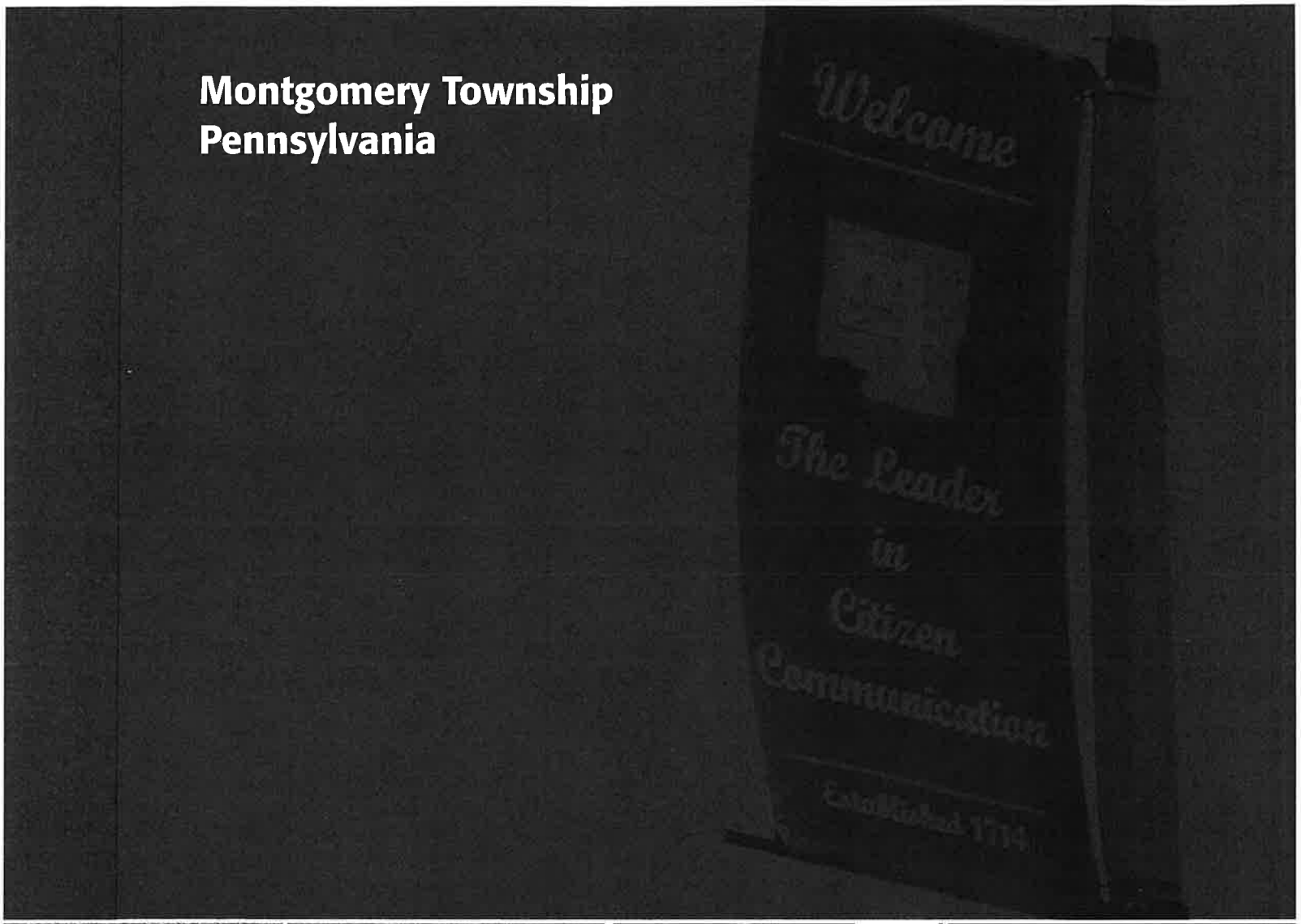
Montgomery Township
Pennsylvania








An Even Better Place to Live and Work

2006
Annual Report

To All Township Residents

It is my privilege to introduce the 2006 Montgomery Township Annual Report. This report highlights the extraordinary events of 2006 that improve the quality of life and enhance the sense of community for all residents in Montgomery Township.

