



Communicator

News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors

Winter 2007

1001 Stump Road
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

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

www.montgomerytwp.org

J. Robert Witmer
Chairman

Stephen A. Prousi
Vice Chairman

Warren P. Greenberg
Robert R. Kuhn
William J. Sarosky

John B. Nagel
Township Manager

Pam Gural-Bear
Editor

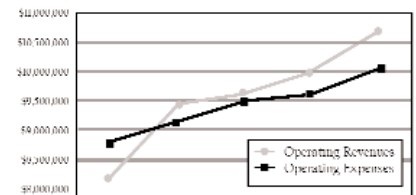
Michael Galla
Assistant Editor

Township Maintains Strong Financial Position

Montgomery Township completed its tax reform package in 2006. For the last four years, the Township has reduced real estate taxes and increased the Homestead Exclusion. The cumulative tax reduction has grown to 8 percent and the Homestead Exclusion increased to \$25,000.

In 2007, the Township will maintain a 1 percent Earned Income Tax (EIT), which is split evenly with the North Penn School District. The EIT is projected to bring in about \$3.6 million in 2007, which is about 30 percent of the Township's revenue. The real estate property tax will remain at 1.49 mills and will bring in about half as much as the EIT.

Operating Revenues vs. Operating Expenses
General Fund 2003-2007 (10/17/06)



2007 Proposed Budget

In September, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$2 million park capital plan and the Board has also committed to an estimated \$2.4 million for additional capital projects. The Board is

Financial continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



SNOW DAY
P. 6



FREE TREES
P. 6



"JUST SAY NO"
P. 7



HOLIDAY LIGHTS
P. 3



RECREATION FUN INSIDE



DAY CAMP SURVEY INSIDE

Rt. 202 Hearing Set for February 28 Report Available for Review

PennDOT will hold a public hearing on the proposed Route 202 Parkway on February 28 at Lenape Middle School in Doylestown. The hearing is part of the public review and comment for the Route 202, Section 700 Environmental Evaluation Report.

The Environmental Evaluation Report is available at the Township Building and at the Route 202 project website at www.us202-700.com. The public comment period ends March 15. The report documents the environmental impacts and transportation aspects for alternatives to improve trav-

el between Montgomeryville and Doylestown, including the Route 202 Parkway. PennDOT is recommending the parkway to relieve traffic congestion and improve capacity and safety along the 202 Corridor between Route 63 (Welsh Road) and Route 611.

The public hearing at Lenape Middle School, 313 West State Street, begins at 5:30 p.m. A plans display will be available for citizens to review starting at 5 p.m. Residents have four

Rt. 202 continued on page x



**Montgomery
Township
Celebrates
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
WEEK
April 9-13**

Every year, the second week of April signals not only that Spring is here but also the start of local government week. During this week, the township involves the local elementary school kids by involving them in the daily operations of how local government works. Township staff explore the various functions of local government with the students. The students are treated to demonstrations by the police canine unit as well as experiencing life as a firefighter all in one morning. Local government week is a great learning experience for the children who are our future local government leaders! Montgomery Township strives to make this week more fun, educational and exciting each year. For more information on this year's local government week, please contact the township at (215) 393-6900

Road Improvement Projects Continue to Move Forward

County Line Road

- Preliminary design is nearly complete on the proposed widening of County Line Road from Doylestown Road to Stump Road. Public meetings are complete for the preliminary phase of the project. The Environment document will be submitted in early 2007. This project will soon move into final design. Construction is anticipated for 2008.
- Preliminary design is underway for the proposed widening of County Line Road from Stump Road southeastward to Kulp Road. Different widening and improvement options are being considered and a public meeting is anticipated for Spring 2007.
- In Hatfield and New Britain Townships, preliminary design and environmental clearance is complete on the replacement and widening of the County Line Road bridge over the West Branch of the Neshaminy Creek and replacement of a culvert over a tributary. Final design is anticipated to begin in the next few weeks. Construction is anticipated to begin on this bridge replacement project in early 2008.

