



Communicator

News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors

December 2004

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Montgomeryville, PA 18936

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www.montgomerytwp.org

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Fourteen from Citizens' University to Graduate Magna Cum Laude

There will not be a speech from a class valedictorian. No one will play Pomp & Circumstance. And the graduating class will not throw its caps into the air. But the fourteen members of the inaugural class of Citizens' University will always be known as the pioneers of this program.



Students from Citizens' University learned the workings of the Township, including visiting facilities like the Fire Department of Montgomery Township.

On December 13, the Township's first ever Citizens' University class will be formally recognized by the Board of Supervisors.

another class in 2005 and see more of the class of 2004."

"We are excited about this new program and proud of the participants in this first year," said Steve Prousi, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "We hope to continue with

The 2004 program will finish on Tuesday, December 14th with a question and answer session with the Township Manager, staff and the Board of Supervisors. Citizens'

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



CITIZENS' UNIVERSITY



HOLIDAY SAFETY



POSTER WINNERS



MORE ON 202

Enter Lights Contest by December 8



The days are dwindling but there is still time to showcase the wonderful holiday decorations at your home or business by entering the Township's first annual Holiday Lights contest. Application forms for the free contest can be picked up at the Park and Recreation Office and must be completed by December 8. A team of judges will view entries the week of December 13. Winners will be announced on Channel 22, www.montgomerytwp.org and in local newspapers.

Volunteer Boards Support Community

The diverse service needs facing Montgomery Township require considerable attention from local government officials. Land planning, the environment, recreation, neighborhood improvements, police and fire protection, and building codes are just a few of the issues that the Township regularly faces.

The success of Township government depends upon four components:

- ♦ elected leadership,
- ♦ volunteer assistance,
- ♦ staff implementation and
- ♦ citizen participation.



As the Township's governing board, the Board of Supervisors provides direction and focus to the Township and has responsibility for making policy decisions. Volunteers provide advice to the Board of Supervisors and staff through a number of boards and commissions. Volunteers also provide an ongoing source of citizen input to Township policy and operational discussions. Staff provides professional support to the Board and the volunteers, and is responsible for carrying out the policies and programs for the Township.

The Township's boards, committees, and commissions perform vital roles in making our democracy work. By working with the Township and staff, volunteers become familiar with the needs and problems of the community, and are given the chance to apply their own talents and experience to improve the quality of life for the community. Membership is an opportunity for citizens to contribute and to make a difference.

Currently, the Township is seeking volunteers for the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and the Planning Commission. No experience is necessary for either position. Township volunteers participate individually and through groups in improving their neighborhoods and providing input on Township policies and operations.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the Township's eleven boards, committees or commissions, please send a letter of intent and a copy of your resume to Montgomery Township. If you are interested in volunteering for a committee that does not currently have an opening, the Township will keep your information on file and contact you when a vacancy occurs.

Homestead Deadline Is March 1

Applications for the Homestead Exclusion program will be available beginning December 15. The deadline to forward the completed application to the Montgomery County Assessor's Office is March 1, 2005. If approved, homeowners can save money on their municipal property taxes. Residents do not have to reapply every year but should reapply if they have moved within the Township during the past year. New homeowners need to apply. Fill out your applications early. The deadline is firm. The Township encourages everyone to take advantage of this program and save money on property taxes. Check www.montgomerytwp.org for more information



The Fire Department of Montgomery Township sponsored a fire prevention poster and essay contest with students from three elementary schools. Students were asked to write an essay or draw a poster on the theme of "Test Your Smoke Detector." Winning students were honored before the Board of Supervisors.

Citizens' University Class Gets to Know Township



Firefighter was just one of the roles that members of Citizens' University assumed during their journey into municipal government.

Continued from page 1

University is a ten-week program designed to introduce residents to the inner workings of local government. The participants receive information on topics such as finance, park and recreation and planning and development. They also receive tours of Township facilities such as public works and the fire station. One of the highlights of the inaugural session was a trip to the new Eureka Waste Water Treatment facility. All tours and information sessions are instructed by Township staff, enabling the residents to become more familiar with the faces who help run the Township. The entire program is managed by the Township's newly developed Public Information Office.