While Montgomery Township taxes are prudently managed, I assure you that your Supervisors take Montgomery Township's continuing excellent financial performance very seriously. Montgomery Township residents continue to benefit from Real Estate Tax reductions and the increase in the Homestead Exemption. The ongoing excellent financial performance created resources that allowed your Township Supervisors to take several steps to preserve the quality of life in the township for many years to come.

In fact, the Township Supervisors set aside $2 million to support the Park and Recreation Board's five year capital improvement plan. In addition, recognizing the extreme importance of preserving open space within the Township, your Board made the Open Space Committee a permanent township advisory group. The committee prepared and submitted the Township's Open Space Plan in 2006, receiving accolades from Montgomery County who judged the plan as "exceptional." This action solidified our potential allocation of $1.5 million in open space funding from the county.

We, the Board of Supervisors, allocated an additional $1.5 million for the purpose of Open Space Preservation. When combined with previously designated funds of $630,000, a total of $2,130,000 can now be utilized for preserving open space. Under the direction of the Board, the Montgomery Township Open Space Committee's priority is to acquire open space, utilizing funding alternatives such as grants and only utilizing Township funds as a last alternative.

Montgomery Township continues to lead the transportation improvement efforts in the area and to enhance the quality of life for all. The Route 202 Parkway Project has been a major focus of the Board. The Route 463 expansion at Stump Road was completed. Numerous committees are in place to address the regional flow-through traffic on County Line and Horsham Roads.

After missing a year due to flood-like conditions, the Township Autumn Festival Committee guided what became the best attended event to date with several new approaches taken to enhance future festivals. In addition, the Arbor Day celebration, Citizens' University, the Holiday Lights Contest, and the Summer Concert Series continued to add to the sense of community in the Township.

Public safety is always a top priority. Our Police Department enhanced its mobile data system and responded to 24,972 calls for service. The Police Department's clearance rate of 44 % for Part I Crimes is one of the highest in Montgomery County. A 58.6% clearance rate for Part II Crimes was obtained in 2006.

The Fire Department of Montgomery Township transitioned to the Montgomery County 800 MHz communications system and initiated planning for the renovation of Station 1 on Stump Road. Our firefighters responded to 683 calls, and the Fire Marshal's office completed 299 inspections in 2006. The Junior and Citizens' Police Academies, along with the Fire Department Boot Camp, provided community members with the opportunity to learn first hand about our Police and Fire Departments.

I could not complete this letter without emphasizing that much of the quality of life and fiscal efficiency in our community would not have been possible without the countless hours of service provided by those who have shown their dedication to the Township by volunteering on one or more of the many Township committees and advisory groups. I invite you all to consider what contributions you may be able to make to our community by volunteering yourself. Thanks in advance!

Sincerely,



J. Robert Witmer
Chairman

Preserving Montgomery Township

The Board of Supervisors, Township staff, and volunteers all played a role in efforts to preserve and improve the community. Those efforts came in many shapes and sizes. A key initiative was the preservation of open space. While always a priority, 2006 saw the adoption of the Township's Open Space Plan.

Another initiative was the protection and restoration of a piece of the Township's past, the Knapp Farmhouse. The Montgomery Township Historical Society acquired the property and immediately started repair work. The 18th century home is the only Township property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Protecting Open Space

The Montgomery Township Open Space Plan was completed by the Open Space Committee and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2006. Before being approved by the Board of Supervisors, the Open Space Plan was ***approved with distinction*** by the Montgomery County Open Space Board. The plan focuses on potential land acquisitions that can be used for passive or active recreation along with identifying a comprehensive Township-wide trail network that interconnects with the Montgomery County trail system. Montgomery County has committed $1.5 million in grant funds to assist in open space acquisition.

Fifteen potential acquisition properties have been identified in the Open Space Plan due to their valuable resources. These resources include historic structures, farms, scenic views, natural corridors, wetlands, streams, and other natural resources. The Open Space Plan also outlines future trail connections with Township parks, neighboring municipalities, and the county trail system. This comprehensive trail system, combined with the Township's sidewalks, will provide residents with a safe place to walk, jog, or ride a bicycle. Montgomery Township has 1,178 acres of open space.

