



1001 Stump Road
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

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Permit #16
**Montgomeryville,
PA
18936**

Your Award-Winning Communications Community

Parkway Four Lanes Through Montgomeryville

The Community Task Force, assembled by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), received word from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) that forecasted traffic loads on the segment between Bethlehem Pike (PA 309) and Horsham Road (PA 463) warrant the need for four travel lanes on the proposed Route 202 Parkway.

Identified as an affordable solution for improving mobility in the area, the Route 202 Parkway will consist of four travel lanes between Welsh Road and Horsham Road, and two travel lanes from Horsham Road and the Doylestown Bypass.



The Community Task Force, which includes representatives of local municipalities and PennDOT, expects to hold additional community meetings in the summer. The meetings will provide updates on the status of the Parkway.

The PennDOT study found that the four-lane section of the Parkway will carry more traffic but intersections will still operate at a better level of service than they would if the road were two lanes wide through Montgomeryville. For more information

on the Parkway, visit www.montgomerytwp.org or call the Township Building at 215-393-6900.



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Communicator

News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors

February 2006

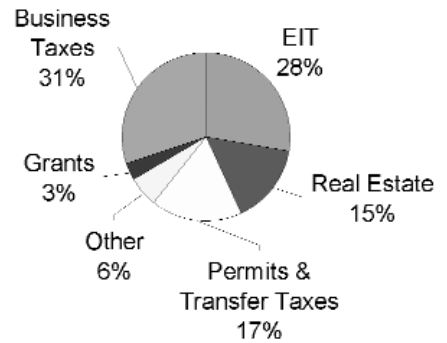
2006 Operating Budget Reduces R.E. Taxes for 4th Consecutive Year

Montgomery Township real estate taxes will decline for the fourth consecutive year and the residential homestead exclusion will increase again as part of the Township's 2006 operating budget.

In 2003, the Board approved a tax reform package, including a reduction in real estate taxes for all property owners and a homestead exclusion for residential property owners. For 2006, the Township is pleased to announce an additional reduction in real estate taxes and a further increase in the homestead exclusion. The tax reduction is now 8% and the homestead exclusion increased to \$25,000, helping the Township remain an attractive and affordable place to live.

"The 2006 budget again follows the Board's guidelines for fiscal responsibility and prudent financial management," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Sarosky. "It also allows the Township to provide the quality services our community deserves while maintaining an equitable tax structure."

2006 General Fund Revenue Categories



The 2006 Township real estate tax of 1.49 mills is significantly lower than that of the County and North Penn School District. The Township portion of a resident's real estate tax bill amounts to 6.6% with 12.7% going to Montgomery County and 80.7% to the North Penn School District.

In 2006, the homestead exclusion increases to \$25,000 from \$20,000. Households that were previously approved for the exclusion will see the reduction in their 2006 real estate tax statement. Residents who have not applied must do so before the March 1, 2006 deadline. Residents approved in this application cycle will see the savings in their 2007 tax bill. Applications for the exclusion can be picked up at the Township Building and mailed to the County or are available at www.montcopa.org. To date, over 75% of Township households have been approved for the exclusion.

The Police Department accounts for 47.8% of the Township's operating budget followed by Public Works (15.7%),

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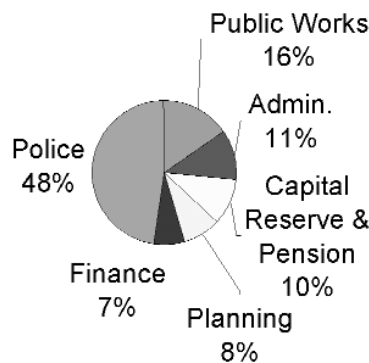


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2006 General Fund Expense Categories



Spring Road Maintenance Set

Road maintenance returns with Spring to the Township. Curb and sidewalk work begins in March. Road milling and overlaying projects begin in July. Roads scheduled for maintenance are:

Bradford Court
Compton Court
Guilford Court
Madison Court
Pemberton Court
Shelburne Drive
Simpson Court
Aaron Way
Matthew Drive
Ridgeview Road
Sunrise Drive
Longleat Drive
Preston Drive
Ross Court
Westgate Drive
Weston Court
Park Drive
Keystone Drive
Progress Drive

During work:

- Streets will be closed except for local traffic and emergency vehicles
- Cars must be parked in driveways
- Children and pets must stay away from work
- Do not drive on roads being worked on. The Township will not be held liable for damages.

All driveway and lawn restorations will be done in a timely manner. Vehicles may have to be parked on streets during work. Property owners should check their mailbox to ensure that it is a minimum of 6 inches behind the face of the curb. 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 work. If you have any questions, please contact the Publics Works Department at 215-855-0510.

