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Autumn Festival October 13 *Details Inside*

# Communicator

News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors

September 2007

## Rush Hour Relief a Township Priority

Montgomery Township continues its efforts to improve traffic flow throughout the Township. This is accomplished through public works improvements, coordination with PennDOT and surrounding municipalities, and through requiring land developers to fund and construct roadway improvements. The following are a few recent or soon to be constructed projects aimed at improving traffic conditions throughout the Township.

### PennDOT Proposed Route 202 Parkway

The proposed Route 202 Parkway extends from Route 63 (Welsh Road) in Upper Gwynedd and Lower Gwynedd Townships of Montgomery County to the Route 611 Interchange in Doylestown Township, Bucks County. The Parkway will be an at-grade roadway, stretching approximately nine (9) miles and generally run-

ning parallel to Upper State Road and Stump Road. The proposed Parkway, designed for a speed limit of 40 miles per hour, will contain four 11-foot wide travel lanes between Route 63 (Welsh Road) and Route 463 (Horsham Road) and then transition to two 11-foot wide travel lanes between Route 463 (Horsham Road) to Route 611. In addition, the Parkway will have four 11-foot travel lanes through its intersection with County Line Road.

The Parkway has been designed to include 5-foot paved shoulders on both sides of the roadway that can operate as bicycle lanes, along with a 12-foot wide multi-use trail that will be placed within the PennDOT right of way. In addition, two (2) trailhead parking facilities will be present adjacent to the Parkway on Route 309 and Stump Road in Montgomery Township.

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# Road Improvements

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The PennDOT proposed Route 202 Parkway has a budget of \$200 Million. Construction is anticipated to commence in late 2007 and continue through 2010.

## **PennDOT Route 202 Section 65N Project**

The Route 202, Section 65N Project includes the widening of the existing Route 202 (Dekalb Pike) from two lanes to five lanes, with curbing, from Swedesford Road in Lower Gwynedd Township to Route 309 in Montgomery Township. The five lane cross section will contain two northbound through lanes, two southbound through lanes and a continuous center left turn lane.

Route 63 (Welsh Road) will also be widened as part of the Section 65N Project. The widening will extend from Stump Road to the existing shopping center West of Route 202.

The PennDOT Route 202 Section 65N Project has an estimated construction cost of \$26 Million. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2008 and continue through 2010.

## **PennDOT Route 202 Section 71A, 5 Points Intersection Project**

The PennDOT Route 202 Section 71A Project includes the widening of Route 309 to include three through lanes in each direction and the widening of Route 463 (Horsham Road) to include two through lanes in each direction at the 5 Points Intersection (Route 202/Route 309/Route 463) in Montgomery Township. Route 463 (Horsham Road) will be widened from Route 202 to North Wales Road.

The PennDOT Route 202 Section 71A Project has an estimated construction cost of \$3.5 Million. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2009 and continue through 2010.

## **PennDOT Route 463 Widening Project**

The PennDOT Route 463 Widening Project includes the widening of a .75 mile section of Route 463 (Horsham Road) from General Hancock Boulevard to North Wales Road to four travel lanes (two lanes in each direction). This project is a continuation of the Route 463, Section 57S Project, which extended from Stump Road to General Hancock Boulevard. The project will also incorporate turning lanes at all intersections, along with a center left turn lane over the entire roadway

section.

The PennDOT Route 463 Widening Project has an estimated construction cost of \$2.6 Million. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2007/2008.

## **PennDOT County Line Road Project, Sections WDI & WD2**

The PennDOT County Line Road Section WDI Project includes the widening of County Line Road from Route 202 (Doylestown Road) to Stump Road to include four travel lanes, two lanes in each direction, along with turning lanes at each intersection throughout the project limits.

The project has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$11.8 Million. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2008-2010.

The PennDOT County Line Road Section WD2 Project includes the widening of County Line Road between Stump Road and Kulp Road from two lanes to four lanes. In addition, the project will include various traffic signal upgrades.

The County Line Road Section WD2 Project total cost is estimated at \$11.3 Million. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2010.