The Open Space Committee became a permanent Township advisory committee that will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on how to implement the Open Space Plan. The Board of Supervisors actively pursues the preservation of open space areas during land development plan reviews and continues to designate funds towards the acquisition of open space parcels. Open space and the preservation of natural areas continue to be a main focus for Montgomery Township.

Bat Houses Helping Fight Insects

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) applied for and received a $750 grant from the Rohm and Haas Company to purchase and install bat houses in the Township.

Bats act as a natural pesticide and have a huge impact on insect populations. They even provide pollination for agricultural crops and flowers located within rain forest ecosystems. The bat houses have been installed in park areas, detention basins, and other natural areas throughout the Township.

Different size houses were purchased in the hopes of attracting multiple colonies of bats. With the help of the Public Works Department, the bat houses were painted and installed in areas that provide the best possible habitat for bats to live in.



Naturalized Basin Improves Stormwater Management

Naturalizing stormwater basins involves transforming a conventional stormwater basin into a natural ecosystem capable of providing habitat, water quality treatment, and aesthetic value. In 2006, the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), in conjunction with FX Browne, completed the development of a naturalized basin. This included maintaining established vegetation and reseeding areas where plants failed to grow. As a requirement of the grant, a final report was submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) outlining the process and creation of the naturalized basin. A water sampler was also installed at the basin to conduct water testing during rainstorms. Once these tests are completed and the results are tabulated, an addendum to the final report containing this information will be sent to the DEP. Through this study, the EAC will learn more about how naturalized basin technology can best be applied to improving stormwater management locally.



Eureka Completed

The Municipal Sewer Authority substantially completed the Eureka Expansion project in 2006. The project, which started in 2003, included the addition of two large tanks and a two-story control building to complement the existing two smaller tanks. The plant currently has an average flow of 1.5 million gallons per day. By expanding the number of tanks to four, the plant's capacity went from 750,000 gallons per day to over 2.4 million gallons per day total capacity. The expansion provides adequate capacity to the Township for all foreseen current and future developments and did not cause an increase in sewer rental rates. The authority also is using a Geographical Information System (GIS) to help it quickly respond to emergencies. The authority's consulting engineer designed a system that shows street names, sewer manholes, and sewer lines using an aerial map. This system aids the staff in responding to resident and developer questions, PA One Call inquiries, and emergencies.

