

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

January 2017

From the Supervisors: As we reflect on the events of year 2016, some very important milestones were reached and many smaller items were accomplished.

Finishing the section of Washington Township Boulevard from Old Forge Road to Gehr Road was the largest accomplishment of the year. The bridge to “no where” now connects Old Forge Road, N. Welty Road, Country Club Road, and Gehr Road to anywhere you want to go. A special thanks goes out to our Assistant Manager Jeff Geesaman and our Public Works Department Andy Moore, Sam Poper, Paul Barnett, Geoffrey Rickett, David Neibert, and Curt Lowe for finishing the construction of this section of the Boulevard.

One additional member of the Public Works Department, Mitchell Birely needs to be recognized for his many contributions to the Township over the last 25 years. Mr. Birely unexpectedly passed away earlier this year. He was a great worker and a wonderful person. He will be missed by many.

Other items of note include: surviving the great winter snow storm in January, refinancing the Township’s debt with F&M Trust at a much lower interest rate, a visit from Secretary Cindy Dunn of DCNR, a Battlefield Trails Grant from DCED as a result of the hard work of Senator Rich Alloway, electronics recycling restored at the Transfer Station, hiring Andy Moore as the Township’s new Public Works Director, the 15th anniversary service for the events of 9-11-2001 at our 9-11 Tribute, and Cumberland Valley Analytical moving into the Wharf Road Industrial Park.

Looking forward to year 2017, we hope to:

1. Get additional funding and complete another section of Washington Township Boulevard.
2. Work with Hadley Farms and SusqueCanna Pharma to create jobs for our residents at the Wharf Road Industrial Park.
3. To get started and complete the Welty Road water project.
4. Obtain the Rouzerville Ruritan and Blue Ridge Lions Club properties to add recreational facilities to our park system.
5. To complete walking and learning trails at the B.O.M.P. Park.
6. Continue providing great roadways, parks, fire, police, and ambulance services to our residents.
7. Continue our wonderful partnerships with the Franklin County Commissioners, Dave Keller, Robert Thomas, and Bob Ziobrowski as well as our outstanding State Senator Rich Alloway, Representative Paul Schemel, and Congressman Bill Shuster.
8. In June the retirement of long time Manager Michael Christopher with Assistant Manager Jeff Geesaman becoming the second Township Manager of Washington Township.

Finally, we would like to thank all the volunteers that have helped make Washington Township the great place that it is to live and raise a family.

Thank you and have a great New Year.

DEP – Drought Warning for Franklin County: The drought warning is still in effect for Washington Township and all of Franklin County, even though we have had recent rains. The Department’s readings indicate that we are at least 4 inches of rain fall below normal levels over the last year. As a result ground water and stream levels are low.

DEP is encouraging residents to reduce your nonessential water use by 5 percent to help restore the ground and stream water levels until adequate rain fall occurs.

DEP suggests several steps citizens can take to voluntarily reduce their water use:

- Run water only when necessary. Don't let the faucet run while brushing your teeth or shaving. Shorten the amount of time you let the water run to warm up before you shower. Use a bucket to catch the water and then reuse it to water your plants.
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
- Check for household leaks. A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water each day.
- Replace older appliances with high-efficiency, front-loading models that use about 30 percent less water and 40 to 50 percent less energy.
- Install low-flow plumbing fixtures and aerators on faucets.

DEP also offers other water conservation recommendations and water audit procedures for commercial and industrial users, such as food processors, hotels and educational institutions. These recommendations and additional drought monitoring information are available on the DEP Drought Information website.

Red Run Express News: Once again this year, Santa showed up at Red Run Park to provide train rides on the Red Run Express for all to enjoy. Over 200 people rode the train and enjoyed the holiday atmosphere at Red Run Park. The Township would especially like to thank Linda and Jon Fleagle for organizing this event again this year. What a wonderful job they have done over the years. We would also like to thank all the other volunteers who helped make this year's event wonderful for our residents.

Thank you.

Budget 2017: The Washington Township Supervisors approved the 2017 budget on December 19, 2016 without any tax increases for year 2017. Details of the budget may be seen on the township web page at www.washtwp-franklin.org or by stopping by the township office.

Septic System Pumping in 2016: If you are in area 1 of the Township, which is the Zullinger and Marsh Road area, you needed to have your septic tank pumped in year 2016. If you have not made arrangements to have your tank pumped, please do so immediately. If you have any questions or need a time extension, please contact the Township office at 762-3128.

Red Run and Pine Hill Pavilion Rentals: Pavilions at Red Run Park and Pine Hill may be rented for year 2017 beginning on **Tuesday**, January 3, 2017. Reservations will be taken beginning at approximately 8:00 a.m. However, people usually line up for reservations much earlier in the morning. Reservations are taken in the order of the number taken. Please use the meeting room at the back of the building as a place to wait.

Rental fee rates have not increased for 2017 and are as follows: At **Red Run Park:** Pavilion #1 - \$45.00; Pavilion #2 - \$55.00; Pavilion #3 - \$50.00; Pavilion #4 - \$45.00; Pavilion #5 - \$35.00. **Pine Hill Park:** The large pavilion (A) at Pine Hill - \$60.00 and Pavilions B & C - \$50.00.

Red Run's five pavilions range in seating capacity from 32 to 200 people, while the pavilions at Pine Hill range in seating capacity from 100 to 300 people. Payments are due with reservations. Reservations are not accepted by phone.

Christmas Tree Disposal: Christmas trees may be disposed of at the Washington Township Transfer Station for a fee of \$1.00. All trees will be recycled into mulch for reuse in the spring. Trees are welcome from everyone. The Transfer Station is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.

Monet on the Mountain – will be held on January 14 from 12-3 p.m. (snow date January 21) at the Church of the Transfiguration, located at 13646 Summit Ave., Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214.

Get ready, it's time to create a Monet-worthy masterpiece! Get your favorite photos together of your beloved pets, houses, cars and places because you are going to paint what you want! No experience required-we promise! You send our artist your selections and they sketch it on canvas. All you have to do is fill it in! If you can hold a paintbrush, you've got this!

A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Help Hotline which provides a clothing bank, food bank and financial assistance with electric bills. The Help Hotline serves a 4 county area, within established boundaries in Blue Ridge Summit, PA.

Cost is \$25 per person plus a donation of non-perishable food for the church food bank. Visit www.Paintlocalsocial.com to purchase tickets.

Questions? Please contact us by email: info@paintlocalsocial.com or 717-778-1500

You may also contact Lynn Martin at jacksmtm@embarqmail.com or 717-642-5645

Transfer Station: Please note that the Transfer Station will close on Saturday, December 31, 2016 at **noon** and will be closed all day on Monday, January 2, 2017. The Transfer Station will open again on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

January Dates to Remember

December 31: Transfer Station - Closing at NOON

**January 2: Township Office, Tax Collector's Office,
and Transfer Station - CLOSED**

January 3: Pavilion Reservation Day

3 & 16: Supervisors Meetings – 7:00 p.m.

9: Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

10 & 24: WTMA Meetings – 7:15 p.m.

11: Supervisors Workshop – 7:00 p.m.

23: Zoning Hearing Board (if needed) – 7:30 p.m.