Budget Cuts Taxes

Budget continued from page 1

Administration (11.1%), Planning (8.4%), and Finance (6.8%). The Township experiences a 9% increase in medical insurance premiums and a 1% increase in liability premiums.

The Township recently completed an independent organization review. The review found that our work force levels were appropriate, with the exception of park maintenance and recreation services. Based on this review, specific recommendations will be considered and implemented in the near future as determined by the Board of Supervisors and Township staff.

The Township's largest revenue source is the mercantile tax and business tax, generating approximately 30.4% of the revenue. In 2006, real estate tax collections are expected to produce 15.2 % of the revenue. The Board and staff have set a goal of generating at least 3.1 % of the total revenue, or over \$325,000, in grant monies. The budget also recognizes a superior collection rate for the earned income tax (EIT), comprising 27.8% of the Township's revenue. All surrounding municipalities have now enacted the EIT.

Now that the EIT is more predictable, two changes in tax policy have been made to fund essential services. In order to meet the increasing demands for fire protection and park and recreation services, a portion of the EIT will be shifted to the Fire Protection Fund (\$100,000) and the Park and Recreation Fund (\$100,000).

Montgomery Township is one of the handful of municipalities to not enact the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax, which can cost residents up to \$52.00 a year. Because of its diverse tax structure and fiscal responsibility, the Township has been able to avoid enacting the tax. The Township believes the EMS would not be beneficial to the residents and businesses at this time.

In conjunction with the Township's five-year plan, the 2006 Budget designates a surplus of over \$300,000. The Township will also maintain a balance in the Capital Reserve Fund, which can be considered a "rainy day" fund. All residents and businesses of Montgomery Township can rely upon the fact that the Township's conservative fiscal management practices will continue into 2006 and beyond.

In January, the Township announced the creation of the Community Services Office under the Administration Department. In order to more thoroughly meet the growing communication needs of the Township and its residents, the staff has created an Office to oversee the recreation and public information aspects of the Township. The Community Services Office will handle citizen requests, recreational programming and community events including Citizens' University, the annual Holiday Lights Contest, Autumn Festival, Local Government Week, and the Summer Concert Series.

EOC Will Be There When Needed

The Montgomery Township Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was officially dedicated on December 12 by the Board of Supervisors.

The Emergency Operations Center is located at the Township Building, and consists of two amateur radios and four antennas. With the help of Supervisor Robert Kuhn (WA3VSR), Township Supervisors spoke clearly via amateur radio with Bob Lees (W3ZQN), former Radio Officer and Emergency Coordinator of the Montgomery County RACES.

The amateur radio operators at the Township will work with RACES to provide emergency communications for the area. RACES has enabled amateur radio operators to perform emergency communications functions as an important supplement to State and local civil defense communications systems.

At Montgomery Township, a ham radio system is in place in case of an emergency. Using a radio setup and antennas located on top of the Township Building, the system can handle messages for police and other public services organizations during emergencies such as hurricanes and floods. Supervisors Kuhn and Robert Witmer (W3RW) have taken a personal interest in the project and worked with the Township Public Works Department on installing the system.

"Now that the system is operational, we will begin to work with the County to become part of the network of amateur radio operators who help provide radio communications needed in times of emergencies," said Witmer.



(From left) Doug Priest, Chief Deputy Radio Officer and Emergency Coordinator of RACES; Bob Griffiths, Radio Officer, Emergency Coordinator and Control Operator; Paul Alcott, Deputy Radio Officer; Supervisors Bob Kuhn and Bob Witmer open the Township's Emergency Operations Center.

Amateur radio operators, also called "ham radio" operators, use two-way radios to communicate with other operators around town and around the world. In addition to using the amateur radio equipment in the EOC for emergency communications, the Township intends to form a Montgomery Township Amateur Radio Club.

"Amateur radio is a very interactive and high-tech communications tool," said Dr. Kuhn. "Now that the Township's system is running, we would like to get community members involved in the operation. You can become an amateur radio operator no matter your age, gender or physical ability."

Survey Gives Township High Service Marks

The Township recently conducted a survey to obtain the views of the residents on a number of issues, programs and ideas important to the Township.

Nearly 1,900 residents responded. On a scale of one to seven, the staff's customer service averaged a six, with nearly 50% of respondents indicating they have called the Township in the past year. We are proud to report that the number one news source for Township information is *The Communicator*, the Township's quarterly newsletter.

The results on whether residents would be willing to pay

more taxes to expand and maintain our park and trail system or develop additional recreation programs is divided. A Park and Recreation survey will be done in 2006 to obtain additional information.

The survey did garner a list of several hundred potential volunteers. Residents who were interested in volunteering for the Township were asked to fill out the back sheet of the survey. The staff has been contacting interested residents as needed.

For more information on the results of the 2005 Citizen Survey, visit www.montgomerytwp.org.