Knapp Farmhouse Gets Facelift

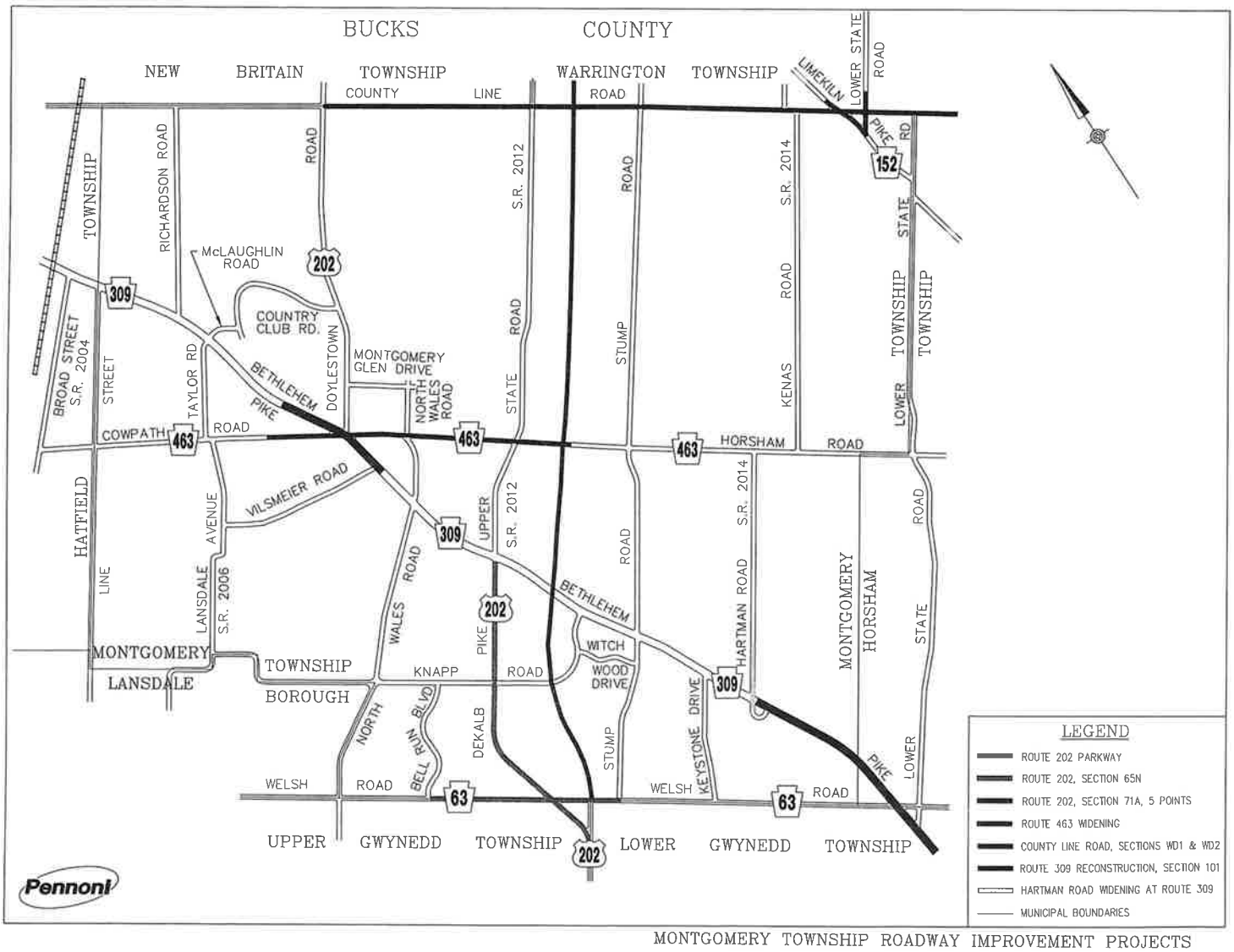
The Montgomery Township Historical Society focused its 2006 efforts on the rehabilitation of the Knapp Farmhouse, which is the only Township property on the National Register of Historic Places and is located at the corner of Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) and Knapp Road. The farmhouse became the property of the Historical Society through a land development agreement that also included seven acres of open space. Progress on the farmhouse in 2006 included successfully stabilizing the exterior walls of the house and spring house along with stripping the crumbling stucco off the exterior walls and repointing. The grounds around the house were cleaned up, and the decaying porch was removed with the intent of replacing it in 2007. Once completed, the Knapp Farmhouse will become the home of the Montgomery Township Historical Society.

The Montgomery Township Historical Society was founded in 1988. Since that time, the society has successfully worked with Township officials and negotiated with developers to help preserve and/or find new uses for a variety of eighteenth and nineteenth century properties.



Enhancing the Road Network

Whether a resident or businessperson, the ability to travel quickly and safely throughout the Township is a priority. That is one reason why the Township invests countless hours working with local municipalities, PennDOT, land developers, and engineers to plan and complete projects that improve local roads. In 2006, significant progress was made on many important road improvements.



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Route 202 Parkway

The Route 202 Parkway runs from Route 63 (Welsh Road) in Upper Gwynedd Township and Lower Gwynedd Township to the Route 611 interchange in Doylestown Township. The Parkway will be an at-grade roadway, stretching approximately nine miles and generally running parallel to Upper State Road and Stump Road. The Parkway, designed for a speed limit of 40 miles per hour, will contain four 11-foot wide travel lanes between Route 63 and Route 463 (Horsham Road) and then transition to two 11-foot wide lanes between Route 463 and Route 611. The Parkway will have four 11-foot lanes through its intersection with County Line Road.

