



# Communicator

News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors

Spring 2003

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

J. Robert Witmer, **Chairman**

Stephen A. Prousi,  
**Vice Chairman**

Warren P. Greenberg

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**Township Manager**

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**Editor**

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## Supervisors Thank Volunteers For Service To Community

The Board of Supervisors paid tribute to the men and women who volunteer their time to make the Township a better place at the annual Volunteer Brunch. Supervisor Chairman Bob Witmer presented 10 volunteers with recognition plaques for their years of service on various committees in the Township.



State Representative Gene McGill (from left), Fire Department of Montgomery Township Chief Dave Vasconez, Supervisor Vice Chairman Steve Prousi, Fire Department of Montgomery Township President Bernie Heinze and Supervisor William Sarosky helped honor the Township's many volunteers.

"We are fortunate to have so many residents willingly give of their time and talents," Mr. Witmer said. "They help make a great community even better."

In total, the residents gave more than 286 years to the community. Among those honored was Dean Humphrey, a current member of the Municipal Sewer Authority. Mr. Humphrey has served the Township for more than 38 years as a member of the Authority.

"Mr. Humphrey has provided much guidance and direction, always with the Township's best interest at heart," said Authority Manager Beverly Brown.

State Senator Stewart Greenleaf, State Representative Kate Harper and State Representative Gene McGill attended the brunch and thanked the volunteers for their work.

The Township has 16 volunteer committees, ranging from the Autumn Festival Committee to the Zoning Hearing Board. Route 202 Customer Advisory Chairman Steve Prousi and Fire Department of Montgomery Township President Bernie Heinze were among the committee chairpersons saluting the efforts of volunteers. Residents interested in serving on a committee can visit [www.montgomerytp.org](http://www.montgomerytp.org) or call the Township Building at 215-393-6900.

"We greatly appreciate the countless hours our volunteers give to the community," Mr. Witmer said. "They are truly credits to Montgomery Township."

# Township Welcomes Community During Local Government Week

Residents and some local elementary school students took a peek inside the daily operations of Montgomery Township in April as part of Local Government Week. The week recognizes the work of local governments throughout the country.

The week started with an open house at the Fire Department of Montgomery Township. Children and their parents learned about fire safety and the daily activities of the department.

Local Government Week also brought some leaders of tomorrow to the Board of Supervisors meeting. The Student Council of Montgomery Elementary School sat in on the Board's April meeting. Council President Madelyn Dionne, Publicity Director Ryan Donovan and Secretary Jaclyn Merk experienced directing their very own municipal meeting. There is no truth to the rumor that the students, all sixth graders, passed a resolution shortening the school week.



*Supervisor Chairman Bob Witmer gave Montgomery Elementary School students (from left) Ryan Donovan, Jaclyn Merk and Madelyn Dionne a turn with the gavel at a board meeting.*

The second grade at Montgomery Elementary visited and talked safety with Officer Jim Matlack. Director of Fire Services Jerry Grover captured the students' attention with a visit from a fire engine.

Ron Pratowski, the Township's new Finance Director and Treasurer, visited with residents at Neshaminy Falls and discussed the Township's tax structure. Officer Matlack also met with residents to talk Homeland Security.

To schedule a presentation or visit, call the Township Building at 215-393-6900.

## Cable Franchise To Be Discussed on June 9

The Township is beginning the process of renewing its cable franchise agreement with Comcast Cable. The existing agreement is scheduled to expire in October 2004. The Township is pursuing an agreement renewal at an early date to ensure that a fair agreement is finalized.

One very important step in the cable franchise renewal process is a public hearing hosted by the Township. The hearing is scheduled for the June 9 Board of Supervisors meeting after 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend the hearing, which will also include Comcast representatives. The hearing gives the Township and Comcast the opportunity to gauge the cable needs of residents.

The Township is working with Dan Cohen of the Cohen Telecommunications Law Group to assist the Township with the negotiations. Any residents with questions regarding the public hearing or the renewal process should call the Township.

