

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

December 2015

From the Supervisors: In year 2013 we raised taxes 2 mills to carry our expected budget expenditure increase for at least 5 years. Unfortunately, our income (revenue) is unable to keep up with the cost (expense) and this has taken our General Fund to a negative dollar amount for 2015.

Previously, we have not refilled vacant positions such as office and public works staff. Recently, we laid off the entire Recycling Center staff and revamped our recycling program. This will allow us to continue to provide recycling services at a cost saving to our General Fund. These previous cuts allowed us to maintain the Police Department without any cuts until this year. However, we still faced a \$317,600 or approximately 2.3 mills deficit. With cuts in all the other departments completed, the Police Department was the only Department where we could cut to avoid a property tax increase. So we have to either cut the Police Department's budget or raise your taxes to keep the same size department.

With the approval of the Preliminary Budget on November 16, 2015 we have decided to cut the Police Department's budget and the number of full time officers from 14 to 10 instead of raising your property tax.

We believe the 10 officers remaining will be able to provide excellent Police services for our residents or we would not have made these cuts.

Please keep in mind that Washington Township is the only Township in Franklin County that provides local police services for its residents. The other 14 townships, some much larger than ours, are provided police protection by the PA State Police with no local property taxes being provided for this service.

A copy of our Preliminary Budget has been posted on our web page at www.washtwp-franklin.org for our residents to review.

At our next regular meeting on December 7, 2015 we will take comments from our residents on the Preliminary Budget. This meeting starts at 7:00 PM. We will adopt the final budget on December 21, 2015.

If you are unable to attend these meetings and would like to offer comments, please feel free to make a comment on the Township's webpage or by calling the office at 762-3128. In addition, you may talk with any of us, or write a letter to the Township Office at 13013 Welty Rd., Waynesboro, PA 17268.

All comments are welcome.

Christmas Events on Saturday December 5, 2015

Train News - Free Ride with Santa. The Red Run Express, weather permitting, will run on December 5th 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 5th for a great Saturday of entertainment with Santa.

The Friends of the Monterey Pass Battlefield, Inc. - is holding "Christmas at the Pass" to celebrate the holiday season.

"Christmas at the Pass" will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2015, from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and will be located at the Monterey Pass Battlefield Park & Museum located at 14325 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania 17268. This event is free and is open to the public. We encourage you to bring the whole family!

Activities include children's craft corner, Christmas storytelling, Victorian Era Christmas music, refreshments, and the history of Santa Claus. Our museum will be decorated in Victorian Era fashion of Christmas. Outside the museum, on the park grounds, there will be living history vignettes of Civil War soldiers. Be sure to talk with them about what it was like to be away from home and at war during Christmas! New this year is our fruit press, come try your hand at pressing apples to make cider, and for your efforts enjoy a nice mug of warm cider by the fire. We look forward to sharing our Victorian Christmas with you!

All outdoor activities will be moved indoors in the event of rain. In the event of snow or ice, please check our Facebook page to determine if the event will still be held.

The Friends of the Monterey Pass Battlefield, Inc. is a tax-exempt [501c3], Corporation with a focus to promote and support educational programs, historical preservation, community improvement projects, cultural activities, and special projects that benefit the preservation and interpretation of lands with a historical significance of the Monterey Pass Battlefield, to include the retreat from Gettysburg.

The mission of the Monterey Pass Battlefield Museum is to interpret and exhibit artifacts related to the battle of Monterey Pass, the Pennsylvania Campaign of 1863, and the American Civil War as it relates to Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Through these exhibits, the museum shall encourage audiences to examine the past and its relationship to our shared future.

For more information about "Christmas at the Pass" or if you are interested in learning more about the Friends of the Monterey Pass Battlefield, Inc., please visit our website at www.montereypassbattlefield.org or email Alicia Miller, Chair, FMPB, Inc. at admiller@montereypassbattlefield.org

Renfrew Park & Museum – Christmas on the Farm Event: If you want to see the re-creation of Christmas of the early 1800's and see the Fahnestock House and Barn decorated for Christmas, visit Renfrew Park & Museum on Friday, December 4, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM or Saturday, December 5 from 2:00 to 8:00 PM.

Walk back in time as we celebrate Christmas in the 1800's. See the Museum House beautifully decorated. There will be music, song and caroling! Join us for the Fahnestock House one-act play: "A Renfrew Christmas" Show Times – Friday 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 PM, Saturday 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 PM

There are no reservations for the play. Come early and beat the crowd. You can ride the bus or walk to the Fahnestock House and enjoy the fun. Free Refreshments.

Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration: The 10th Annual Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2015 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 remaining front 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 2015 Franklin County Real Estate and the 2015-16 Waynesboro Area School District Real Estate tax bills is December 31, 2015. After that time both taxes will have to be paid to Franklin County Tax Claim. The last day for paying the 2015-16 Per Capita/Occupation tax bills is December 31, 2015.

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 2016: The Township will accept reservations at the Township meeting room for the pavilions at Red Run and Pine Hill parks beginning on Monday, January 4, 2016, 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 Holiday Schedule: The Township's Transfer Station will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2015 and all day on Christmas Day, December 25, 2015. For New Year's – the Transfer Station will close at noon on Thursday, December 31, 2015 and will reopen on Saturday, January 2, 2015.

December Dates to Remember

1 & 15: WTMA meetings – 7:15 p.m.

2, 16 & 30: Supervisors workshop – 7:00 p.m.

5: **Santa Train Ride at Red Run Park** – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

7 & 21: Supervisors meetings – 7:00 p.m.

14: Planning Commission meeting – 7:00 p.m.

19: Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration

24, 25 & Jan 1: **Township Office and Tax Collector CLOSED**

24 Noon & 25: **Transfer Station Closed**

31 Noon & Jan 1: **Transfer Station Closed**

Jan. 2: Transfer Station - Open

Jan. 4: Pavilion Reservation Day