

## Stein, Josh

---

**From:** Leslie Richards <lesliesternrichards@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 15, 2013 10:25 PM  
**To:** Shapiro, Josh; Lambrugo, Lauren; Soltysiak, Lee; McGarry, Raymond; Holton, Jody; Stokes, Michael; Stein, Josh; Custer, Frank  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sale of Parkhouse and Open Space-- Urgently need your help!

FYI

Leslie S. Richards

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Leslie Richards <lesliesternrichards@gmail.com>  
**Date:** November 15, 2013 at 10:15:37 PM EST  
**To:** Jeff Harbison <jeffharbison@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Sale of Parkhouse and Open Space-- Urgently need your help!

On Nov 15, 2013, at 9:28 PM, Jeff Harbison <jeffharbison@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Leslie:

You should know that this agitating is going on.

Jeff

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Harbison, Jeff <jharbison@springfieldmontco.org>  
**Date:** Fri, Nov 15, 2013 at 9:30 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Sale of Parkhouse and Open Space-- Urgently need your help!  
**To:** jeffharbison@gmail.com

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lisa A. Mossie [mailto:lmossie@uprov-montco.org]  
**Sent:** Fri 11/15/2013 9:19 PM  
**Cc:** [hatfield@hatfieldtownship.org](mailto:hatfield@hatfieldtownship.org); [mlefevre@abington.org](mailto:mlefevre@abington.org); [Cheltenham@cheltenham-township.org](mailto:Cheltenham@cheltenham-township.org); [jkelly@lowermerion.org](mailto:jkelly@lowermerion.org); [demartinis@gmail.com](mailto:demartinis@gmail.com); [jillblumhardt@verizon.net](mailto:jillblumhardt@verizon.net); [fntim59@gmail.com](mailto:fntim59@gmail.com); [FGonzalesWard4@gmail.com](mailto:FGonzalesWard4@gmail.com); [dsirken@lower-moreland.org](mailto:dsirken@lower-moreland.org); [dkuritz@lower-moreland.org](mailto:dkuritz@lower-moreland.org); [feedback@lowerpottsgrove.org](mailto:feedback@lowerpottsgrove.org); [Plymouth@plymouthtownship.org](mailto:Plymouth@plymouthtownship.org); Gillies, Robert E.; Schaum, Glenn A.; Standish, Baird; Harbison, Jeff; Alison Peirce; Dailey, James; Bell, Tom;

