



# Communicator

News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors

Winter 2003

1001 Stump Road  
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

Phone: (215) 393-6900  
Fax: (215) 855-6656

[www.montgomerytp.org](http://www.montgomerytp.org)

J. Robert Witmer,  
**Chairman**

Stephen A. Prousi,  
**Vice Chairman**

Warren P. Greenberg

Robert R. Kuhn

William J. Sarosky

John B. Nagel  
**Township Manager**

James V. Mallon  
**Editor**



*The Board of Supervisors recently thanked Roy Rodriguez (center) for his volunteer service to the Township. Supervisors (from left) Robert Kuhn, Pete Greenberg, Bob Witmer, Stephen Prousi and William Sarosky presented Mr. Rodriguez a certificate of appreciation. See page 2 for more details.*

## 2003 Budget Reflects More Equitable Tax Structure

The Board of Supervisors adopted the Township's 2003 operating and capital budgets at a meeting in December. The \$8.6 million budget reflects several changes in the Township's tax structure as part of the tax reform program initiated by the Board.

The budget calls for a 5 percent reduction in the Township's real estate tax millage, the ability to receive a \$10,000 Homestead Exclusion and a new 1 percent earned income tax. The changes are included in the Township's 2003-2007 strategic financial plan. The North Penn School District enacted a one-half of one percent earned income tax in July 2002. Montgomery Township, therefore, had to enact an earned income tax to protect its interest in the other one-half of one percent.

One goal of the plan was to implement a more equitable tax structure. This financial plan achieves the goals outlined by Pennsylvania Economy League's study to achieve equity in the

allocation of taxes paid in comparison to the services received by the taxpayer. This study showed that Montgomery Township previously expended more tax dollars on services for residents, as a group, than was collected from residents.

The Township's three largest sources of revenue are a mercantile tax, an earned income tax and a real estate tax. The mercantile tax, which accounts for \$1.8 million, is paid by businesses in the Township. The earned income tax will net \$1.8 million and real estate taxes will amount to \$1.6 million.

The earned income tax revenue includes more than \$1 million that residents were paying to other municipalities. This diverse and balanced tax structure will better prepare the Township for future fiscal challenges.

The largest expenditure in the budget is \$6 million for personnel. The Township employs 83

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Chairman's Message
- Citizen Salutes
- Recreation News
- Fire Safety Tips

## EAC Offers Recycling Tips



**Reduce** the amount of plastic, glass, and paper you buy,  
**Reuse** whatever you can,  
**Recycle** any plastic, paper, or glass that is left.

Please sort and recycle the following:

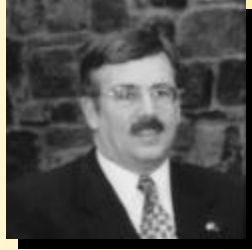
- Number 1 and 2 plastics
- Aluminum and other cans
- Clear and colored glass
- Newsprint and other paper
- Cardboard

General recycling tips:

- Cans and bottles should be washed out
- Remove all caps and lids; discard them with regular trash
- Only plastic items marked with a 1 or 2 symbol may be recycled
- Keep paper items away from other recyclables, preferably in paper bags
- Paper includes phone books, magazines, junk mail, newspaper and cereal boxes
- Wax coated cardboard milk and juice cartons are not recyclable
- Cardboard can be recycled at the Township building. It must be flattened out and placed in the recycling container. Please do not leave it on the ground.

The committee congratulates Lizell Office Furniture and John's Furniture for receiving the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission award for the most recycled materials.

## A Message From the Board of Supervisors Chairman Bob Witmer



*J. Robert Witmer*

During the first Board of Supervisors meeting of 2003, Bob O'Brien and Roy Rodriguez were recognized for their volunteer service to the township. Bob was honored for 33 years of service on the Park Board and Zoning Hearing Board. Roy was recognized for 12 years of service on the Planning Commission, Open Space Committee and the Shade Tree Commission. Please join us in thanking these gentlemen and all of the others who volunteer their time and expertise.