The Parkway will include 5-foot paved shoulders on both sides of the roadway that can serve as bicycle lanes along with a 12-foot wide multi-use trail that will be placed within the PennDOT right-of-way. Two trailhead parking facilities will be present adjacent to the Parkway on Route 309 and Stump Road in Montgomery Township.

The Parkway has a budget of $200 million. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2007 and continue through 2010.

Route 202

This work includes the widening of Route 202 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 will be widened as part of the project. The widening will extend Stump Road to the existing shopping center west of Route 202. The project has an estimated construction cost of $26 million. Construction is expected to start in 2008 and continue through 2010.

Route 202, Five Points Intersection Project

This project includes the widening of Route 309 to include three through lanes in each direction and the widening of Route 463 to include two through lanes in each direction at the Five Points Intersection. Route 463 will also be widened from Route 202 to North Wales Road.

The project has an estimated construction cost of $3.5 million. Construction is expected to start in 2009 and continue through 2010.

Route 463

This work includes the widening of a .75 mile section of Route 463 from General Hancock Boulevard to North Wales Road to four travel lanes. The project is a continuation of the project that extended from Stump Road to General Hancock Boulevard. The project will incorporate turning lanes at all intersections along with a center left turn lane over the entire roadway section.

The project has an estimated construction cost of $2.6 million with construction anticipated for 2007 or 2008.

Route 309 and Hartman Road

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 the intersection. Construction is expected to begin in 2007.

Celebrating Community

Residents came together throughout 2006 to enjoy life in Montgomery Township. From a relaxing night listening to music in Gazebo Park to a leisurely walk at a park with friends, the sense of community that makes Montgomery Township so special was never far away.

Students Join Government Ranks



Local Government Week saw students from local elementary schools become part of the Township for a day. Children were given the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Police Department and Fire Department. Officer Jim Matlack, who runs the D.A.R.E. program for the schools in the Township, talked to the children about the role of the police officer and how they keep citizens safe. The Fire Department showed the fire truck to the children and also had a contest to see who could get the firefighter's gear on the quickest. Students from Montgomery and Bridle Path Elementaries took part in the Local Government Week activities.

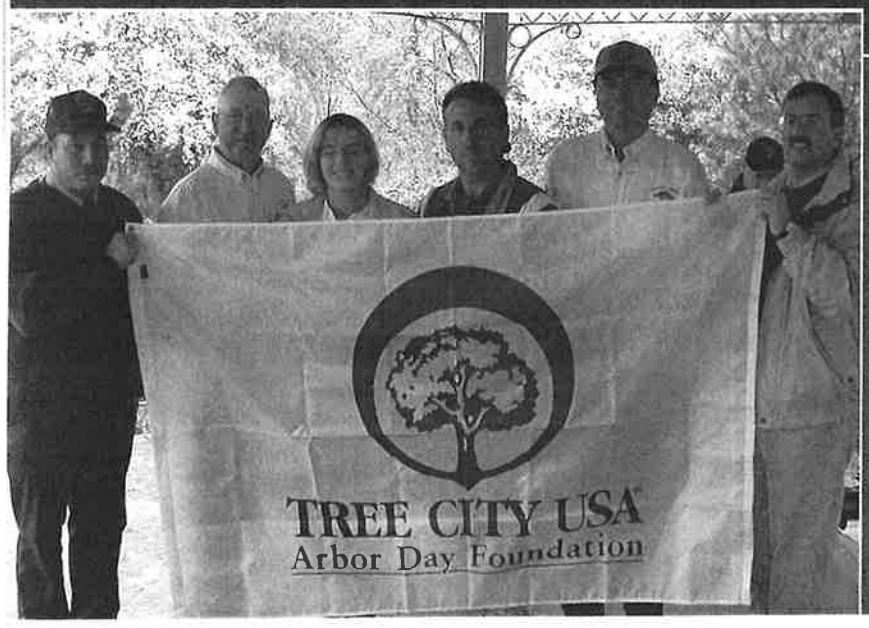
"Citizens' U" Scores Again

Citizens' University celebrated its third successful year in 2006. The program educates residents about the operations of the Township and its departments. Citizens' University explores the roles that citizens and the administration have in maintaining an effective municipal government.