## County Offers Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Montgomery County is participating in a regional household hazardous waste collection program. This program provides the opportunity to safely and properly dispose of these hazardous materials. Hazardous waste items include:

- **Automotive Products:** motor oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, antifreeze, kerosene and gasoline.
- **Pesticides/Herbicides**
- **Household Products:** drain & oven cleaners, spot remover, dry cleaning fluid, rug cleaner
- **Paint Products:** paint thinner or turpentine, paint remover, oil based paint, furniture stripper, furniture refinisher

Collection is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on:

**West Norriton Township      Saturday, May 17**  
**Eagle Drive (off Whitehall Road)**  
**West Norriton Township**

**North Penn High School      Saturday, July 12**  
**Valley Forge Road (Route 363); Towamencin Township**

**Temple-Ambler Campus      Saturday, August 16**  
**Butler Pike Entrance; Upper Dublin Township**

# Road Work Begins In July

The Public Works Department is set to begin Road Paving Improvement Projects in July. Residents living on the following streets will be notified with further information regarding the project, including the dates of work. The paving is part of the Township's annual program to keep streets in the best possible condition.

The following roads are scheduled for paving:

**Clayton Court**  
**Gwynmont Circle**  
**Gwynmont Drive**  
**Oval Lane**  
**Trotter Lane**  
**Colwyn Terrace**  
**Kelsey Drive**  
**Abbey Lane**  
**Arbor Way**  
**Beaumont Terrace**

**Cambridge Court**  
**Fairacres Drive**  
**Field Terrace**  
**Moro Court**  
**StoneRidge Drive**  
**Woodlea Terrace**  
**Sparks Circle**  
**White Pine Drive**  
*(Lansdale Ave to 121 White Pine Drive)*

The following roads will be sealed with nova chipping.

**Beechwood Drive**  
**Sycamore Drive**  
**Richardson Road**

**Pecan Drive**  
**Old Oak Tree Road**

The road projects will begin in July and continue through the summer. Work will be done from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the work, streets will be closed except for local traffic and emergency vehicles. All cars must be parked in driveways during paving. This will greatly help with the timely completion of the work.

Due to the extreme temperatures of the material, it is recommended that you keep children and pets away from the street area during paving. Vehicles should not be driven on the blacktop or sealer during work to avoid damage. The Township will not be held liable for any damage to vehicles. Please contact the Public Works Department at 215-855-0510 with questions. The Department thanks residents in advance for their patience and cooperation with the work.



*The Township Historical Society welcomes volunteers to help with the restoration of the Knapp Farm House.*

## Knapp Farm House To Be Preserved

*George Washington slept here.*

The phrase has almost become a cliché but in the case of Montgomery Township, it may be true.

The Knapp Farm House, circa 1760, is believed to have been a resting place for General Washington for several days following the Battle of Germantown in 1777. The Farm House is the only property in the Township currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Montgomery Township Historical Society is pleased to report that the property and an adjacent seven acres will be preserved.

The Historical Society has been working for years with the Township to restore the Knapp Farm House. The society is forming a committee to oversee the restoration and welcomes members of the community. To volunteer, call the Society's voicemail at 215-361-1801 and leave your name and number.



### Does your sewer vent look like this?

*If so, your chance of having a sewer backup is likely on the rise. And the additional water entering the sewer system contributes to an increase in treatment costs.*

*If your house is connected to the Township wastewater system, you likely have a vent stack on your property. It may be a PVC cap that looks like a mushroom or an iron cap. If your vent stack is missing or damaged, please replace the cap to avoid sewer backups and increases in treatment costs.*

*Call the Sewer Authority at 215-393-6930 with questions.*



1001 Stump Road  
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

PRST STD  
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Permit #16  
Montgomeryville,  
PA  
18936

## Your Award-Winning Communications Community









### Shade Tree Commission Helps Beautify Township

The Shade Tree Commission distributed more than 500 trees to residents as part of its annual Arbor Day celebration on April 26. The 500 trees were part of eight different varieties of trees available. As part of the day's festivities, commission members, certified arborists and landscape architects were on hand to answer questions about planting and care of the trees. Seminars demonstrating proper pruning techniques for trees were also given.

The Shade Tree Commission meets every third Wednesday of the month at the Township Building. Residents are welcome to attend.

The Shade Tree Commission offers the following tips to assist with tree pruning:



-  only remove dead, dying, diseased or broken branches
-  do not prune young trees until after the first growing season
-  prune sparingly
-  never remove more than 1/3 of leaves and branches during the season
-  for most trees, the best time to prune is winter or early spring
-  once you begin a cut, finish it
-  cut limbs and branches just beyond the branch collar
-  cuts don't need wound dressings