Volunteer service is one of the many things that makes Montgomery Township a great place to live. If you would like to explore several current opportunities for volunteer service, please contact Jim Mallon for details on openings or complete the nearby application.

We also thank the volunteers of the Fire Department of Montgomery Township, who started officially serving the Township on December 27, for their dedication and commitment.

If you have not filed your application for a Homestead Exclusion, please call the Township at 215-393-6900 for an application. Applications must be filed by March 1, 2003 to qualify for the 2004 exclusion.

We recognize that in today's environment we are all bombarded by an overflow of information and it's a challenge to sort out what's important. We are constantly seeking effective ways to make the information associated with significant events and issues in the Township more available to the residents in a timely fashion. Please check Channel 22 and [www.montgomerytwp.org](http://www.montgomerytwp.org) for updates. Whenever you have questions regarding Township operations, feel free to call 215-393-6900.

## Join The Township Team

The Township has a career opportunity in our Parks and Recreation Department for a Program Leader. Responsible for planning, organizing and instructing recreational programs. Occasional evening and weekend work. Minimum two years recreation or related field experience required. Bachelor's in recreation administration or related field preferred.

The Township is accepting applications for temporary summer employ-

ment as Camp Counselors and Senior Counselors in the Kid's University Camp, a six-week program, operating Monday through Thursday. Camp Counselors assist in camp activities. Related experience is preferred. Must be at least 15 years old. Senior Counselors lead camp activities and supervise activities. Related experience is required. Contact the Human Resources Office if you are interested in any of these positions.



# Recreation News

## Philadelphia Flower Show Tickets

Montgomery Township offers tickets to the Philadelphia Flower Show, held March 2 to 9. Tickets are \$18 for adults; \$10 for children. The tickets can be purchased at the Township Building between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. For further information regarding the Flower Show, please visit [www.philaflowershow.com](http://www.philaflowershow.com).



## Discounted Ski Tickets

Purchase tickets at your convenience at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are available for the following: Big Boulder/Jack Frost, Blue Mountain, Camel Back, Bear Creek, Elk Mountain, Montage, Shawnee Mountain, and more. We can fax a complete list of available tickets to you at your request.

**Look for the discount amusement park tickets in the spring!**

## North Penn Recreation Consortium Valentine Fun Fest

The NPRC is pleased to announce another great event for the entire family – including younger children, teens, and parents. The weekend starts off on Friday night with our Teen Adventure. We will have great food, as well as karaoke for the teens to participate in. As we move into Saturday afternoon bring your younger children out to enjoy games, puppets and a magician. On Saturday evening, adults can listen to fabulous jazz and can participate in a raffle.

### Teen Night

DATE: Friday, February 7  
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Youth and Adult Program

DATE: Saturday, February 8  
TIME: Youth: Noon to 3 p.m.  
Adult: 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
LOCATION: Montgomery Mall  
COST: Free  
HOST: North Penn Recreation Consortium

## Ice Skating

Montgomery Township hosts ice-skating at Melody Brook Ice Skating Rink. Sessions are held the third Saturday of the month through March. Tickets are available for the season's remaining sessions but can only be purchased at the Township Building Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DATES: February 15 and March 15  
TIME: 4:40 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.  
COST: \$2 per session  
HOST: Montgomery Township

## Driver's Education

This 30-hour theory program covers the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual and all phases of defensive driving. Completion of this course may make the teen driver eligible for reduced insurance rates. A permit or license is NOT required to begin the theory course. Text is provided. Register now!

DATES: Session I: January 27 to March 31  
Session II: April 14 to June 23  
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Montgomery Township Community Rooms  
COST: \$362, check made payable to Cameo Driving School  
AGE: Minimum age 15

Registrations accepted in-person or via mail with payment and completed form(s). Please make checks payable to Montgomery Township. Payments are accepted as cash or check ONLY. No Credit Cards Please.