Over a ten-week period, students participate in a variety of tours, presentations, and demonstrations given by department heads, volunteers, and the Board of Supervisors. The courses for residents are aimed at promoting an understanding and awareness of the Township's structure and services. Graduates of Citizens' University have gone on to serve on many of the Township's volunteer boards, commissions, and committees.

D.A.R.E.

D.A.R.E., Drug Abuse Resistance and Education, is a drug abuse prevention education program designed to equip elementary and junior high school children with knowledge about drug abuse, the consequences of abuse, and skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.



Arbor Day 2006

The Shade Tree Commission invited all residents to celebrate Arbor Day on April 29th by planting a tree. More than 300 native shade and flowering trees were distributed free to residents.

The celebration also included the reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation by Chairman Roy Rodriguez and a presentation by our local State Forester naming Montgomery Township as a 2005 Tree City USA and Growth Award recipient. Certified Master Arborist Frank Gifford answered questions concerning planting and care of the trees.

Lights Brighten the Holidays



Blinking lights, blow-up characters, music, and large snow globe lawn ornaments are just a few of the decorations you'll find while driving through Montgomery Township during the month of December. In an effort to celebrate the holiday season, the Township again encouraged a little friendly competition with its 2006 Holiday Lights Contest.

This year over 20 residents submitted applications for the contest in hopes of becoming the "Car Stopper." Houses are judged by volunteers and Township staff on color, music, creativity, movable characters, and other categories. Prizes for the winners are donated by local businesses, and they included dinners for two, gift cards, and a DVD player.

Concert Series Makes Beautiful Music

Residents flocked to Gazebo Park to enjoy the sounds of the Township's annual Summer Concert Series. Started in 1999, the series brought eight dynamic musical acts and hundreds of smiles from concert goers to the Township.

Featured performers included the Pennsylvania Dance Swing Band and the Montgomery County Concert Band playing well-recognized show tunes. Elvis impersonator Dean Garofolo once again drew one of the largest audiences. ED, a hard rock group, and Zydeco-A-Go-Go with its New Orleans Creole music, were crowd pleasers as well. Jimmy Buffet tunes such as Margaritaville could be heard throughout the Township as the Mango Men performed at the Gazebo Park. All concert goers enjoyed a night of dancing as well as a limbo contest. Country music entertainers Jody King with the Country Cause and Steppin Out hit the center stage last summer along with Christine Havrilla and The Stephen Park Band playing their folk music. The Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet and Point Blank, a pop music group, also were among the favorites.

The summer concert series is a great opportunity for residents of all ages to come together to enjoy an evening of melodic music.



Safety Always A Priority

The Township is fortunate to have a first-class Police Department and Fire Department to serve and protect the community. Safety is always foremost for the departments, which spent countless hours training in 2006. The men and women of the departments also take time to work with residents and youth to introduce them to the departments and their workings.

Fire Department

In Montgomery Township, we have a combination fire department consisting of paid and volunteer firefighters. The paid firefighters are on staff Monday through Friday during the day. Their responsibilities include providing quality fire protection and conducting annual life safety inspections for all commercial buildings. They also coordinate fire prevention programs, review land development plans, and perform daily maintenance to the apparatus and equipment. The volunteer firefighters comprise the Fire Department of Montgomery Township (FDMT). There are approximately 70 members of the FDMT that provide coverage to emergency responses during nights, weekends, and holidays. The FDMT conducts training drills every Monday night. FDMT conducts community events which include a long time tradition of the 'Santa Run,' which helps transport Santa Claus on a fire truck to every neighborhood in the Township on Christmas Eve. The volunteers also participate in community parades as well as an annual golf outing and car washes as fundraisers throughout the year.





Fire Department Annual Boot Camp

The firefighters responding to emergencies in the Township have the necessary apparatus, equipment, training, and safety gear to provide first rate emergency services protection to the residential and business community of the Township. Each firefighter is provided personal protection equipment consisting of a helmet, boots, gloves, and turn-out bunker gear.

A new fire sub-station that went into service in the fall of 2005 enables quicker response times to emergencies in the north end of the Township. A renovation project for the main fire station located on Stump Road will create more operational and training space, as well as more office space for the firefighters to better serve the public.

