



Communicator

News from the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors December 2008

Board of Supervisors:
Jeffrey W. McDonnell, Chairman
Robert J. Birch, Vice-Chairman
Michael J. Fox
Stephen A. Prousi
William J. Sarosky
Township Manager: John B. Nagel

1001 Stump Road
Montgomeryville, PA 18936
Phone: 215-393-6900
Fax: 215-855-6656
www.montgomerytpw.org

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Board of Supervisors:
2nd & 4th Mondays at 8pm

Autumn Festival:
2nd Wednesday at 7pm

Business Development Partnership
(BDP):
3rd Tuesday at 12:30pm

Environmental Advisory
Committee:
4th Tuesday at 7pm

Finance Committee:
4th Thursday at 7:30pm

Open Space:
3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Park and Recreation Board:
2nd Wednesday at 8pm

Pension:
3rd Thurs. (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) at 7pm

Planning Commission:
1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:30pm

Public Safety:
3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm

Sewer Authority:
3rd Wednesday at 7:45pm

Shade Tree Commission:
3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm

Zoning Hearing Board:
1st Tuesday at 7:30pm

Making the Investment to Manage Traffic

Keeping pace with the increasing traffic through the construction of road improvements has been a challenging task. While continuing to pursue major roadway projects that are critical to the long-term sustainability of the region, the Township has focused its efforts on using technology and an intelligent traffic signal system to maximize the capacity of the existing road network, and keep residents and visitors moving throughout the Township.

This is a wise investment, according to a 2005 study completed by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), which showed that the benefits of investments in traffic signal systems outweigh the costs by forty to one or more.

Montgomery Township currently owns and maintains 39 traffic signals and over eight miles of fiber optic cable and wireless radio equipment to interconnect traffic signals along Route 63, 309, 202, and 463. This equipment allows the traffic signals to ‘talk’

to each other and to a central computer through a state of the art closed loop traffic signal system. The central computer is located at the Township Building and communicates with the interconnected traffic signals for the purpose of monitoring traffic flow, collecting traffic data, and providing maintenance alarms. The traffic signal timings and coordination settings can also be adjusted from the central computer. There are plans for PennDOT to have access to this system in the future at their 24-hour Traffic Management Center in order to improve traffic flow on a regional basis.

With new development and redevelopment of land in and around Montgomery Township, the traffic patterns are constantly changing. In addition, PennDOT’s major roadway reconstruction projects on Route 309, 463, and 202 result in motorists finding alternate routes to get to their destination. Therefore, the traffic signal timings and coordination settings need to be adjusted on a regular basis

Traffic Continued on page 2

Township & State Investments in Local Transportation Improvements

Project	Estimated Cost
US 202 Parkway (SR 6202, 701)	\$ 200 Million
US 202 Parkway (SR 6202, 711 & 721)	
Dekalb Pike and Welsh Road (SR 0202, 65N)	\$ 23 Million
Horsham Road (SR 0463, MW1)	\$ 3.2 Million
Bethlehem Pike (SR 0309, 100)	\$ 92 Million
Bethlehem Pike ITS (SR 0309, 104)	\$ 11.4 Million
County Line Road (SR 2038, WD1)	\$ 11.8 Million
County Line Road (SR 2038, WD2)	\$11.3 Million
5 Points Widening (SR 0202, 71A)	\$ 3.5 Million
Limekiln Pike Bridge (SR 0152, MLN)	\$ 1.5 Million
TOTAL COSTS	Over \$ 350 Million

Navigating Through the Permit Process

Thinking about adding a fence, shed, garage or finishing your basement? You will need a building permit from the Montgomery Township Planning Department. This process is in place to ensure a project is completed properly and safely for homeowners.

With all home improvement projects, it is important to call the Township to check if permits are required. Here are the basic steps to follow (please note the steps may vary depending on the type of permit and the home improvement project):

- First, obtain your permit packet online or stop by the Planning Department between the hours of 9AM-4PM. This packet gives you all the information needed for completing your permit. A contractor for the project needs to be chosen prior to submitting the paperwork to ensure they have the required worker's compensation insurance coverage.
- Next, bring in the permit paperwork, two sets of plans, a site plan (if it's an exterior project), and submit your payment. The fee covers the inspection and administrative costs. If you live in a development with a Homeowners Association (HOA) you must obtain approval from them first.

- The permit application is then reviewed by Township Staff. This process can take up to three weeks. "Our advice to residents is to make sure that they have completed the permit packet and submitted all of the information required." said Marianne McConnell, the Township's Deputy Zoning Officer.

- After the review, you will receive a phone call to notify you about the status of the permit. If the permit is granted, you can pick up your approved permit packet which will contain detailed information about required Township inspections. Please make sure you call a minimum of 24 to 48 hours in advance to schedule inspections. Once all inspections are completed successfully, you are ready to enjoy the finished product.