Registrations are processed in the order they are received. Cancellation Policy: Programs are subject to cancellation if there is insufficient enrollment, inclement weather, or other reasons.

## Preschool Mania

We are offering an exciting program aimed at children ages 3 to 5. This program is designed to allow your toddler to meet new friends, socialize, sing, listen to stories and enjoy creative play indoors and outdoors. Conducted on Mondays and Wednesdays.

**DATES:**

Session I: February 3 to March 5 (No pre school President's Day)

Session II: March 17 to April 16

Session III: April 28 to May 28 (No preschool Memorial Day)

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to Noon

**LOCATION:** Montgomery Township Community Rooms

**COST:** Residents: \$90  
Non-Residents: \$100

**HOST:** Montgomery Township

**AGES:** 3 to 5

## Teen Volleyball

Teens join the recreation staff for an afternoon of volleyball Tuesdays and Thursdays at Spring Valley Park.

**DATES:** April 22 through May 29

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Volleyball Sand Court

**COST:** Residents: \$15.  
Nonresidents: \$20.

**AGES:** 12 to 14

## Sleepy Time Fun

Join the Recreation Department in your jammies for bedtime fun! Our pajama party will include crafts, stories, and bedtime snacks! Bring your sleeping bag or a blanket, and a pillow.

**DATES:** Session I: Saturday, Feb. 8, 2003

Session II: Saturday, April 12, 2003

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Montgomery Township Community Rooms

**COST:** Residents: \$5

Non-Residents: \$8

**AGES:** 3 to 5

## American Red Cross Babysitting Training Course

Your child can become a certified babysitter. Participants will be taught different safety techniques. Part of the course will be basic first aid training along with basic CPR techniques. Upon completion, participants will receive a canvas bag with information, first aid kit, manual, and certification.

**AGES:** 11 to 16

**DATE:** Saturday, March 1, 2003

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Montgomery Township Community Rooms

**HOST:** American Red Cross

**COST:** Residents: \$75.

Nonresidents: \$85.

Minimum of 8 participants/Maximum of 20 participants

## Temple University Basketball Game Trips

Come join Montgomery and Lower Gwynedd Townships Parks and Recreation Staff for a trip to Temple University for two enjoyable evenings of basketball. The bus will depart from the Lower Gwynedd Township Building at 5:30 p.m. sharp for both games.

Temple vs. Massachusetts Basketball Game

**DATE:** Wed., February 26, 2003

**TIME:** Game starts at 7 p.m.

**COST:** Residents: \$15

Non-Residents: \$20

Temple vs. LaSalle Basketball Game

**DATE:** Thursday, March 6th, 2003

**TIME:** Game starts at 7 p.m.

**COST:** Residents: \$15

Non-Residents: \$20

## JOIN MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP'S RECREATION STAFF FOR TWO FUN-FILLED EDUCATIONAL TRIPS!

### Trip to the Crayola Crayon Factory

Join the Recreation Staff in a trip to the Crayola Crayon Factory. Receive three (3) tokens at the door to receive a free sample of crayons, markers and molding clay. The bus will depart from the Township Building at 9 a.m. sharp and will return by 3 p.m.

**DATE:** Thursday, March 27, 2003

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**COST:** Residents: \$15 per person

Non-Residents: \$20 per person

**AGES:** All ages welcome

**HOST:** Montgomery Township

### Tour Historic Fort Mifflin

Tour Historic Fort Mifflin, with its 13 restored buildings to explore, including dungeons, soldier barracks, and powder magazines. As an added bonus our group will take part in a cannon demonstration. Participants should bring a bag lunch.