## **Route 309 Reconstruction, Section 101**

The PennDOT Route 309 Reconstruction Section 101 Project includes the widening of Route 309 from Route 63 (Welsh Road) in Horsham Township to Highland Avenue in Upper Dublin Township. Although the majority of the work is being completed south of Montgomery Township, the project includes the addition of a 3rd southbound through lane from English Village/Gwynedd Crossing through Route 63 (Welsh Road).

The project has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$92 Million. Construction is anticipated to commence in mid-2007 and continue through 2010.

## **Route 309 & Hartman Road Widening**

As part of the construction of The Cutler Group Age Restricted Community, Hartman Road will be widened to include dual left turning lanes at its intersection with Route 309, and improvements to the traffic signal and jug handle at this intersection. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2007.

# Disc Golf Lands

Disc golf is coming to Montgomery Township's Windlestrae Park located off of Kenas Road.

The suggestion of a disc golf course in the Township was a recommendation from the Park and Recreation Board and the Board of Supervisors supported the idea. At the Board Meeting on May 29th, Dr. John G. Duesler Jr., Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) Marketing Director, discussed the proposed layout of the course at Windlestrae Park. Dr. Duesler has been working extensively in the field of disc golf and other recreation programs. He is working with the Township to design the disc golf course in Montgomery Township. The Board approved the proposed layout for the disc golf course during the meeting.

Disc golf ([www.disclife.com](http://www.disclife.com)) is a lot like traditional "ball" golf, except players use specially made plastic flying discs instead of balls and clubs, and throw them for 'par' at an above-ground target instead of a hole in the ground. There are different types of discs used for different purposes, much like ball golfers use different clubs.

"We are very excited to have Dr. Duesler on board to assist in developing this new recreation capability," said J. Robert Witmer, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors as well as a Board Liaison to the Park and Recreation Board. "This is a great opportunity to enhance our recreational services for our residents," said Witmer.



The meeting was attended by several residents who were in support of the disc golf course. Disc golf will be coming very soon and should be available for use by fall 2007.

## Mobile Office Visits



*Richard Koebert, legislative assistant to Representative Rick Taylor, helps a constituent during Rep. Taylor's office hours at the Township Building. Rep. Taylor's staff is at the Township Building from noon to 2 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of each month to assist residents.*

## Rain Gardens: Managing Storm Water

A rain garden is a type of garden that collects and stores excess rain water from roofs of buildings or from driveways or parking lots. This prevents the runoff from polluting streams and causing flooding and erosion of stream banks. This garden is a natural way of storing, processing and filtering water before it infiltrates into the ground water table below the rain garden. This provides cleaner ground water that runs into the waterways around the community.

Rain gardens are not too difficult to establish on your property whether it is your home or office. Besides, helping protect waterways by providing cleaner water and reducing flooding, rain gardens can add aesthetic landscaping to your yards and neighborhoods. It also can provide a habitat for birds, butterflies, and many beneficial insects.

For more information about how to create your rain garden, please visit the following sites:

- <http://www.dep.state.pa.us>
- <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org>

# Police Strive for Safety and Security

The Montgomery Township Police Department provides full-time police services to our community. The Uniform Patrol Division consists of uniformed members of the Police Department. They provide general police services to the community. Among their duties are responding to calls for police assistance from the public, traffic crash investigation, traffic and crowd control, and other related tasks.

Generally, when someone calls the Police Department, a member of the Patrol Division is the first department member a citizen will encounter. This division is recognized as the “back-bone” of the Police Department. Within the division are various “specialty units and teams” that provide unique support services. Among these units and teams are:

**Bicycle Patrol Unit** - This unit enhances the department’s community policing effort and provides a highly mobile non-traditional police response.

**Canine Unit** - This unit provides support to both the Patrol and Detective Divisions. Canine Teams are trained in the apprehension of suspects and searches for evidence, property, and missing persons. Several teams are trained in narcotics detection.

**Community Policing Unit** - This unit provides support to the Patrol and Detective Divisions as well as the entire community. It works directly with the residential, commercial, and industrial communities, assisting them with programs and developing strategies that promote

pro-active problem solving and crime prevention. This unit also develops and oversees the organization and implementation of Neighborhood Watch programs in the community. The Community Policing Unit will conduct a security survey of your home or business and make recommendations to improve the security and safety of your residence or business.



**D.A.R.E. Officers** - The D.A.R.E. program is a 16-week program teaching school students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and violence. This program, taught by police officers, is presented to 5th grade students. The D.A.R.E. officers make frequent visits to grades K through 4th as well.

