



1001 Stump Road  
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

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

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

Stephen A. Prousi, Chairman

Warren P. Greenberg,  
Vice Chairman

Robert R. Kuhn

William J. Sarosky

J. Robert Witmer

John B. Nagel  
Township Manager

Andrea L. Collins  
Editor

# Communicator

News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors

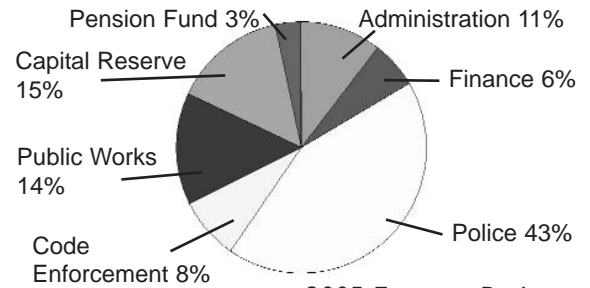
February 2005

## 2005 Budget Cuts Real Estate Taxes

Montgomery Township real estate taxes will decline again this year and the residential Homestead Exclusion will increase as part of the Township's 2005 operating budget.

The \$10.6-million operating budget, along with the 2005 capital budget, were approved by the Board of Supervisors in December. The 2005 operating budget is the third consecutive budget to have a reduction in real estate taxes. Over those three years, the real estate tax millage has been cut by a total of 7 percent. At the same time, the supervisors approved an increase in the Homestead Exclusion to \$20,000 per approved property. A Homestead Exclusion can result in additional tax savings for homeowners.

"The 2005 budget again follows the Board's guidelines for fiscal responsibility and prudent



financial management," said Supervisor Chairman Pete Greenberg. "It also allows the Township to provide the quality services our community deserves while maintaining an equitable tax structure."

The Township portion of a resident's real estate tax bill continues to be the smallest of the three taxing entities (North Penn School District,

*Real Estate Tax continued on page 3*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



ROAD IMPROVEMENTS



CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY



ARBOR DAY GIVEAWAY



HORSHAM ROAD WORK

## Residents Again Say Yes to Bypass

Montgomery Township residents have overwhelmingly said they want the Route 202 Bypass.

In a recent Township electronic survey, nearly 84 percent of the residents who responded said they supported the construction of the Bypass. Ninety-eight percent of respondents said they favored building the Bypass because it would relieve traffic congestion. Seventy-five percent said building the Bypass would improve traffic safety and 66 percent said the Bypass would improve the area's quality of life. More than half of those responding said traffic was their single greatest concern about quality of life in the area. Visit [www.montgomerytp.org](http://www.montgomerytp.org) to review the study's complete results.

The Township conducted the survey to measure the opinions of residents on the Route 202 Bypass. The Board of Supervisors remains committed to doing everything it can to ensure the Bypass is built, Supervisor Chairman Pete Greenberg said.

"Our residents have spoken time and time again about the need for the Bypass," Greenberg said. "The construction of the Bypass is perhaps the single most important issue now facing our community. We will continue to fight for our residents in Harrisburg."

*202 continued on page x*

# Road Work Coming to Township Streets in Spring



Spring will be here soon and the Township will once again be doing road maintenance. Most of the roads listed will have curb and sidewalk replacements done between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. but times may change. Curb and sidewalk projects are scheduled to begin in April/May. Road paving projects are scheduled to begin in July/August. Please note the important mailbox information.

Roads to be milled and overlaid (concrete work will be done as needed):

- ♦ Forest Trail Drive  
(Grays Lane to Cul-de-sac)
- ♦ Pauline Circle
- ♦ Broad Acres Road  
(Richardson Road to Richardson Road)
- ♦ Arden Circle
- ♦ Brook Circle
- ♦ Claremont Drive  
(Runnymede Drive to Upper State Road)
- ♦ Fairview Drive
- ♦ Runnymede Drive
- ♦ Horseshoe Lane
- ♦ Chaps Way
- ♦ Colt Circle
- ♦ Steeplechase Drive
- ♦ Springdale Lane

Roads to be nova chipped:

- ♦ Morningside Drive
- ♦ South Drive
- ♦ Sunset Drive
- ♦ Vilsmeier Road
- ♦ West Thomas Road

During the work, streets will be closed except for local traffic and emergency vehicles. During the milling and paving, all cars must be parked in driveways. Due to extreme temperatures of the material, children and pets must be kept away from the work. Please avoid driving on this material during the placement of blacktop or crack sealer material to avoid damage to your vehicle. The Township will not be held liable for any resulting damages.

In the event that curb and sidewalk replacements are done, all driveway and lawn restorations will be done in a timely manner upon completion of the paving project. Some residents will have to park their vehicles in the street during driveway curb restoration. Each property owner should check their mailbox front to ensure that it is a minimum of 6 inches behind the face of the curb, which is within federal postal regulations. Prior to the start of the paving project, the homeowner should reset any mailboxes protruding past the minimum measurement of 6 inches. If mailboxes are not properly located, any damage that may occur will be the responsibility of the homeowner.

The Township requests your patience and cooperation during this work. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (215) 855-0510.

## 202 Study Briefing Scheduled for February 16

*202 continued from page 1*

Township and state officials will be briefed February 16 on the state's long-awaited study of the Route 202 Bypass. The Township will post information on its website and Cable Channel 22 as soon as possible after the meeting. Information will also be sent by e-mail to subscribers of the Township's e-mail database. Residents and business owners can sign up for the database at the website.

