

# Letters to the Editor

## Setting the Record Straight

In the November issue, your Editor's Note was: "To help voters make an informed decision in the upcoming election for the position of Township Supervisor, we are presenting the following letters from the candidates. These letters are in their own words and have not been edited."

Because the November issue came out the weekend before the election, I was not able to respond to the "Letter to the Editor" from my opponent to address his misrepresentations and I am responding in this "Letter to the Editor" to set the record straight. I would have responded to the following statements by Brian Lucot, in bold type, in the November, 2019, "Letters to the Editor" had I had the opportunity:

**1. Our police and fire departments are underfunded and they are stuck using old and dilapidated equipment.**

South Park's 2019 budget is \$7.3 million of which the Police Department's portion is \$2.5 Million or 33.4% of the General Budget. I, my fellow Supervisors, Township Manager, and Police Chief would never knowingly permit our police to be stuck using old and dilapidated equipment to protect themselves and the residents of South Park.

**2. Fire Departments are underfunded.**

Volunteer Fire Departments are not part of the Township's organizational chart and are independent organizations. They raise funds to operate by annual fund drives, bingos, gun bashes, and grants. The Township pays premiums for liability insurance, workman's compensation insurance, auto insurance, and supplemental insurance should a fireman be injured. We pay annually \$10,000 to each department for small equipment purchased and repairs and we pay for all fuel used. The Township plows and salts the parking lots at the fire departments. The fire departments came to the Township seeking money for the purchase of large fire trucks. The trade off is to eliminate one night of bingo fundraising so that the evening can be used for training and recruiting instead of working a bingo to raise money. The Township is currently awaiting the finalization of a certified audit so that Fire Department's needs can be justified.

**3. South Park continues to fall behind neighboring communities like Bethel Park, Peters Township, and Jefferson Hills.**

South Park is fiscally sound providing services "Without Tax Increases" and the residents like the idea of being a bedroom community. South Park is ranked high as a Safe Livable Community and is designated as a Banner Community.

**4. South Park does not have a Chamber of Commerce.**

South Park decided to join with our neighbor and friends at the Bethel Chamber which serves South Park, Bethel Park, and Castle Shannon, all having a direct link to Library Road, State Route 88.

**5. South Park does not have a grocery store.**

South Park had a Foodland in Library and it is now a Rite Aid. Years ago the Bavarian Village was to have a grocery store but didn't happen because it was deemed not to be a profitable venture by the developer and a post office was constructed instead. Businesses will come if they can be profitable. The Dollar General, Co-Go's, and 7-Eleven are doing well in South Park. There is a grocery store proposed at Summit Station and hopefully it will be supported by the residents so the developer can forecast a profitable venture.

## Thank You, South Park

I want to thank the residents of South Park Township for giving me the opportunity to represent and serve them as Supervisor. Special thanks to my wife, my family, Noah Formica, Devlin Robinson, State Rep. Mike Puskaric, Josh Hensler, and everyone else that volunteered at the polls, donated, invited me to speak at meetings, put a sign in their yard, recommended me to their friends and families, and voted on November 5th. I thoroughly enjoyed campaigning and all that came with it.

While campaigning was very fun and a lot of hard work, I know that the real work has not begun. I meant what I said throughout this campaign and I fully intend to work to achieve the bullet points outlined in my campaign platform. We need to improve the equipment utilized by our first responders. We need to improve our economic climate in South Park. We need to improve our township facilities and look to expand opportunities for our constituents. We need to modernize our communications and technology so we can improve the way we provide information and interact with residents. As your Supervisor, I promise to utilize my work ethic, creativity, ability to build relationships, and negotiating style to achieve these things.

Finally, I want to say thank you to Dave Buchewicz. Dave has been a dedicated public servant and he has worked very hard to help make South Park the great township that it is. He serves in numerous other organizations, boards, groups, etc... and his efforts and hard work are very admirable. In my new role, I hope to build on the solid foundation that we have here in South Park Township. I look forward to working with Ed Snee, Walt Sackinsky, Karen Fosbaugh, the township employees, commissions, boards, organizations, and residents of South Park.

Thank You All and God Bless You!

**Brian M. Lucot**

*Township Supervisor Elect*

## Blue Moon Changing Hands



**Shaena and Tony Smith, New Owners of Blue Moon Salon and Day Spa.**

We would like to thank all of you for your support in making Blue Moon Salon and Day Spa such a great success over the last

**6. South Park does not have indoor bathrooms at it's largest park.**

The Township has been discussing bathrooms at Evan's since 2007 and we are still awaiting commitments from the Associations that use Evans. The commitments we need are the same as the commitments given by the Girl's Softball Association at Wilson Field.

**7. South Park does not have a Rec Center.**

In the past, we have looked at expanding our Community Center to include a Recreation Center and it was determined it was not an economical investment for ALL residents of South Park and the Township currently has a great facility sharing agreement with the School District.

**8. South Park does not even have a Facebook page.**

Finally, the Township does have a web page, [www.southpark-township.com](http://www.southpark-township.com) and you can sign up for our e-newsletter. South Park Township Police and the South Park Library have Facebook pages. Monitoring a Facebook page is a difficult task and our Manager has better things to do with her time.

*David J. Buchewicz*  
*Township Supervisor*

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