"The staff involved in this program need to be commended, particularly Andrea Collins, as this program would never have developed without her management and the participation of each department," said Township Manager John Nagel. "We hope that the graduates will become more involved in their Township and recommend this program to their neighbors, friends and families."

The Township is accepting applications for the 2005 Class of Citizens' University. Any interested resident or business owner may call the Public Information Office at (215) 393-6900 for additional information.

Holiday Fire Prevention

Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage. Simple steps can help you save lives this holiday.

- ♦ Do not place your tree close to a heat source
- ♦ Keep the tree stand filled with water
- ♦ Inspect all holiday lights
- ♦ Do not leave interior lights on when you are out
- ♦ Do not overload extension cords
- ♦ Be sure smoke detectors are installed and working

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I recycle cardboard?

The Township has two cardboard recycling bins in the Municipal Building parking lot at Stump and Horsham Roads. Please remember to break down your boxes as much as possible before placing them in the bins.

Who picks up dead animals?

Small animals can be reported to the Township Public Works Department at 215-855-0510. Deer need to be reported to the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 610-926-3136.

How can I find out about what's going on in the Township?

In addition to this newsletter, all Montgomery Township residents who subscribe to Comcast cable television can tune into Channel 22 for up to date information about the Township and community. Residents can also go to the Township Web site at www.montgomerytp.org.

What discount park tickets do you offer?

The Township offers discount skiing, sledding, and tubing tickets in the winter, and amusement park tickets in the summer. Please contact the Park and Recreation Office for a complete list at (215) 393-6900, or visit the Township Web site at www.montgomerytp.org.

Who do I contact for a block party?

Please contact the Township at (215) 393-6900 for an application.

Where do I purchase a recycling bin?

Montgomery Township recycling bins are available for purchase in our Code Enforcement Department. For more details, please call the Code Enforcement Department at (215) 393-6900.



1001 Stump Road
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

PRST STD
PAID
Permit #16
**Montgomeryville,
PA
18936**

Your Award-Winning Communications Community

Bypass Support Critical to Quality of Life

As the Communicator was being prepared, an engineering study on the proposed Route 202 Bypass was being completed. The Rendell Administration was scheduled to release the study by the end of November. The Township encourages residents to visit www.montgomerytp.org and Cable Channel 22 for the latest news on the Bypass.

The proposed Bypass is critical to preserving the quality of life in the Township. The road would connect Montgomeryville with Doylestown, providing a route for thousands of cars and trucks that

now crawl along Township roads each day.

"We have worked for decades to prepare for the Bypass," said Supervisor Chairman Stephen Prousi. "We will continue to work with residents and business owners in Montgomery and Bucks counties to ensure that the Bypass is built."

Thousands of area residents have made their feelings about the Bypass known to the Rendell Administration in letters and emails. The Township thanks everyone who has taken time to

make their opinion heard on the Bypass.

"The outpouring of support has been very important," Prousi said. "Residents should follow the release of the study and be prepared to again voice how important the Bypass is to them and their family."

Residents can sign up for email alerts on the Bypass at www.montgomerytp.org. Please call the Township Building at 215-393-6900 for more information on the Bypass.



Recreation News

Winter/Spring 2005

CITIZENS BANK BROADWAY AT THE ACADEMY PRESENTS PETER PAN

In her farewell performance, Tony Award nominee Cathy Rigby takes flight in the 100th Anniversary of the immortal James M. Barrie tale Peter Pan. This timeless musical masterpiece, complete with evil Captain Hook, a crafty crocodile and the enchantment of Never Never Land will touch, inspire, dazzle and charm every generation. Show scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

AGES: All Ages Welcome
DATE: Saturday, March 26, 2005
TIME: Bus will depart from the Township Building at 12:30 p.m. and should return to Township Building by 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Academy of Music in Philadelphia
COST: Residents: \$70
Nonresidents: \$80

PHILADELPHIA PHANTOMS HOCKEY

Take a trip to the Wachovia Spectrum to see the Philadelphia Phantoms take on the Hershey Bears. The bus will depart from the Township Building by 5:15 p.m. and should return by 10:30 p.m. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

AGES: All Ages Welcome - Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult
DATE: Friday, February 25, 2005
TIME: Bus will depart from the Township Building by 5:15 p.m.
PLACE: Wachovia Spectrum
COST: Residents: \$30
Nonresidents: \$35



Winter/Spring 2005

DRIVERS EDUCATION CLASS

A 30-hour theory program covers the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual and all phases of defensive driving and includes six (6) hours of on-the-road training. 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.