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It is important for residents to find out what permits, if any, are required before starting home improvement projects. Failure to have proper permits can be costly for the homeowner due to the possibility of faulty construction. For more information on what home improvement projects require permits, please visit www.montgomerytwp.org or contact the Planning Department at 215-393-6920.

Technology Makes Township Driving Easier

Traffic Continued from page 1

to account for these fluctuations in traffic volumes and patterns. It is essential that traffic signals are properly maintained and that signal timings are adjusted for efficient operation.

As a result of efficient traffic signal timings, Montgomery Township residents are able to save time, cost of gas, and are

reducing harmful emissions. For more information, please visit www.montgomerytwp.org or call 215-393-6900. As a result of proper and efficient traffic signal timing, here are a few examples of the savings to Montgomery Township residents:

	Impact Nationally	Impact on Montgomery Township Residents
Traffic Delay	Alleviate 5-10% of all traffic delay	Reduce traffic delay from 15-40%
Travel Time	Reduce travel time up to 25%	If you commute 2 hours to and from work daily, over 2.5 hours of travel time per week can be saved
Fuel Consumption	Reduce fuel consumption up to 10%	If you use 1 tank of gas weekly, the reduction in fuel consumption can save you approximately \$300 annually
Reduction of Harmful Emissions	Reduce harmful emissions up to 22%	Reduce harmful emissions up to 22%

Police Department Achieves Reaccreditation

In 2001, the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Since then, over 260 law enforcement agencies have enrolled in the accreditation program while only 48 agencies have achieved and maintained accreditation status.

The Montgomery Township Police Department was the 22nd law enforcement agency to attain accreditation in the Commonwealth. After receiving accreditation, agencies must be inspected every three years for compliance with the 297 standards established by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. On February 2, 2008, the Montgomery Township Police Department was awarded "Reaccreditation" status after an inspection of the police department facility and operations.

To achieve and maintain accreditation status, a police department must show proof that they have policy and procedures in place that comply with the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission standards. These standards establish procedures and rules related to: Use of Force, Police Vehicle Pursuits, Patrol Operations, Traffic Enforcement, Prisoner Custody, Detention Facility Management, Legal Procedures, Evidence (collection, retention, and disposition), General Reporting Procedures and many other facets of law enforcement. Further, the agencies must provide "proof of compliance" with each standard.

The Montgomery Township Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures Manual was re-written, codified, and restructured to



(Left to Right) State Representative Josh Shapiro joins Montgomery Township Police Chief Richard Brady and Corporal William Peoples and Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association President Robert Buxton at the accreditation ceremony.

meet the Commission's standards. During this task, an electronic version of the Manual became available at each workstation on the Department's computer system, as well as each police vehicle equipped with Mobile Data Computers.

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost-effective plan for professionalism in law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The underlying philosophy of the program is to have a user-friendly undertaking for the departments that will result in a "success" oriented outcome.

By receiving this accreditation, it helps to ensure that there are modern and acceptable guidelines across the state. "This is one of the biggest challenges in law enforcement," said Lt. Gordon Simes. By having guidelines with other police departments, it reduces exposure to liability. "It is also a step towards improving professionalism and standardizing practices for all law enforcement agencies," continued Lt. Simes.

Additional information about the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program can be found by visiting the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police website at <http://www.pachiefs.org/accreditation.htm>.

Move that Snow!

With the winter season fast approaching, it is important to remind everyone of the Township's snow removal policy. 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 be at least 30 inches in width once shoveled. 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. Failure to comply with this policy could result in fines up to \$600 for each offense.

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.
- 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. Clearing your sidewalk helps children travel to school safely and will allow them to stay off roadways.



- Help prevent street flooding and icing by clearing snow away from storm sewers. When the snow begins to melt, it's important that the runoff water pours into the storm sewer. If the catch basin is fully or partially covered by a build-up of snow and ice, street flooding can occur which can cause a dangerous and unsafe situation.
 - Please apply anti-icing treatments to the sidewalks along your property to avoid slippery ice patches. By sprinkling sand or salt on the icy spots, the walkway will be safe for pedestrian traffic.
- Please help keep our community safe during the winter weather. If you have additional questions regarding these procedures, please call 215-393-6900 or stop by the Township Building.

Tax Rebate Applications at Township Building

The Pennsylvania Property Tax or Rent Rebate Program is part of an effort by the State of Pennsylvania to provide citizens with property tax relief. The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvania residents age 65 and older; widows or widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older.