Route 202-65N

- Existing DeKalb Pike (US 202) will be widened to 5 lanes with curbs, including 2 northbound lanes, 2 southbound lanes, and one continuous left turn lane. Also, 5 foot bike lanes (one each way) will extend from Swedesford Road to Knapp Road. No roadway construction is proposed north of Knapp Road, but sidewalks will be added between Cheswick Drive and the signalized Montgomery Mall entrance.
- DeKalb Pike and the proposed 202 Parkway will connect to form a signalized T-intersection. North of the T-intersection, the new 202 Parkway will become designated as US Route 202. Old Route 202 will be known only as DeKalb Pike. The 202 Parkway will connect to Welsh Road at a signalized intersection.
- Gwynedd View Road and Swedesford Road will no longer connect to DeKalb Pike. They will join together and have a cul-de-sac near Welsh Road.
- Welsh Road will be widened to 5 lanes with curbs, including 2 eastbound lanes, 2 westbound lanes, and one continuous left turn lane, and 5 foot bike lanes each way from Stump Road to the existing shopping center to the west of 202.

Township Sparkled This Holiday

Santa Claus riding a bicycle...A shooting star plucked out of the sky...A plethora of snowmen and penguins... This and more illustrated the holiday spirit lighting up the Township this year.

Participation in the "Holiday Lights" contest nearly doubled this year. Simply looking at lights was so two years ago. Now, residents can drive by and listen to light displays. This year, it was especially easy to find your way to Montgomery Township because of the sheer number of lights adorning the homes!



Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Holiday Lights contest. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2007.

Everyone was a winner this year but the official results are:

- Most Lights:** Mike Pierson of Fairview Drive
- Best Theme:** Norman & Susan Shaw of Cowpath Rd
- Most Creative:** Thomas Coffey of Beaumont Terrace
- Best Variety:** Will Canum of Mallard Drive West
- Most Color:** Bob Menno of Abbey Lane

GRAND PRIZE WINNER:
Car Stopper: Mary Lou Ferrese of Spur Road

Thank you to all participants, judges and sponsors! It's never too early to start planning for 2007!

Rt. 202 Hearing is February 28

Rt. 202 continued from page 1

ways to submit testimony during the upcoming public comment period. They are:

- Oral testimony at the public hearing;
- Written testimony presented at the public hearing;
- Written testimony submitted to PennDOT during the comment period. Send written testimony to: PennDOT, 7000 Geerdes Boulevard, King of Prussia, PA 19406, Attn: Madeleine Fausto.
- E-mail testimony at the www.us202-700.com and click on the link for the "Question/Comment" page.

All comments received during the public comment period will become part of the formal hearing record. Oral comments at the public hearing will be limited to five minutes or less and written comments may be submitted in support

of oral testimony. Reservations for oral testimony at the public hearing may be made by contacting Michael Boles at 215-561-2644.

PennDOT has worked over the past year on preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the Route 202 Parkway, an 8.4 mile, at-grade road that would run between Route 63 (Welsh Road) in Montgomery County and Route 611 in Bucks County. The parkway is designed to have four 11-foot wide travel lanes between Route 63 (Welsh Road) and Route 463 (Horsham Road) in Montgomery County, and then transition to two 11-foot lanes from east of Route 463 (Horsham Road) up to its connection with Route 611 in Doylestown. Designed for a speed limit of 40 miles per hour, the parkway will include five-foot wide shoulders/bicycle lanes and a 12-foot wide multi-use trail within the right of way.



ATTENTION MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS:

Did you know that there are numerous volunteer committees and boards on which you can serve and positively contribute to your community?

Citizens Boards play a key role in helping maintain the quality of life in Montgomery Township. Residents volunteer their time to help with Autumn Festival, review development plans and offer expertise on environmental issues. The Township welcomes volunteers. Please consider volunteering your time on one of the following committees. Even if the committee that interests you does not have a vacancy at this time, we keep all applications on file for review for when a vacancy does occur. We still encourage you to take part in the committees as concerned residents even without a vacancy!