"February 16 is a very important date for our residents and business owners," Greenberg said. "We are very anxious to hear the study's findings and remain committed to doing all that we can to improve the quality of life in our community."

Residents have been vocal in voicing their support for the project, with thousands of area residents making their feelings known to the Rendell Administration. In the Township's survey, 53 percent of respondents said they would volunteer to support the Bypass. Residents who would like to help can email a special address of [route202@montgomerytp.org](mailto:route202@montgomerytp.org) to receive information.



"We greatly appreciate residents again taking the time to give us their thoughts on the Bypass and offering to help," Greenberg said. "There is indeed strength in numbers."

# Horsham Road To See Improvements

The Township and PennDOT are working to improve Horsham Road from Stump Road to the Five Points intersection at Routes 202 and 309.

With nearly 20,000 vehicles traveling on Horsham Road daily, improvements are necessary to improve the flow of traffic, reduce congestion and provide a solid and stable roadway for the future. These improvements involve widened the roadway and removing and replacing the original 1932 pavement.

Construction for the first phase of the project from Stump Road to General Hancock Boulevard will begin this spring and be completed by the fall. The widening of an existing culvert that carries the Little Neshaminy Creek under Horsham Road will be included with the improvements. There will be no detours during this work.

Upon completion of the project, Horsham Road will be able to accommodate two travel lanes in each direction along with a center/left turn lane. Additionally, the traffic signal at Stump Road and Horsham Road will be replaced to include left turn signals for Stump Road traffic. This upgrade will improve traffic flow.

## Real Estate Tax continued from page 1

Montgomery County and Montgomery Township).

In 2005, the Homestead Exclusion increases to \$20,000 from \$15,000. Households that were previously approved for the exclusion will see the reduction in their 2005 real estate tax statement. Residents who have not applied are urged to do so before the March 1, 2005 deadline. Residents approved in this application cycle will see the savings in their 2006 tax bill. Applications for the exclusion can be picked up at the Township Building and mailed to the County or are available at [www.montgomerytwp.org](http://www.montgomerytwp.org).

The largest portion of the Township's operating expenses is related to personnel. Medical insurance premiums will increase by 10 percent and liability premiums will increase by 15 percent.

The Township's largest revenue source is the mercantile tax, generating approximately 31 percent of the revenue. In 2005, real estate tax collections are expected to produce 16 percent of the revenue. The Board and staff have set a goal of generating

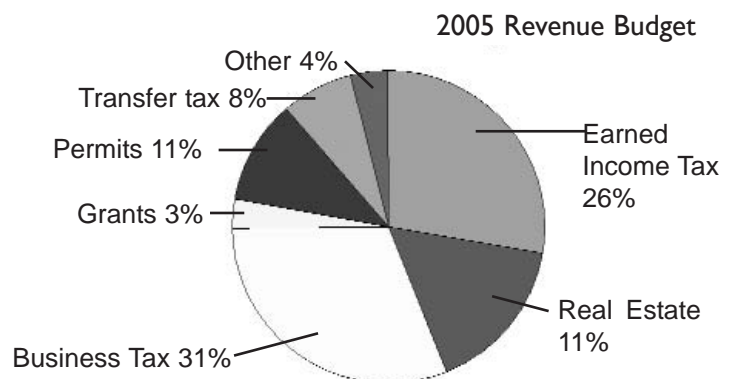
# Recycling Bins Available



The Township offers recycling bins for a nominal cost at the Township Building. Please note your trash haulers pick-up day. Because all residents must contract with the private hauler of their choice, recycling days vary. Visit the Township Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) website at [www.montgomerytwp.org](http://www.montgomerytwp.org) to learn more about recycling and discover just how easy it is to make the Township a place we can all be proud of.

at least 3 percent of the total revenue, or over \$300,000, in grant monies.

In conjunction with the Township's five-year plan, the 2005 Budget designates a surplus of over \$1 million. The surplus includes \$200,000 for the 2005 road plan, \$600,000 for the Fire Department of Montgomery Township and \$200,000 for the purchase of Open Space as part of the recently passed County Open Space Grant Program and \$200,000 for Route 202 Bypass support. The Township will also maintain a balance in the Capital Reserve Fund.





1001 Stump Road  
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

PRST STD  
PAID  
Permit #16  
Montgomeryville,  
PA  
18936

## Your Award-Winning Communications Community

# Citizen Police Academy Accepting Students

Want to get an inside look at the Township Police Department? Pick up an application to be part of the first Citizen Police Academy.

The Academy will provide community members with an overview of the Police Department's function and operational procedures. The curriculum and teaching methods for the ten-week academy are similar to the traditional police academy but the sessions are not designed to train participants as a police officer.

Academy classes are taught by veteran police officers. The classes will meet on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with the final class followed by a graduation ceremony.

There is no charge to participate. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and a resident, business owner, or non-resident employed within the Township. All applicants will be subjected to a criminal history check as a precondition to acceptance in the academy. The Chief of Police has

the final approval of all applicants and reserves the right to deny entry to any applicant.

Applications are available at the Police Department. Please call Citizen Police Academy Coordinator Sgt. Scott Bendig or Officer Robert Hart at (215) 362-2300 with questions.

## Arbor Day Free Tree Give Away

When: Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Township Building

Why: In celebration of Arbor Day

The Township will offer free trees to residents (proof of residency required) while supplies last. Stop by for your tree and help keep the Township beautiful. Visit [www.montgomerytwp.org](http://www.montgomerytwp.org) for more information.