**DATE:** Monday, April 21, 2003

**TIME:** Sign in at 9:15 a.m. at the Township Building; bus departs at 9:30 a.m. and returns to the building by 2 p.m.

**COST:** Residents: \$20

Nonresidents: \$25

Minimum of 20, max. of 48 for trip to run

**HOST:** Montgomery Township

**AGES:** 8 and Older

Montgomery Township Building  
1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA 18936  
Phone: (215)393-6900 Fax: (215)855-6656  
9 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

# Montgomery Township Citizen Boards

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Works to promote a proactive program for environmental issues, including Adopt-A-Highway, card board and Christmas tree recycling, environmental education and composting workshops.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Assists with keeping distinct and accurate accounts of all sums received from taxes and other revenues in the Township.

## **PARK AND RECREATION BOARD**

Strives to enhance the quality of life in the Township through ongoing management of open space, maintenance and improvement of existing park facilities and providing a variety of recreational opportunities for residents.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Reviews plans for subdivision and land development and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Advisory committee also responsible for reviewing ordinances, ensuring development is in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan, making recommendations for rezoning and the overall land use plan of the Township.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Advises the Board of Supervisors on matters of traffic congestion, street lighting, noise, speeding and traffic complaints.

## **SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

Works to preserve, protect and replace shade trees in an effort to maintain an ecological balance.

## **ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Hears variance and special exception requests and interpretation challenges from the Montgomery Township zoning ordinance.

## **AUTUMN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

Organizes the annual Autumn Festival.

## **MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL SEWER AUTHORITY**

Responsible for overseeing construction and repair of Township sewer lines. Also responsible for financing the sewer collection system and arranging for proper treatment of all sewage.

### **MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE**

Planning Commission	First & Third Thursday of every month
Zoning Hearing Board	First Tuesday of every month
Shade Tree Commission	Third Wednesday of every month
Sewer Authority	Third Wednesday of every month
Public Safety Committee	Third Wednesday of every month
Finance Committee	Fourth Thursday of every month
Park and Recreation Board	Second Wednesday of every month
Environmental Advisory Committee	Fourth Tuesday of every month
Autumn Festival Committee	Fourth Wednesday of every month



# Citizen Board Application

Citizen Boards play a key role in helping maintain the quality of life in Montgomery Township. Residents volunteer their time to help with the Autumn Festival, review development plans and offer expertise on environmental issues. The Township welcomes volunteers. Please consider volunteering your time on one of the following committees. A brief description of each committee is included on the back of this page. We keep all applications on file for review when vacancies occur. Tune to Channel 22, the Township's Government Access Channel, for listings of current vacancies.

Thank you for your interest in helping your community.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

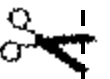
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a current resume with this form.

Check all those of interest:

- Autumn Festival Committee
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Finance Committee
- Park and Recreation Board
- Planning Commission
- Public Safety Committee
- Sewer Authority
- Shade Tree Commission
- Zoning Hearing Board

Please drop off, mail or fax to the Montgomery Township Building. Thank you!  
Montgomery Township, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA 18936 Fax (215) 855-6656

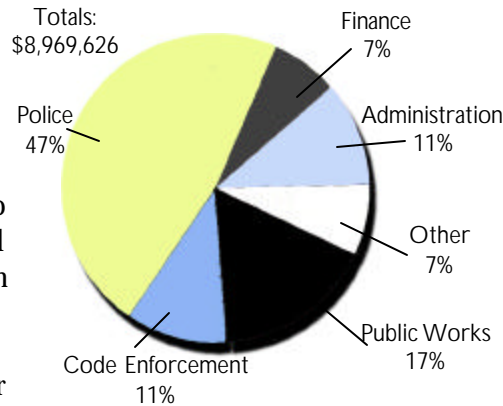


# Exclusion Available

people, ranging from police officers to parks and recreation staff. The personnel expenses reflect a 15 percent increase in medical insurance.

A Homestead Exclusion is available for all owner-occupied properties. If a property owner receives the exclusion, the real estate assessment for the property is reduced by an amount approved by the Board of Supervisors. That amount is \$10,000 in 2003.

