

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

*December 2014*

**From the Supervisors:** Budget 2015: The 2015 Preliminary Budget was approved by the Supervisors at their November 17, 2014 meeting. A copy of the Township's proposed budget is available in the Township office for review during regular work hours and on the Township's website at [www.washtwp-franklin.org](http://www.washtwp-franklin.org).

This year's preliminary budget keeps the property tax at 6.4 mils for the third year in a row. Other taxes remain the same as year 2014 as well.

The operating funds (general fund and state fund) are up 1.17% or \$97,000 more than last year and provide funding for the continuation of police, fire, public works services, snow removal and office support at basically the same levels compared to year 2014. Capital projects for the year include completing the Calimer Drive sewer project, building the bike park at Pine Hill and purchasing additional Civil War Battlefield land in Blue Ridge Summit.

The overall preliminary budget is up \$491,155 over the 2014 budget for a total of \$12,567,342.00. The primary reasons for the increase are higher pension funding carryover and grant funding.

Comments from the public will be taken by the Supervisors at their meeting on December 1, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Final adoption of the 2015 budget is scheduled for the December 15, 2014 meeting. Everyone is welcome to visit the office and inspect the proposed budget or review it on the Township's webpage at [www.washtwp-franklin.org](http://www.washtwp-franklin.org).

**Washington Township Boulevard Construction Update** – Through the great statesmanship of Senator Richard Alloway, the Township has been notified that our grant application for \$2,000,000 to construct the Boulevard from Old Forge Road to Rt. 997 has been approved.

Depending on the rules and requirements of the grant, the Township is hoping to start construction this summer and complete as much of the Boulevard as possible before next fall. As more information becomes available the township will keep you posted in this column and on our website.

**Ride Sharing and Car-pooling:** If you are interested in finding out what is available in our area for ride sharing and car-pooling to work please contact Commuter Service of Pennsylvania.

Commuter Services is a non-profit organization that offers **FREE** services to commuters about their options for getting to and from work. Our Rideshare and Emergency Ride Home programs provide necessary tools for commuters in order for them to successfully switch from driving alone to a commuting alternative; such as car-pooling, van-pooling, bicycling, walking or riding transit. Using a green commute mode is a great way to save money and help improve air quality. For more information visit [www.PaCommuterServices.org](http://www.PaCommuterServices.org) or call 1.866.579.RIDE.

**Wharf Road Industrial Park Update:** If you have not driven on Zane A. Miller Drive lately, please do. Through the hard work of Michael Ross and David Mackley at FCADC there are two new industrial buildings being built at the Park. Fil-Tec and Pacemaker Press buildings are both under construction and should be completed by next spring creating close to 100 new jobs at the Park.

When you see Michael or David thank them for a job well done.

### **Christmas Events on Saturday December 6, 2014**

**Train News - Free Ride with Santa.** The Red Run Express, weather permitting, will run on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided to keep everyone warm. Linda Fleagle will be coordinating this year's event again. Donations of cookies and candy canes

would be most welcome. In addition, assistance with decorating and setting up for Santa's arrival is always needed. If interested in assisting or donating for this event, please contact Linda Fleagle at 762-3019. Stop by and bring your little ones, or not so little ones, to enjoy a winter train ride with Santa at Red Run Park!

**Breakfast with Santa:** Breakfast with Santa will be held from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Rouzerville Ruritan Club. There is a small fee for breakfast. However, children will receive a pass for free skating (see below), and there will be pictures with Santa. This year's breakfast is being hosted by the Rouzerville Lions Club.

**Skating with Santa:** Free skating for children who attend breakfast at the Rouzerville Ruritan Club will be provided at Cosmic Skate from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Stop by Rouzerville on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> for a great Saturday of entertainment with Santa.

**Renfrew Park & Museum – Christmas on the Farm Event:** If you want to see the recreation of Christmas of the early 1800's and see the Fahnestock House and Barn decorated for Christmas, visit Renfrew Park & Museum on Friday, December 5, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM or Saturday, December 6 from 2:00 to 8:00 PM. Admission is free.

**Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2014 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Summit Plaza in Blue Ridge Summit. From 4 to 6:30 p.m. there will be fire truck rides, horse and sleigh rides, door prizes, entertainment by Rich Fehle and refreshments. The tree lighting ceremony in honor of Jerry Scruggs and Dorothy Abplanalp will take place at 6:30 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. a special Candle Light Tour will then be held at the new Monterey Pass Battlefield Museum and Interpretative Center by Historian John Miller. For more information please contact any library board member or Duke and Lynn Martin at 642-5645.

**Tax Deductible Donations Welcome!** If you are looking for year-end tax deductible donations to help lower your liability to the IRS, please consider donating to one or both of the Township's major initiatives before the end of the year. Tax deductible donations are being accepted by the Township for 1) the Friends of the Monterey Pass Battlefield which will use the money to preserve and protect the Monterey Pass Battlefield site and museum in Blue Ridge Summit, 2) The Rouzerville Business Association for the 9-11 Tribute at Red Run Park. There is one remaining item to be completed at the Tribute – paving of the parking lot.

Tax deductible checks made payable to the Friends of Monterey Pass Battlefield or the Rouzerville Business Association for the 9-11 Tribute, should be mailed or delivered to the Township office at 13013 Welty Road, Waynesboro, PA 17268.

Thank you for your generosity.

**Tax Collector News:** Deadlines, deadlines... the last day for paying the 2014 Franklin County Real Estate and the 2014-15 Waynesboro Area School District Real Estate tax bills is December 31, 2014. After that time both taxes will have to be paid to Franklin County Tax Claim. The last day for paying the 2014-15 Per Capita/Occupation tax bills is December 31, 2014.

Questions on these deadlines or other tax-related items should be directed to the tax collector at 762-1760. Mr. Ambrose's office, located at 13013 Welty Road, is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. until noon during the month of December, except for the days closed as noted below.

**Pavilion Rentals for 2015:** The Township will accept reservations at the Township meeting room for the pavilions at Red Run and Pine Hill parks beginning on Friday, January 2, 2015, on a first come, first served basis, as we have done in the past. If you have any questions, please contact the Township office.

**Transfer Station/Recycling Center Holiday Schedule:** The Township's Transfer Station and Recycling Center will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and all day on Christmas Day, December 25, 2014. For New Year's, they both will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31, 2014 and will remain closed all day January 1, 2015, New Year's Day.

### **December Dates to Remember**

- 6:** Santa Train Ride at Red Run Park – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 1 & 15:** Supervisors meetings – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 & 16:** WTMA meetings – 7:15 p.m.
- 8:** Planning Commission meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 & 30:** Supervisors workshop – 7:00 p.m.
- 20:** Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration
- 25 & 26 & Jan 1:** **Township Office and Tax Collector CLOSED**
- 24 Noon & 25:** **Transfer Station and Recycling Center Closed**
- 31 Noon & Jan 1:** **Transfer Station and Recycling Center Closed**
- Jan. 2:** Pavilion reservation day