If interested, please check below all those committees and boards on which you may have an interest on serving. The committees with an asterisk beside it do have a vacancy at the present time. In addition, watch Channel 22 for current vacancies. Thank you for considering being a volunteer in Montgomery Township.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Please include a current resume with this form. Check all those of interest:

- *Autumn Festival Committee ___
- *Environmental Advisory Committee ___
- *Finance Committee ___
- Municipal Sewer Authority ___
- Open Space Committee ___
- *Park and Recreation Board ___
- *Pension Committee ___
- Planning Commission ___
- Public Safety Committee ___
- Sewer Authority ___
- Shade Tree Commission ___
- Zoning Hearing Board ___
- 202 Advisory Board ___

For more information on any of the above committees and boards, please contact the Township! You may drop off, mail or fax this form and resume to the Montgomery Township Building. Thank you! Montgomery Township, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA 18936 Fax (215) 855-6656



ATTENTION MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS:

Let us know your Summer Camp Needs

The Montgomery Township Parks & Recreation Department sponsors the Kids University Camp at the Spring Valley and Windlestrae Park Pavilions for children ages 5-10 years. The camp runs from the third week in June through the end of July and is a half day (Monday-Thursday; 9am to noon). The camp's daily schedule included arts & crafts, games, sports, nature walks and more. Trips are scheduled each Friday for an additional cost.

Does the present structure of the summer camp(s) meet your and your child's needs? Are you interested in having your child attend camp this coming summer (2007)? We would like to hear from YOU!

Please fill out the survey below and return it to us as soon as possible to the Township Building or by fax. Thank you!

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>MAYBE</u>
1. Do you use Day Care services during the summer?	_____	_____	_____
2. Are you interested in having your child(ren) attend Summer Camp?	_____	_____	_____
3. Would your child attend for 6 weeks?	_____	_____	_____
4. Would your child attend for 10 weeks?	_____	_____	_____
5. If not above, would your child attend a few days a week or for 1 week?	_____	_____	_____
6. Do the camp times meet your needs?	_____	_____	_____
7. If the times do not meet your needs, what times would meet your needs?	_____		
8. Do you have ideas on how we can improve our Summer Camp(s)?	_____		
Please list:	_____		

Other Comments?	_____		

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

of Children: _____

Please complete and return this form:

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1001 STUMP ROAD, MONTGOMERYVILLE, PA 18936

Fax: 215-855-6656

Email: pguralbear@montgomerytwp.org

Download the survey at www.montgomerytwp.org.

We appreciate your input very much and want to develop this program according to your needs!



Clear Those Sidewalks When Old Man Winter Blows In

SNOW DAY!

With the inevitable snowstorm rounding the corner, we must ensure that walking conditions remain safe for our children and families. How can we do that? First, property owners can clear the snow from their walkways, sidewalks and driveways before the kids head off to or return from school. It makes good sense to keep these areas and steps free of ice. Your mailman may even thank you for providing a safe path to your door!

Here are some unspoken points of "snow etiquette" and safety to keep in mind this winter season:

- Be a good neighbor! Lend a hand to those who may not be physically able to shovel or who may find walking to the store or bus stop too treacherous because of the snow or ice.
- Helping neighbors by shoveling snow from the driveway, walkway and sidewalks is a great activity for kids.
- Keep your children safe - don't let them play in the snow piles or on the snow banks at the side of the road.
- When clearing snow, pile it on your property - not onto the sidewalk or street.
- Place your garbage containers and recycle bins on a cleared area - not perched on top of snow piles.
- Clear your sidewalks and curbs. Neighborhood children need safe access to schools and bus stops throughout the winter months.
- Help prevent street flooding and icing by clearing snow away from storm sewers. When the weather turns warmer and snow begins to melt, it's important that the runoff water gets into the storm sewer.

Residents and business owners are reminded that, by ordinance, all private sidewalks are to be shoveled within 24 hours after a snowfall. The pathway should not be less than 30 inches in width once shoveled. Otherwise, pedestrians could slip and be injured. It is easier to remove snow before pedestrians pack it down. If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please clear the snow away from the area around it, leaving the markers intact. This will assist fire crews in the event of an emergency. If you have additional questions, please email pguralbear@montgomerytp.org or call 215-393-6900.

