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News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors

May 2006

Township Works to Preserve Open Space

In November of 2003, Montgomery County residents unanimously voted for a referendum allowing Montgomery County to borrow \$150 million over the next 10 years to finance an open-space program. Montgomery County adopted the new Green Fields/Green Towns Open Space Program and by following the requirements of this program, Montgomery Township qualifies for \$1.5 million.

Montgomery Township has been one of the fastest growing municipalities within Montgomery County. As a result, the Township recognizes the importance of maintaining open space areas. Acquiring acres of open space within a municipality is vital to the community and the environment. The Montgomery Township Open Space Committee is in the process of drafting a new Open Space Plan. The committee is a combination of Township staff, a Township Supervisor, County representative, and appointed community volunteers. Following Montgomery County's Green Fields/Green Towns Program and Open Space Program, the committee is vigorously working towards completing the Open Space Plan by the spring of 2006 so that it will be ready for review by all Township residents and others as soon as possible. If all goes well, the plan could be adopted by the Township before this summer.

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Help Preserve Our Waterways

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or melting snow flows over the ground. Driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent runoff from soaking into the ground. Storm water can pick up many kinds of pollutants and have an adverse affect on plants, fish, animals and people. Storm drains carry the untreated runoff into our nearby waterways. By practicing healthy household habits, you can limit the pollution dumped into our waterways by storm water runoff.

1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
2. Never dump anything down storm drains.
3. Compost your yard waste.
4. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
5. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
6. Check car for leaks and recycle motor oil.
7. Pick up after your pet.

Development Update in Township

The Township is always busy with land development projects. The following is a quick update on some current projects.

Rezoning

- An age-restricted community developed by The Cutler Group is proposed at Route 309 and Hartman Road. This community will be for adults over the age of 55. Along with this plan, The Cutler Group will be giving the Township 19 acres of open space. Cutler will also spend to develop the open space according to the needs of Montgomery Township. The Board of Supervisors approved the rezoning of the parcel from Limited Industrial to Age Qualified Residential.
- WLM Management, Inc. has proposed developing office buildings at Horsham and Stump Roads. The land for this project has been rezoned by the Board of Supervisors from Limited Industrial to Business Professional.
- Bergey's Inc. has proposed an automobile dealership at Route 309 and Hartman Road. The Board of Supervisors approved the rezoning of the land from Limited Industrial to Highway Limited Industrial.

These projects need to complete the Township's land development process.

Land Development & Subdivision

These land development and subdivision projects have

been approved by the Board of Supervisors and are awaiting building permits.

- Gateway Commercial Center located at Route 202 and Route 63 is a small retail center project containing such tenants as Rite Aid Pharmacy and Starbucks. Road and site improvements will also be made.
- An Advance Auto Parts will be located at Route 63 and North Wales Road.
- Nolan Self-Storage will be built at 289 DeKalb across from Gwynmont Drive.
- A three story Best Western Hotel will be located at Route 309 and Morgan Street near Lansdale Chrysler Jeep.

Under Construction

- Three of the projects are being built under the Historic Preservation Cluster Ordinance. Indian Lake Farms, Bridle Path Manor and the Reserve at Knapp Farm all have an existing historical home that will be preserved. The Knapp Farm House will become the home for the Montgomery Township Historical Society.
- Other projects under construction are the Avenel Apartments on DeKalb Pike across from the Montgomery Mall, Country Lane Estates off of Line Street, Texas Roadhouse at 115 Garden Golf Boulevard, Devon Court located on General Hancock Boulevard and Ashburn Village located at Kenas Road and County Line Road.

First Book Swap A Success



Residents look for a good read during the Township's first Book Swap. The event gave residents the opportunity to trade in a book for a new read.

Open Space continued from page 1

The Township is dedicated to obtaining and preserving acres of open space to compliment a growing community. By evaluating the 1994 Open Space Plan, the committee has come up with current goals and objectives for the development and protection of vital open space areas. These goals and objectives consider community and neighborhood park needs, trail development, preservation of natural and historic areas, and the visual image from roads and street trees. The Open Space Plan will primarily focus on possible land acquisitions and the development of a Township wide trail network that will also connect to other trails in neighboring townships and Boroughs. The committee is also creating an implementation plan that will outline the ways in which the plan will be successfully carried out.

Citizens' U. Graduates Another Class

The Board of Supervisors recently recognized the 2005 class of Citizens' University. Eighteen men and women completed the 10-week program and join the growing alumni of Citizens University.

"We are extremely pleased to see the continued interest from our residents in learning more about their Township and how they can become more involved in the community," said Bill Sarosky, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

During the program, students explored all aspects of the operation and management of the Township. Participants received information about the different departments, including Planning and Economic Development, Finance and Park and Recreation. They also received tours of the Township facilities including the Police Department, Fire Station, Public Works and the Eureka Waste Water Treatment facility. All tours and information sessions are led by Township staff, enabling the residents to become more familiar with the faces who help run the Township. The Township's Community Service Office manages the program.

"We hope that through their experience with Citizens' University, alumni will spread the word about the program and become involved in volunteer boards, commit-



The newest alumni of Citizens' University display their diplomas after completing the 10-week program. To enroll in the next class, please call the Community Service Office at 215-393-6900.

tees and commissions," said Andrea L. Collins, Assistant to the Township Manager.

The Township is accepting applications for the Fall 2006 Class of Citizens' University. Interested residents or business owners may call the Community Service Office at 215-393-6900 for additional information.

Earned Income Tax Collector Named

The Board of Supervisors has selected Berkheimer Tax Administrator to collect the Township's Earned Income Tax. The decision was made based on recommendations from Township staff and residents. Central Tax Bureau (Centax) had been collecting the tax.

The Earned Income Tax is a 1% levy on wages that is divided between a taxpayer's home municipality and school district. Since enacting the Earned Income Tax in 2002, Centax had collected the Township's .5% tax and Berkheimer had collected the .5% tax for the North Penn School District.

All residents are subject to the tax. The earned income is generally paid to the community in which one lives. Residents who work outside Pennsylvania or in the City of Philadelphia must check with the tax office for special provisions.

For more information, please call the Township Building at 215-393-6900. To contact Berkheimer, call 610-599-3139 or visit www.hab-inc.com. To contact Centax, call 610-940-1770 or visit www.centaxgroup.com.



The Montgomery County Bookmobile has added another day to its visit schedule. The Bookmobile will be at the Township Building on alternate Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Bookmobile is also at the Township Building from 1 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. on alternate Thursdays. You can also find the Bookmobile at the Airport Square Shopping Center on Route 309 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on alternate Thursdays. Please call the Township Building or turn to Channel 22 for exact dates.



1001 Stump Road
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Permit #16
**Montgomeryville,
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Your Award-Winning Communications Community

Hazardous Waste Collections Scheduled

Montgomery County has scheduled five household hazardous waste collection days to help with cleanup around the house. It's very important to make sure that all household hazardous waste is removed from the waste stream so that it does not contaminate groundwater, injure waste management workers or damage equipment.

Automotive products, pesticides, household cleaners, paint products, lighter fluids, swimming pool chemicals, and other household hazardous waste may be dropped off at the following locations from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information and directions, call (610) 278-3618 or visit www.wsaemc.org

Saturday, June 3
Lockheed Martin (Valley Forge)
230 Mall Boulevard, King of Prussia

Saturday, July 15
Abington School District
Middle School Parking Lot
970 Highland Avenue, Abington

Saturday, October 28
Lower Merion Transfer Station
1300 Woodbine Avenue, Narberth