In 2006, the Department of Fire Services, with the support of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager, obtained the funding to transition into the Montgomery County 800 MHz Emergency Operations Center Radio System and purchase a new fully equipped Pierce Squad Pumper. Both the radio system and pumper truck help provide efficient and safe emergency service to the Township and residents as well as provide for the safety of the firefighters. Additionally, the 800 MHz radios provide the Department of Fire Services with the ability to communicate with police, schools, hospitals, emergency medical services, and all of the mutual aid fire companies that respond into the Township. This further enhances the ability to provide quality fire services to the community and is critical for the safety of the firefighters.

Police Department

Junior Police Academy

The Junior Police Academy provides children between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age with a basic understanding of police work. During the two-day academy, children are instructed in fingerprinting, basic first aid, self-defense, and basic fire safety. Demonstrations and equipment are provided by the Montgomery Township Police Canine Unit, the Fire Department, the Volunteer Medical Service Corps, the Telford Diving Unit, the Army National Guard, the Montgomery County Bomb Squad, and the University of Pennsylvania medical helicopter. This summer activity provides an opportunity for our youths to interact with police officers, often on an individual basis. The academy averages about 50 cadets with 10 to 15 instructors and is held at Mary Mother of the Redeemer School and Spring Valley Park. A graduation ceremony is held at the Township Building.



Citizens' Police Academy

The Citizens' Police Academy provides community members with an inside look at local law enforcement. During the ten-week course, academy students are given an overview of the Police Department's function and operational procedures. The curriculum and teaching methods are similar to the traditional police academy. Participants receive "hands-on" instruction as well as classroom instruction. In addition to processing "mock" crime scenes, vehicle stops, and trials, they have the opportunity to accompany sworn officers on routine patrol. This experience provides a unique avenue of communications between the police officers and resident "recruits." Many of our past academy graduates often visit and make frequent contacts with their instructors and Police Department staff. Graduates have found this program to be interesting, informative, and enlightening. The Police Department enjoys strong support for this program from the Board of Supervisors and the entire Police Command Staff.



Focused on Fiscal Soundness

2006 RESULTS

Financial performance of the Township General Fund in 2006 was positive when compared to the adopted budget. Actual revenues exceeded the original budgeted levels by 20.3% while the Township realized a saving of 3.3% on the expenditure budget. This excellent budgetary performance resulted in excess operating revenues over operating expenditures in 2006 resulting in an increase in a 28% increase in the fund balance from $1,665,809 at the beginning of 2006 to $2,140,191 at year end 2006.

Due to the Township's ability to remain fiscally responsible, the Supervisors voted during 2006 to add $1.5 Million to the Township's Open Space Preservation Fund bringing the total of this fund to $2.13 million. With these additional funds, the Township will be able to continue to work to preserve and acquire parcels that can be maintained as Open Space.

The financial Statements of Montgomery Township are audited by an independent firm of Certified Public accountants. These statements are prepared on a budgetary basis and are pre-audited.

Your 2006 Tax Dollars:

In 2006 the Township Real Estate Tax was decreased from 1.5 to 1.49 mills and the Homestead Exemption was increased from $20,000 to $25,000 resulting in reduced real estate tax burden on township residents for the fourth consecutive year in a row. The tax on an average single family residential property in the Township, with an assessed value of $180,000, was $230 in 2006 as compared to $240 in 2005, a reduction of 4%.

A variety of local taxes, user fees and other revenues help provide residents with a host of essential services including:

Public Safety:
Police and Fire Protection.

Public Works:
Street Lighting, Street and Highway Maintenance, Snow and Ice Removal, Storm Sewer Maintenance and Parks and Facilities Maintenance.

Other Services:
Park and Recreation, Land Use Planning, Building and Zoning Code Enforcement, Financial and Administrative Management and much more.