[AllCommissionersGroup@upperdublin.net](mailto:AllCommissionersGroup@upperdublin.net); [lperrone@uppergynedd.org](mailto:lperrone@uppergynedd.org);  
[ksweeney@uppermoreland.org](mailto:ksweeney@uppermoreland.org); [administration@uptownship.org](mailto:administration@uptownship.org);  
[gsto@wntwp.com](mailto:gsto@wntwp.com); [wptmanager@comcast.net](mailto:wptmanager@comcast.net); [phiryak@douglasstownship.org](mailto:phiryak@douglasstownship.org);  
[info@eastnorringtonwp.org](mailto:info@eastnorringtonwp.org); [info@franconiatownship.org](mailto:info@franconiatownship.org); [Horsham@horsham.org](mailto:Horsham@horsham.org);  
[jstpedro@limerickpa.org](mailto:jstpedro@limerickpa.org); [edewan@limerickpa.org](mailto:edewan@limerickpa.org); [kshuler@limerickpa.org](mailto:kshuler@limerickpa.org);  
[ksperring@limerickpa.org](mailto:ksperring@limerickpa.org); [thomasneafcy@comcast.net](mailto:thomasneafcy@comcast.net);  
[staff@lowerfrederick.org](mailto:staff@lowerfrederick.org); [lcomunale@lowergwynedd.org](mailto:lcomunale@lowergwynedd.org);  
[admin@lowerprovidence.org](mailto:admin@lowerprovidence.org); [township@lowersalfordtownship.org](mailto:township@lowersalfordtownship.org);  
[esadorf@malboroughpa.org](mailto:esadorf@malboroughpa.org); [generalinfo@montgomerytwp.org](mailto:generalinfo@montgomerytwp.org);  
[epogany@newhanover-pa.org](mailto:epogany@newhanover-pa.org); [cdaniel@perktwp.org](mailto:cdaniel@perktwp.org); [salfordtownship@cs.com](mailto:salfordtownship@cs.com);  
[tedl@skippacktownship.org](mailto:tedl@skippacktownship.org); [info@towamencin.org](mailto:info@towamencin.org); [jtallon@upperfrederick.com](mailto:jtallon@upperfrederick.com);  
[sseitinger@comcast.net](mailto:sseitinger@comcast.net); [info@umtownship.org](mailto:info@umtownship.org); [Ted.uppersalford@comcast.net](mailto:Ted.uppersalford@comcast.net);  
[Rick.uppersalford@comcast.net](mailto:Rick.uppersalford@comcast.net); [Kevin.uppersalford@comcast.net](mailto:Kevin.uppersalford@comcast.net);  
[rmellor@whitemarshwp.org](mailto:rmellor@whitemarshwp.org); [rpronczak@whitpaintownship.org](mailto:rpronczak@whitpaintownship.org);  
[abustard@worcestertwp.com](mailto:abustard@worcestertwp.com); [scaughlan@worcestertwp.com](mailto:scaughlan@worcestertwp.com);  
[squigley@worcestertwp.com](mailto:squigley@worcestertwp.com); [manager@borough.ambler.pa.us](mailto:manager@borough.ambler.pa.us);  
[tedpruskowski@gmail.com](mailto:tedpruskowski@gmail.com); [jag4lam@aol.com](mailto:jag4lam@aol.com); [rcourtney12@comcast.net](mailto:rcourtney12@comcast.net);  
[peaceoheavn@msn.com](mailto:peaceoheavn@msn.com); [kenf315@verizon.net](mailto:kenf315@verizon.net); [chief32gwfc@comcast.net](mailto:chief32gwfc@comcast.net);  
[tc955@msn.com](mailto:tc955@msn.com); [pkohut@aol.com](mailto:pkohut@aol.com); [jpizza57111@verizon.net](mailto:jpizza57111@verizon.net);  
[gthompson@borough.collegeville-pa.gov](mailto:gthompson@borough.collegeville-pa.gov); [fmarabella@conshohockenpa.org](mailto:fmarabella@conshohockenpa.org);  
[office@egreenville.org](mailto:office@egreenville.org); [greenlaneboro@comcast.net](mailto:greenlaneboro@comcast.net); [mayor@hatborogov.org](mailto:mayor@hatborogov.org);  
[jzygmont@hatborogov.org](mailto:jzygmont@hatborogov.org); [btompkins@hatborogov.org](mailto:btompkins@hatborogov.org);  
[tharbaugh@hatborogov.org](mailto:tharbaugh@hatborogov.org); [rhegele@hatborogov.org](mailto:rhegele@hatborogov.org); [drich@hatborogov.org](mailto:drich@hatborogov.org);  
[msheedy@hatborogov.org](mailto:msheedy@hatborogov.org); [pflaming@hatborogov.org](mailto:pflaming@hatborogov.org);  
[admin@hatfieldborough.com](mailto:admin@hatfieldborough.com); [borohall@jenkintownboro.com](mailto:borohall@jenkintownboro.com);  
[mfuller@lansdale.org](mailto:mfuller@lansdale.org); [smalagari@lansdale.org](mailto:smalagari@lansdale.org); [jvandame@lansdale.org](mailto:jvandame@lansdale.org);  
[jhansen@lansdale.org](mailto:jhansen@lansdale.org); [rdigregorio@lansdale.org](mailto:rdigregorio@lansdale.org); [msobel@lansdale.org](mailto:msobel@lansdale.org);  
[mwest@lansdale.org](mailto:mwest@lansdale.org); [dburnell@lansdale.org](mailto:dburnell@lansdale.org); [ddunigan@lansdale.org](mailto:ddunigan@lansdale.org);  
[Narberth@comcast.net](mailto:Narberth@comcast.net); [mayor@lansdale.org](mailto:mayor@lansdale.org); [wcaidwell@norristown.org](mailto:wcaidwell@norristown.org);  
[gsimpson@norristown.org](mailto:gsimpson@norristown.org); [lchristian@norristown.org](mailto:lchristian@norristown.org);  
[mde Souza@norristown.org](mailto:mde Souza@norristown.org); [clawrence@norristown.org](mailto:clawrence@norristown.org); [cburke@norristown.org](mailto:cburke@norristown.org);  
[ndysard@northwalesborough.org](mailto:ndysard@northwalesborough.org); [pennsburginfo@pennsburg.us](mailto:pennsburginfo@pennsburg.us);  
[Administration@pottstown.org](mailto:Administration@pottstown.org); [redhillborough@comcast.net](mailto:redhillborough@comcast.net);  
[gmetzinger@rockledgeborough.org](mailto:gmetzinger@rockledgeborough.org); [jguest@royersfordborough.org](mailto:jguest@royersfordborough.org);  
[mleonard@royersfordborough.org](mailto:mleonard@royersfordborough.org); [awfcouncil501z@schwenksville-pa.org](mailto:awfcouncil501z@schwenksville-pa.org);  
[rjmcouncil862b@schwenksville-pa.org](mailto:rjmcouncil862b@schwenksville-pa.org); [RayWY467r@schwenksville-pa.org](mailto:RayWY467r@schwenksville-pa.org);  
[lamiller701y@schwenksville-pa.org](mailto:lamiller701y@schwenksville-pa.org); [ldcouncil647b@schwenksville-pa.org](mailto:ldcouncil647b@schwenksville-pa.org);  
[jgiunta.mayor928a@schwenksville-pa.org](mailto:jgiunta.mayor928a@schwenksville-pa.org); [info@soudertonborough.org](mailto:info@soudertonborough.org);  
[manager@trappeborough.com](mailto:manager@trappeborough.com); [menglish@westconsho.com](mailto:menglish@westconsho.com); Phil Barker; John  
Pearson; [eskypala@skypalalaw.com](mailto:eskypala@skypalalaw.com); Steve English  
Subject: Sale of Parkhouse and Open Space-- Urgently need your help!

