leadership, especially Liaison Committee members Andy Lewis and Steve D'Emilio. Their diligence enabled the township to negotiate this new, much improved plan.

Please join us at the Open House on Feb 2 and 3 to see what our future holds.

**Rich Caroto - Chairman**

**Park and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board**

## Guest Speakers for Your Organization

If your club, church or organization would like a speaker to come and explain the benefits and details of the historic Haverford State Hospital to your members please call 610-446-9397 or email [info@havtwpparksandrec.com](mailto:info@havtwpparksandrec.com)

## Field Trip to Recreation Facility Saturday, Feb 17

Any interested resident is welcome to join in a field trip to see the Indoor Recreation facility opened in Bethlehem in 2005. The 46,000 square foot facility cost \$10.3 million and is similar to that proposed in our recommendations for the hospital site.

The facility was designed by the firm of Kimmel Bogrette, the firm hired to assist the township.

A bus will leave from Glendale Park at 10am and return at 3pm. You may also drive on your own. Call to register 610-446-9397. Tony Zinni, of the Active Recreation Committee will lead the tour.

**Benefits of Nature** - Exploring nature, up close and personally, has tremendous value to our psychological well-being. The therapeutic value of outdoor education programs has been proven, especially for troubled youth with mental health problems. Studies showed a significant reduction in attention deficit disorder symptoms when they engaged in nature.

## Happy Trails

Congratulations to all those who worked on acquiring the grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Commission to help design the trails at Haverford State. If you or your organization would like to get involved with designing, building or maintaining the trails contact Tim Denny at 610-446-9397 or [info@havtwpparksandrec.com](mailto:info@havtwpparksandrec.com)

## Aquatics Survey Results

Thanks to those who responded to last year's resident survey. A summary of aquatic results is below. **Of the 209 responses;**  
**190** went swimming last year  
**42** were competitive swimmers  
**200** said yes to indoor aquatics  
**3** said no  
**6** were undecided  
**137** favored a community pool  
**43** favored a competition pool  
**20** said either/both

## Name the New Park Contest

The Park and Recreation Board would like to hear your suggestions for naming the 169 acres of active and passive recreation space at the hospital site.

Park naming parameters include not naming after a living person, or deceased less than 5 years; and encourage local on historic significance. Send your suggestions to the Recreation Department at [info@havtwpparksandrec.com](mailto:info@havtwpparksandrec.com) or call and we will forward them to the Park Board. At the appropriate time the Board will make their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