Montgomery Township Bond Rating:

Moody's Investor Services, Inc has awarded Montgomery Township an Aa Bond Rating for General Obligation Bonds issued by the Township. In granting this rating, Moody's assessed the following factors of the Township:

- Economy
- Debt Structure
- Financial Condition
- Demographic Factors
- Management practices of the governing body and administration

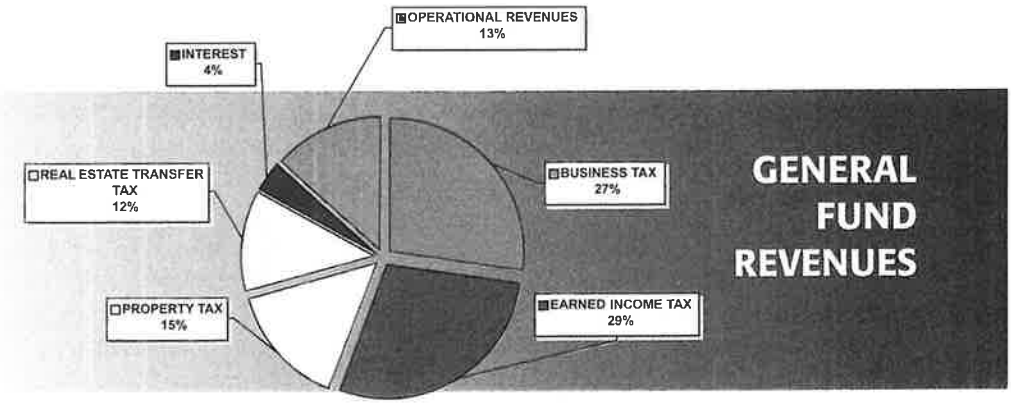
Moody's investment grade rating of Aa identifies the Township's General Obligation Bonds as being of high quality by all of these standards.

While many factors go into the investment decision making process, the bond rating is the single most important factor affecting the interest cost on bonds and consequently results in a lower cost of borrowing funds to the Township and our taxpayers.

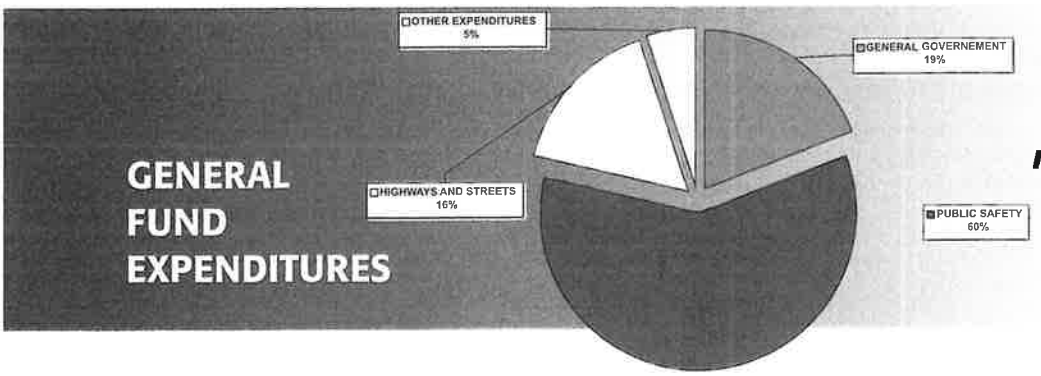
Montgomery Township Income Statement

	2006	2005	% Change
REVENUES			
BUSINESS TAX	$ 3,472,803	$ 3,326,858	4.39%
EARNED INCOME TAX	3,637,531	3,139,545	15.86%
PROPERTY TAX	1,922,421	1,685,282	14.07%
REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX	1,563,984	1,183,697	32.13%
INTEREST	458,030	100,555	355.50%
CHARGES, FINES AND FORFEITS	1,686,769	1,768,023	(4.61)%
TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 11,054,769**	**$ 9,435,937**	**17.16%**

Actual revenues exceeded the original budgeted levels by 20.3%.



EXPENDITURES			
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	$ 1,772,550	$ 1,679,955	5.51%
PUBLIC SAFETY	5,446,987	5,147,543	5.82%
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS	1,503,686	1,550,864	(3.04)%
OTHER	469,714	459,437	2.24%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 9,192,937**	**$ 8,837,799**	**4.02%**



Excess revenues over expenditures in 2006 resulted in a 28% increase in the fund balance.

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