Dear fellow Montgomery County Municipal Leaders,

As you may know, Montgomery County is selling Parkhouse, the centuries-old institution in Upper Providence Township that currently serves as a geriatric home for county residents, to Mid-Atlantic Healthcare LLC. Under county management, Parkhouse is currently a five star institution that provides quality care for the county's low-to-moderate income aging population with their large

percentage of Medicaid beds. Whether the status quo will be maintained by the new owners is a source of much public angst.

What you may not be aware of is that the sale of Parkhouse also includes 220 acres of, what Upper Providence has always believed was, permanently preserved open space surrounding this institution. This parcel has been listed as open space on county maps since at least 2005; it was listed as permanently preserved open space in Upper Providence Township's 2006 open space plan which was then incorporated into the Township's 2010 Comprehensive Plan. Several years ago, Spring-Ford School District approached the County to develop a portion of this parcel as a middle school; this development was flatly denied by the County Administration at that time on the grounds that the Parkhouse parcel was permanently preserved open space.

This 220 acres was included in the sale of Parkhouse as a line item for \$3 million dollars of the total \$39 million sale. At no time was this land ever offered to Upper Providence Township for purchase at any price.

To date, Upper Providence has not received any plans for this land from the buyer or the county. We have been told by both county officials and Mid-Atlantic representatives only that there are currently "no specific plans" for this land.

Below is a link to a letter to the editor that appeared in the Nov. 13 Pottstown Mercury outlining some of my concerns regarding this transaction.

<http://www.pottsmmerc.com/opinion/20131112/op-ed-lack-of-transparency-surrounding-sale-of-montco-senior-complex>

The following article appeared in the November 8 Pottstown Mercury and suggests that Montgomery County is selling a treasured asset to fill an operating budget shortfall:

<http://www.pottsmmerc.com/government-and-politics/20131108/parkhouse-sale-helps-montco-to-540000-projected-budget-surplus>

At this writing, none of the local papers have weighed in with an op-ed on the prudence of the sale of Parkhouse, and quite frankly, the media silence on a consequential transaction of this magnitude is troubling indeed. With the sensational resignation of MCRC Chairman Bob Kerns currently splashed a

throughout all of the local publications, any coverage of this sale, and any controversy surrounding it, has been and now will probably continue to be muted.

I urgently need your help in drawing public attention to this issue.

The County wants to close this sale before the end of the year. Please add your voice to mine in calling for accountability from our County officials to honor the public trust and preserve the open space to which they have already committed throughout the County. I am asking you to please write to your local paper, contact your local state representatives, tell your residents, or even pass a resolution in support of Upper Providence's goal to preserve the open space surrounding Parkhouse. But above all, if you haven't already, make sure all of the publicly owned designated open space in your municipality is properly zoned so you are protected from a similar situation happening in your hometown. When Upper Providence officials learned of the potential sale, we immediately took the only steps available to us to protect the land and rezoned it. The Parkhouse tract in Upper Providence is currently zoned as Open Space, but there is an institutional overlay on the property which will allow for some institutional development.

This issue transcends party politics and ideology and Montgomery County's handling of this sale should resonate with anyone who respects open space and its place in the smart growth and land development of our municipalities. Remember Parkhouse and Upper Providence Township when you go to the voting booth in 2015.

Make no mistake: the sale of county-owned open space is unprecedented. If the county can sell 220 acres of permanently protected open space in Upper Providence simply to balance their budget, then quite frankly, no county-owned open space is safe.

Thank you for your support. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Lisa Mossie

Vice Chairman

Upper Providence Township

484-302-6320