AGES: Age 15 and Up
DATE: January 24, 2005 - March 28, 2005
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
PLACE: Montgomery Township Community Rooms
COST: \$362
Fee includes 30 hours of

theory and 6 hours of on-the-road training
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CAMEO DRIVING SCHOOL.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

The Park and Recreation Office will provide a fun filled evening of crafts, games and socialization for children while parents enjoy a movie or dinner.

AGES: 4 to 9 years old
DATE: Saturday, February 12, 2005
TIME: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
PLACE: Montgomery Township Community Rooms
COST: Residents: \$15
Nonresidents: \$20

TEEN VOLLEYBALL

The Park and Recreation Staff are looking for teens that want to play volleyball for fun.

AGES: 11 to 14 years old
DATE: Tuesdays/Thursdays, April 12 - May 19
TIME: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Spring Valley Park Sand Volleyball Court
COST: Residents: \$15
Nonresidents: \$20

Winter/Spring 2005

PRESCHOOL MANIA

Twice weekly (Mondays and Wednesdays), your preschooler can meet new friends, socialize, sing, listen to stories, play games, do arts and crafts, and have creative play indoors and out.

AGES: 3 to 5 years old
SESSION I: January 24 thru February 23
SESSION II: March 7 thru April 6
TIME: 10 a.m. to Noon
PLACE: Montgomery Township Community Rooms
COST: Residents: \$100
Nonresidents: \$110

MOMMY AND ME ACTIVITY GROUP

A great way for moms and dads to spend quality time with their children. The group will do crafts, have reading time, cook, etc. The group will meet Tuesday mornings.

AGES: All Ages Welcome
SESSION I: Tuesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22
TIME: 11 a.m. to Noon
PLACE: Montgomery Township Community Rooms
COST: Residents: \$60
Nonresidents: \$70



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP ICE SKATING

AGES: All Ages Welcome
DATES: Saturdays, January 15, February 19, March 19
TIME: 4:40 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.
PLACE: Melody Brook Ice Skating Rink (Route 309 and Lenhart Road)
COST: \$3 per ticket per session
HOST: Montgomery Township

DISCOUNT SKI TICKETS

Purchase discount ski tickets at your convenience at the Township Building weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discount tickets for the following mountains available: Big Boulder/ Jack Frost, Blue Mountain, Bear Creek, Camelback, Elk, Montage, and Shawnee. We can fax a complete list of costs at your request.

- ♦ Big Boulder/Jack Frost Adult Weekday: \$27.00
- ♦ Big Boulder/Jack Frost Adult Weekend/Holiday: \$37.00
- ♦ Big Boulder/Jack Frost Night (4p.m. to close): \$17.00
- ♦ Big Boulder/Jack Frost Tubing: \$16.00
- ♦ Blue Mountain Weekday: \$31.00
- ♦ Blue Mountain Weekend/Holiday: \$39.00



- ♦ Camelback Midweek: \$32.00
- ♦ Camelback Weekend/Holiday: \$46.00
- ♦ Camelback Night/Morning/Afternoon: \$23.00
- ♦ Elk Mountain Weekday: \$32.00
- ♦ Elk Mountain Weekend/Holiday: \$41.00

PERIODICALLY CHECK MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP'S WEB SITE AND CABLE CHANNEL 22 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR MAD SCIENCE. ALSO INFORMATION ABOUT YOGA CLASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

REMINDER: ALL CAMP REGISTRATIONS WILL BEGIN MONDAY, MAY 2, 2005 at 9:00a.m. Information will be sent home on fliers through the schools and will be available on Cable Channel 22 and Montgomery Township's web site.

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. Please review the revised refund policy available at the Recreation Office.