

May 3, 2007

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forks Township needs open access, visibility

To the editor:

Forks Township is facing a very critical election on May 15. As the township decides what type of candidates should lead our community for the next six years, I believe voters in the township should consider a few key issues.

First, a candidate for public office should have the highest level of integrity. Second, we need to have an open access policy. Finally, proactively reaching out to the public on critical issues and seeking diverse ideas while formulating public policy is a must.

Open access is the ability of our township residents to have exposure to our local leadership. There should be no mystery in how our township operates on a daily basis. In other words, create a level of transparency between the Board of Supervisors, township operations and our residents. For example, a government that practices open access requires having all public documents on our Web site, providing a free copy of the Comprehensive Plan to our residents, easy access to developers' proposals that affect our way of life, public display of all traffic studies, and access to the 2007 budget in a timely manner.

Each of the critical service organiza-

tions (police, fire, and EMS) should make a yearly report to the township residents to improve our understanding of these departments and how we benefit as a community from these dedicated professionals. Additionally, broadcasting our Board of Supervisor meetings on the local cable community outlet channels would increase the Board of Supervisors' visibility as well as an understanding of what's happening in our community.

David Billings
Forks Township

(Editor's note: David Billings is a Republican candidate for the Forks Township Board of Supervisors)