**Highway Safety Unit** - In addition to “routine” patrol duties, members of the Highway Safety Unit provide accident analysis, traffic flow analysis, develop “selective enforcement” programs, and conduct commercial vehicle safety inspections.

**Accreditation Team** - In 2004, our department became the 22nd Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC)

accredited law enforcement agency in the Commonwealth. Members of the accreditation team were responsible for the successful “accreditation” award. This team now focuses on maintaining our accreditation status.

**Recruiting Team** - In 2005, the department created a “Recruiting Team.” The goal of this team is to recruit the most qualified individuals for employment. This team has significantly increased the number of applicants for the department to choose from when filling employment vacancies. You may contact a member of “The Recruiting Team” by telephone at 215-362-2300.

**CM S.W.A.T.** - Select members of the Patrol Division are members of the Central Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics Team. These officers are trained to use non-traditional weapons and tactics when they respond to situations having a high safety risk factor, or present unusual circumstances to the police and the public.

The Patrol Division and its subordinate units and teams are one of the three major components of the Police Department. Future editions of “The Communicator” will spotlight the remaining components (Detective Division and Administrative Division). Together, each component of the Police Department strives towards a common goal. That goal is providing security, safety, and quality service to our community.

# Register for Citizens' University Today

The Township's award-winning Citizens' University starts on September 11. What a great opportunity to learn more about your local government. You can meet with your elected officials as well as Township Staff to discuss various local issues.

The program lasts for 10-weeks and each week a new aspect of the Township is discussed. It is a great interactive way to understand your local government and includes field trips to see the inner workings of the Public Works Garage, the Eureka Sewer Treatment Plant, municipal parks, participate in an actual volunteer committee meeting, and the new Fire Substation. Each session will have an emphasis on more "hands-on" experiences rather than a traditional academic setting. If you are interested in applying, please visit [www.montgomerytwp.org](http://www.montgomerytwp.org) and click on Citizens University for an application. You can also contact Stacy Crandell at [scrandell@montgomerytwp.org](mailto:scrandell@montgomerytwp.org) or by calling 215-393-6900.

There is an opportunity for an afternoon and an evening session. The afternoon session would be at 1:30 p.m. and the evening session would take place at 7 p.m. Please make sure you specify which would work better for your schedule.

A tentative schedule of events includes:

- 9/11/07- Introduction and Overview by Township Manager
- 9/18/07- Sewer Authority- Tour of Eureka
- 9/25/07- Volunteer Boards- Sit in on the Environmental Advisory Committee
- 10/2/07- Fire Department- Tour of Fire Substation
- 10/9/07- Park and Recreation- Meet at One of the Parks
- 10/16/07- Planning Department- Overview of the Department
- 10/23/07- Finance Department- Overview of the Department
- 10/30/07- Public Works- Tour of the Public Works Building
- 11/6/07- NO CLASS- ELECTION DAY
- 11/13/07- Police Department
- 11/20/07- Board of Supervisors- Meet and Greet with your Elected Officials



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## Citizen's University Application

Complete and return to Township Building in person or via fax to (215) 855-6656. If you have a resume available, please attach it to this sheet.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am:  Retired  Working Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer:  afternoon session  evening session

# Firefighters “Stand Down” to Help Save Lives

The 2007 International Fire and EMS Safety “Stand Down” took place during the week of June 17-23, with the members of the Montgomery Township Department of Fire Services participating in this important event. On June 21st, the Department took part in the all-day program, which is dedicated to having firefighters work together to make their job safer and to learn how to assist a fellow firefighter who is in trouble.

The stand down themed “Ready to Respond,” focuses on preparing firefighters and EMS personnel for their daily duties by reviewing their training and the proper use of equipment to ensure safe response, mitigation, and return from all emergency situations. The term “stand down” is a method used by the military to correct an issue that has been identified as a problem throughout its ranks. The firefighters are using the term “stand down” to raise the level of awareness about firefighter and EMT safety while calling attention to the unacceptable number of deaths and injuries that plague both fire and EMS departments.

