

*Individuals Concerned for Newtown Square*



*www.ic4ns.org*

*"Connecting the Dots"*

# **Introduction to Our New Civic Association:**

**By**

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***President***

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***KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION***

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**AGENDA**

- ***Defining Our Development Values & Current Focus***
- ***Defining Our Educational Values & Current Focus***
- ***Elaborating on Our Concerns about:***
  - ***Major current, proposed, and future development of property***
  - ***Loss of our assets, our character, and our protection of them***
  - ***Our children’s and adult education***
  - ***Use of our taxes to support education***
  - ***Employment opportunities for our residents and our students after graduation or completion of a certification program***
- ***Membership Levels and Benefits***
- ***Overview and Brief Demo of IC4NS.ORG Web Site***

**KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**

**OUR DEVELOPMENT VALUES**

***Oppose development that would:***

- **ZONING** - *Be inconsistent with the character of the surrounding zoning land areas*
- **TRAFFIC** - *Substantially increase traffic congestion on streets to such a high degree of probability that it will adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of the community*
- **PROPERTY VALUES** - *Be detrimental to other properties in the area*
- **OPEN SPACE/DENSITY** - *Overcrowd the land or create an undue congestion of population*
- **PUBLIC SYSTEM IMPACTS** - *Substantially burden the transportation, water, sewers, groundwater, school, parks and other facilities; and/or otherwise adversely affect the public health, safety, morals or public welfare*
- **WATER QUANTITY/QUALITY** - *Adversely affect the quantity/quality of our water bodies, groundwater, and water supply*

## ***KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION***

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### ***OUR DEVELOPMENT VALUES***

***Oppose development that would:***

- **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT** - *Impair stormwater controls, create undue amount of impervious surfaces, or cause soil erosion*
- **AIR QUALITY** - *Impair the health, safety, and welfare of individuals and residents due to an adequate supply of clean air and adequate light to adjacent and nearby property*
- **NOISE** - *Impair the health, safety, and welfare of the individuals and residents in adjacent and nearby properties*
- **PARKING** - *Adversely affect off-street parking*
- **IDENTITY** - *Affect the character of the immediate neighborhood by failing to conserve the values of existing buildings not encourage the most appropriate use of the land*
- **AESTETICS** - *Fail to provide architecture of buildings and surrounding impervious surfaces in harmony with existing character of the Township*

**KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**

**OUR EDUCATIONAL VALUES**

***Enthusiastically support the following belief statements:***

- **“Education**
  - *is the foundation of a successful society*
  - *enables students to become responsible, contributing, empathetic members of society*
  - *helps students set goals and prepare for the world beyond the district*
  - *addresses the development needs, learning style, aptitude, and achievement of the individual*
  - *is a partnership between home, school, and community*
  - *requires financial commitment with accountability*



**KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**

**OUR EDUCATIONAL VALUES**

***Enthusiastically support the following belief statements:***

- **Learning** - is a life-long activity
- **Technologies and Their Application** - *play a vital role in the educational process*
- **Local Resources** - are rich assets for, and complementary to, the school
- **Quality Staff, Dedicated to Excellence** - is essential for student success
- **(Enabling) the Process of Learning in a Nurturing and Academically Challenging Environment** - enhances self-esteem and success
- **Meeting the Intellectual, Emotional, Social, Ethical, and Physical Needs of Students** - is critical to effective education
- **Understanding and Respect for Cultural and Ethnic Diversity** - is promoted through education and communication

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***OUR EDUCATIONAL VALUES***

***Enthusiastically support the following belief statements:***

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**Students:**

- *need skills to become critical thinkers*
- *(need skills to resolve conflicts and to devise, innovate, or create win-win solutions)*
- *(need skills to collaborate with and listen to others to solve problems and resolve issues)*
- *(need skills to develop and monitor their own measures of performance to provide feedback for self-improvement, motivation, and self-worth)*

**Every Student - *has worth and can learn*”**

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***For all who are concerned about:***

- ***Major current, proposed, and future development of property***
  - *Episcopal Academy*
  - *Rouse’s Ashford Development*
  - *BPG’s Town Center*
  - *DeBotton’s Developments - Town Center (Marville Village)*
  - *Alberto Tract (Sunrise Assisted Living Facility)*
  - *Holloway Tract (Terazzo)*

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**KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**

***For all who are concerned about:***

- ***Loss of our assets, our character, and our protection of them***

**ASSETS:**

- *Our open space and trees*
- *Our old, but not historic, buildings/structures*
- *Our buffer zoning (SU1)*
- *Our property and homes*
- *Our environment -- including wetlands, flora & fauna*
- *Our health, safety, and welfare*

**CHARACTER:**

- *Our mature single family small, medium, large detached residences (50% of the Township in 2001)*
- *Our professional jobs and our professional residents*
- *Our small business people that we've known for years*

**KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**

***For all who are concerned about:***

- ***Our children’s and adult education***

- *What programs are presently in place or planned for the future to **eliminate the gap** between our middle and high school students performance and those of other higher performing local, national, and international schools?*
- *How are we rewarding our **adult and senior students** who complete their studies? Are we taking advantage of these resources in our community?*

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***KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION***

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***For all who are concerned about:***

- ***Use of our taxes to support education***
  - *The products of our educational system **ARE NOT** buildings but **ARE** children properly educated to compete in today’s local, national, and international markets.*
  - *An educationally challenged student in an older, but refurbished school building, is still an educationally challenged student in a new school building - **proficiency not access is needed***

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***For all who are concerned about:***

- ***Employment opportunities for our residents and our students after graduation or completion of a certification program***
  - *How many of our Newtown Township residents and/or students are employed by the businesses in the Corporate Center and SAP?*
  - *How many of our Newtown Township residents and/or students are employed by our small businesses or institutions?*

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## **What will IC4NS do to help make a difference and encourage action/change?**

- *Eliminate most needs to go to the township for fundamental documents and Plans (Saves time/encourages action)*
- *Provide summaries and conclusions from developers and Township studies when available (Identifies key issues)*
- *Provide summary notes of School/Township Board and related meetings (Saves time/Keeps residents current)*
- *Host a Web Site to keep residents informed on meetings/events on a weekly basis and provide a forum for member blogging (Keeps residents informed/Provides the public’s voices to be heard)*
- *Hold resident meetings as necessary to address issues and actions to be taken (United we stand, Divided we fall)*