Get a Free Tree on April 28

The Shade Tree Commission and the Board of Supervisors will celebrate Arbor Day on April 28 with a 10th the annual tree giveaway. All residents (proof of residency required) are invited to the Township Building at 9 a.m. to receive a free tree (while supplies last) for planting in the community. A list of trees will be available at montgomerytp.org, cable channel 22 or by calling 215-393-6900 in the beginning of April.

Look for a few new exciting events at this year's Arbor Day Celebration.



Budget Holds Line on Taxes

Financial continued from page 1

also dedicated to exploring priorities for open space acquisitions.

The 2007 budget has a projected surplus of over \$300,000, which is in conjunction with the Township's five-year plan. Maintaining a balance in the capital reserve fund allows for capital improvements and serves as a contingency or "rainy day" fund. The Township will continue its conservative fiscal management practices in 2007.

Supervisors Sometimes Have to Make Unpopular Decisions

Editor's Note: *The preceding article entitled, "Just Say No", is from the introductory edition of Townships Today, which is published by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. The article explains why township supervisors are sometimes forced to make unpopular land use decisions. Townships Today's articles are written especially for residents of townships across Pennsylvania in order to provide all with a township perspective on timely local government issues.*

Wal-Mart is coming to town and wants to build its new store near your neighborhood. The township supervisors should just say no.

A pig farmer wants to set up shop down the road from your new dream home. The township supervisors should just say no.

A local businessman wants to open an adult bookstore a few doors away from your church. The township supervisors should just say no.

It's that easy, right? Well, not really. When making land use decisions, township supervisors must comply with a handful of state laws, including the granddaddy of them all, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, which was enacted in 1968 to guide local officials as they develop their communities.

And while the MPC, the courts, and the legislature have given township supervisors a certain amount of latitude

and flexibility in making local land use decisions, they have been very firm about one thing: Townships with zoning ordinances must allow for every use.

In other words, townships must set aside land for such necessary things as homes and businesses and such controversial things as landfills and cell phone towers. And no matter how much residents may protest, township supervisors have very few options when faced with an unpopular use: If the applicant complies with state and local laws, the township must allow it.

"Township residents may not want an adult bookstore or a hog farm in their community, but the courts have determined that these are legitimate uses," says Elam Herr, assistant executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. "So unless a township wants to wind up in court, spending valuable tax dollars because it side-stepped a state law, it can't ban or say no to these businesses. The supervisors' hands are tied."



"Sometimes, that's difficult for residents to understand," he adds, "but townships must follow state and federal laws like anyone else or face the consequences."

Take Care of Storm Water on Job Sites

Storm water is precipitation that flows across the ground or pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what are called storm sewers. These are the drains that are seen at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Storm water management is very important to the environment. This is the first in a series of tips to help ensure proper storm water control.

Developers, contractors and homebuilders can prevent storm water pollution by:

- Complying with storm water permit requirements
- Practicing erosion control and pollution prevention practices to keep sites clean
- Conducting advanced training and planning to ensure implementation of best practices



1001 Stump Road
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

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

Your Award-Winning Communications Community

Sign Up Today for Citizen's Police Academy

The Township Police Department is now accepting applicants for its third annual Citizen's Police Academy. The academy provides community members with an inside look at local law enforcement.

The ten-week class is designed to give citizens an overview of the police department's function and operational procedures. The curriculum and teaching methods are similar to a traditional police academy. The weekly sessions, however, are not designed to train the participant as a police officer.

Academy classes are taught by veteran police officers. The classes meet on Tuesdays beginning March 6 and continue for 10 weeks until May 8. Class starts and 7 p.m. and runs until 9 p.m. After the final class, a graduation ceremony will be held for the students.

There is no charge to participate. Applicants must be at least eighteen years old and a resident, business owner or non-resident employed in the Township. All applicants are subject to a criminal history check prior to acceptance in the academy. The Chief of Police has final approval of all applications and reserves the right to deny entry to any applicant.

Anyone wishing to participate may pick up an application at the Township Police Department or at montgomerytwp.org. All questions pertaining to the program can be directed to the Citizens' Police Academy Coordinator Sgt. Scott Bendig or Office Robert Hart at 215-362-2300.