Residents who applied for the 2003 exclusion should have received a letter indicating whether they will receive the exclusion. Residents who applied and received the exclusion will see the \$10,000 reduction reflected in this year's



## 2003 Departmental Expenses

Township real estate tax statement. The exclusion will result in a reduction in real estate taxes paid, since the millage is based upon a property's assessment. The Board of Supervisors encourages all residents to apply for the 2004 exclusion.

Applications must be filed by March 1 of this year and are available at the Township Building and [montgomerytwp.org](http://montgomerytwp.org).

## Codes Department Ready to Help

The Township's Code Enforcement Department is just a phone call away. For some residents, the only time they interact with the Department is when applying for a permit. However, Department members are regularly available to answer resident questions and respond to concerns. Before beginning a project, give the Department a call at 215-393-6920. One of the Department's building inspectors will be happy to discuss the project before the permit is submitted. The meeting can help identify major issues early on, saving precious time and money. Curious about a nearby construction project? Visit the Department to look at plans to learn the details. The Department is your source for all building-related issues. Department members are available to help Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

With the Spring and Summer building season nearing, the Department will extend its hours beginning in Spring. The Department will also offer seminars to present building code requirements. Visit [montgomerytwp.org](http://montgomerytwp.org) and watch Channel 22 for details.



Supervisor Chairman Bob Witmer (left) congratulates Ray Thomas for his actions that saved the life of Alicelle Laughlin (center). Carole Ann Thomas, Ray's wife, also attended the ceremony.

# Board Thanks Citizens For Their Good Deeds

The Board of Supervisors recently recognized several members of the community for their efforts on behalf of Township residents.

Ray Thomas was honored for saving the life of Alicelle Laughlin. Ms. Laughlin was at a local restaurant when she began to choke. Mr. Thomas performed the Heimlich maneuver on Ms. Laughlin, enabling her to breathe.

Joseph Tubolino was recognized for his role in helping break up a burglary ring. Mr. Tubolino called police after finding that his home had been broken into. He gave police a description of an unfamiliar sports utility vehicle that he

had noticed outside his home. The description led to the arrests of two suspects believed to be responsible for multiple burglaries over a two-day period.

John Grady, Elisabeth Long and Danielle Dembrosky received commendations for their roles in helping apprehend individuals who had stolen merchandise worth thousands of dollars from the Montgomery Mall. The trio noticed the suspects leaving and entering the mall multiple times with bags of merchandise, witnessed them stealing additional items and then notified mall security and Township police.



1001 Stump Road  
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

PRST STD  
PAID  
Permit #16  
Montgomeryville,  
PA  
18936

## Your Award-Winning Communications Community

### Practice Fire Safety

The Fire Department of Montgomery Township is now providing fire protection to the Township. Gerald Grover is the director of the Township's fire services program, which includes fire prevention and public safety education. On behalf of the men and women of the department, Jerry has the following tips for keeping safe from fire.

Working smoke alarms have been common in homes for more than a decade. Just as important as the alarm is knowing what to do when it goes off. The Department's fire prevention theme for this year is **"Get Out And Stay Out."** Everyone should develop and practice a home escape plan in case of fire. This is especially critical for parents of small children.

Home fire safety is an important part of parenting. Parents should try to take advantage of what children learn in school and reinforce fire safety at home. For example, stage a "hunt for home hazards" with children. Reward them for helping make home a safer place.

For more information on fire protection, please call 215-393-6900 or 215-699-8699.



### Meet The Supervisors

As part of an ongoing effort to serve the community, the Board meets periodically with homeowner's associations and community groups. The meetings offer residents the opportunity to learn about township activities and ask questions.

The meetings also help the supervisors by providing an insight into community opinion. Any homeowner's association or community group interested in a meeting should contact the Township Administration Department at (215) 393-6900.