Homeowners with an income not greater than \$35,000 and renters with an income not greater than \$15,000 may be eligible for a property tax/rent rebate up to \$650. Applicants can exclude one-half (1/2) of their Social Security income when calculating their annual income. Please stop by the Montgomery Township building to

pick up a Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application. The deadline to file an application is December 31, 2008. The township building is located at the corner of Horsham and Stump Roads. The address is:

Montgomery Township
1001 Stump Road
Montgomeryville, PA 18936-9605

The Township Building is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stump Road Fire Station Receives Positive Reviews



Members of the FDMT attend the dedication ceremony.



Supervisor Michael J. Fox, Fire Services Director William Brightcliffe, FDMT President Ed Skrzat, State Senator Stewart Greenleaf, Supervisor Jeffrey McDonnell, Supervisor Robert Birch, State Representative Rick Taylor, FDMT Chief Chris Mann and Congresswoman Schwartz's Field Representative Karen Gurmankin.



FDMT Fire Chief Chris Mann cuts the ribbon during the dedication ceremony.

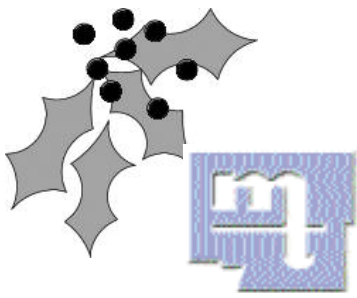
The Montgomery Township Department of Fire Services (DFS) and the Fire Department of Montgomery Township (FDMT) unveiled their newly renovated fire station on Stump Road, which was completed under budget for \$2.426 million. The Stump Road Fire Station renovation project began last fall and was completed in September. The official ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Saturday October 11. The ceremony attracted a crowd of over 50 people, including State Senator Stewart Greenleaf, State Representative Rick Taylor, and Montgomery Township Supervisors Robert Birch, Michael Fox, and Jeffrey McDonnell. "Residents should feel proud and safe because of the many men and women who are dedicated to serving this community," said Robert Birch, Board Liaison for the Public Safety Committee.

"This is an exciting time for the fire department. We are grateful for the support from the community leaders and the Board of Supervisors," said William Brightcliffe, Director of Fire Services. In conjunction with unveiling the new fire station, the FDMT hosted their annual Fire Prevention Open House for the public on Saturday, October 18. This event had activities for everyone and drew a crowd of over 400 people! The action-packed day included:

- Fire Apparatus Displays
- Motor Vehicle Extraction Demonstrations
- Sparky- the Fire Prevention Dog
- Smoke House in North Wales which simulated what it is like during a fire
- Fun activities for children like the safety house trailer and a moon bounce.

"It was a great day for the residents, who all commented on how pleased they were with the renovation of the fire station," said Brightcliffe.

The DFS and FDMT scheduled fire drills, fire inspections, and assemblies for the younger children at the local schools throughout October for Fire Prevention Month. The schools, hotels, nursing homes, and local daycare facilities had fire inspections conducted while firefighters trained staff members on how to handle a fire emergency. For more information on how to prevent fire or the new fire station, please call 215-393-6900.



1001 Stump Road
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

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18936

Your Award-Winning Communications Community

202 Parkway Breaks Ground

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the long-awaited 202 Parkway Project took place on Friday, November 21 at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation Allen D. Biehler along with elected officials from both Bucks and Montgomery Counties addressed the crowd of over one hundred.

“Montgomery Township has been in the forefront of this project from the very beginning and our support of the project has never waned,” said Jeffrey McDonnell, Chairman of the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors. This project will help alleviate the traffic congestion this area has been experiencing for years. The 202 project has become a model for future road improvement projects across the State. “It is an excellent example of what can be accomplished through intergovernmental cooperation,” said McDonnell. The Township would like to extend its gratitude to the neighboring communities including Lower Gwynedd, Upper Gwynedd and the communities in Bucks County for working together with Montgomery Township to see this project come to fruition.

The Route 202 Parkway Project will extend from County Line Road to Welsh Road in Montgomery Township. The parkway will be four lanes (two lanes in each direction)

from Welsh Road to Horsham Road. The road will taper down to one lane in each direction from Horsham Road to County Line Road.

Two trail head parking lots will be built for commuters to take advantage of the twelve foot shared use path that will parallel the parkway. One parking lot will be located off of Route 309 between Upper State Road and Knapp Road, and the second one will be located off of Knapp Road near DeKalb Pike. Computer animations have been added to the US 202 website to show what the final design will look like from a bird’s eye view and also from a traffic perspective.

The completion of the Route 202 Parkway Project is anticipated by the end of 2011. For more information on the Route 202 project or to view the computer animations, please visit www.us202.com or call 215-393-6900. Montgomery Township will receive updates from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) throughout the construction phase and post them on our Government Access Channel (Comcast – Channel 22 and Verizon- Channel 34) and website. This information will keep residents aware of progress made as well as possible delays that may occur.