During the day’s events, the firefighters inspected the equipment to make sure that everything was working properly. The firefighters also took part in a Firefighter Challenge Course, which required each person to go through a series of challenges that mirrored what they would encounter in an actual fire. This course was helpful not only from a fitness perspective, as well as being very task-oriented. The firefighters then participated in Fire Jeopardy, which allowed the firefighters to have a friendly competition while reviewing fire safety codes.

## Fire Assistance Packet

The Montgomery Township Department of Fire Services is committed to not only helping people escape from fires but also to helping them with what to do after a disaster occurs. The Department recently developed ‘Customer Service Packets’ detailing steps to take after a fire or a disaster has struck your property. The packet



*Firefighters participated in a variety of training exercises that simulated what they might encounter in an actual fire.*

contains information regarding what should be done within the first 24 hours; what to do if you are insured or not insured; valuing your property; replacing important documents; and salvage hints. It even answers questions about fire department operations such as “Why did they cut a hole in my roof?”

Additionally, there is information on local smoke and fire restoration companies that have 24-hour service availability as well as information from the American Red Cross. “It is our hope that these packets will help guide township property owners through the tough recovery process after a disaster strikes,” stated Bill Brightcliffe, Montgomery Township’s Director of Fire Services. The firefighters who responded to your emergency will provide these packets as an aid to assist residents in their time of need.

To help insure your family’s safety, make sure you have a working smoke alarm at every level of your home. Establish and practice a home escape plan for emergencies, and have a pre-designated location as a family meeting place outside your home. Once you exit the property do not go back inside and remember to call 911!



*Kid's University campers enjoy a water slide, just part of the fun children experienced this summer.*

## Kid's University Has Successful First Year

The Park and Recreation Team at Montgomery Township launched many new and exciting programs this summer. They introduced a full-day Kid's University Program for kids 5 to 13 years old. Every week had a different theme including Favorite Pets, Hawaiian Luau, Fourth of July, Travel Through the Safari, The Sound of Music, Holiday, Back to the Beach, and Super Heroes. Besides the full day camp, a half-day program was also available.

On Tuesday and Friday afternoons, swim trips to the new Hatfield Aquatic Center in the afternoons were a hit with the kids. Next year, "Trip Thursday" will feature a different field trip each week. Reserve your spot for next summer in January 2008!

## Academy Teaches Youth Police Basics



*Officer Gerald Dougherty and K-9 Fox demonstrate tactics for Junior Police Academy students.*

The Junior Police Academy has been running for almost a decade providing children between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age with a basic understanding of police work. During the two-day program the children are instructed in basic first aid, self defense, and basic fire safety. Demonstrations and equipment are provided by the Montgomery Township Police Canine Unit, Fire Department of Montgomery Township, Volunteer Medical Service Corps., Montgomery County Bomb Squad, Central Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics Team, and the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Medi-Vac Helicopter.

The kids are able to interact with police officers and other emergency personnel on an individual basis. This year, over 50 cadets attended the academy with 10 to 15 instructors leading the group. It was held at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer School and Spring Valley Park. On the final day, a graduation ceremony took place at the Montgomery Township Administration Building.

## Landscaping Tips from Shade Tree Committee



*The Township's volunteer Shade Tree Commission works to protect the natural beauty of the community. The commission reminds residents to spread mulch wide around trees rather than high. Soil and mulch should have a depth of 3 inches, keeping the base of the trunk and the root crown exposed. Over-mulching rots tree bark and can kill trees.*



1001 Stump Road  
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

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

## Your Award-Winning Communications Community

### **Environmental Advisory Committee Members Appointed**

The Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors announced two newly appointed members of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), Nick Fortune and Terry Wilson. The EAC was formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and educate the council on matters that can affect the environment. These appointed members meet monthly to discuss issues that have environmental implications. The EAC has successfully worked with other agencies on projects and programs that have dealt with storm water, recycling, invasive plants, and other environmental topics.

Montgomery Township is always looking for more volunteers on its various advisory boards and committees. If you would like to volunteer for any of the advisory boards, these include, the 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 Committee, Zoning Hearing Board, and 202 Customer Advisory Board, please send a letter of intent along with your resume or application to Montgomery Township, 1001 Stump Road, Montgomeryville, PA. 18936.



*New EAC members Nick Fortune (left) and Terry Wilson (right) join Supervisor Chairman Bob Witmer at the Township Building.*