

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

# Budget for 2011 holds line on taxes

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Jackson Township taxes will not increase in 2011 and paving projects will continue under the budget approved by the board of supervisors.

During a special meeting last week, supervisors unanimously approved the \$1,014,385 fiscal plan that will keep the millage rate at 1.32. A mill is \$1 per every \$1,000 assessed property value.

Supervisor Al Fox said the budget's goal was to hold the line on taxes while continuing to provide residents with services such as drop-off recycling, a yard waste collection site, recreational facilities, a citizens group for SCI-Dallas, round-the-clock police, fire and ambulance protection and maintenance of township roads.

NEXT MEETING

The Jackson Township board of supervisors will hold a reorganization meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 3 in the municipal building.

"This 2011 budget reflects the Jackson Township supervisors' commitment to public safety and welfare of all citizens of Jackson Township," Fox said.

The 2011 budget will continue to fund the comprehensive paving project that began in 2010.

"In 2011, we have plans to finish all roads in Meadow Crest Manor, which are Oak, Cherry, and Meadow Crest," Fox said. "Other roads in the plans for this year are Gates and Sutton Hill as money and time allow."

Fox said that in 2010, the township finished road paving to Fieldcrest, Chase

Manor, Briarwood, Pine Tree, Marilyn Drive, and Evans Road.

In other news, supervisors approved a new recycling ordinance that outlines the current program and addresses violations of illegal dumping and littering fines to keep the township in compliance with Department of Environmental Protection's regulations.

An updated parking ordinance was accepted by supervisors. The new ordinance will replace the 1988 version and redefines parking penalties associated with newly established no parking zones.

Township Attorney Jeffery Malak stated the new parking ordinance will be effective within five days. It will be the responsibility of the police offices to inform the public of the new ordinance, Malak said.

"They usually issue warnings first," he said.

Supervisors adopted the EMA regional agency and intergovernmental agreement. The agreement with Dallas Borough and Lehman Township will allow the three municipalities to pool emergency management resources and provided increase opportunities for grant funding.

Also, Supervisor John "Jay" Wilkes announced the township received notification from the county that FEMA funding came through for the Hillside Road bridge replacement project. Jackson Township will be responsible for removing a portion of a sewer line that runs under the bridge. Wilkes said the township will be reimbursed 50 percent of the cost of the removal. The bridge work will begin in the spring or summer.

# Address changes take effect in Monroe

By SARAH HITE  
shite@mydallaspost.com

Residents in Dallas, Harveys Lake, Noxen and Tunkhannock who live within Monroe Township's borders are starting to see some changes on roads and streets.

Starting in October, 73 streets were renamed and those whose addresses included Dallas, Harveys Lake, Noxen and Tunkhannock have changed to Monroe Township. Residents were given one year to make all the necessary address changes with utility companies, drivers' license centers and other service providers.

Post offices will link the old addresses to new addresses for one year to ensure mail delivery. Zip codes will stay the same despite the municipality switch. For example, a resident whose address once read 5555 John Doe Road, Harveys Lake, PA 18618, will now read 5555 John Doe Road, Monroe Township, PA 18618, if the road isn't renamed in the switch, as well.

The project was approved by Wyoming County Commissioners and will help emergency service providers to find house locations in the event of an emergency.

The county worked with a consultant, L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Inc., to aid in the 911 addressing and mapping services. Wyoming County was one of 28 counties selected to participate in the state PAMAP program in 2005, which provided aerial digital photography databases for counties.

Wyoming County will now use this photography to map locations for emergency service workers, aiding safe and swift travels to residences.

"Within two years for sure, all the fire trucks and ambulances will have GPS (global positioning systems)," said Monroe Township Supervisor Walter Derhammer. "When they get a call, it'll show your house."

The township will now be able to claim more citizens in its borders. Before, the population within the township was lower because some residents whose addresses reflected Dallas or Harveys Lake may have been counted as living in Dallas Township or Harveys Lake Borough.

"In terms of going for grants, if we have more population we have more of a chance to receive money," said Derhammer. "Liquid fuels funds also work that way -- it depends on population and miles of road."

Derhammer noted that some residents began to receive notices to serve jury duty in Luzerne County, or reminders to complete an emissions inspection -- a requirement in Luzerne County but not in Wyoming County.

Some residents are having trouble adjusting to the change. Derhammer said he gets complaints often and tries to address them as they are received.

Shirley Patton of Harveys Lake said she has missed some newspaper deliveries and mail since the change was required in October.

"It's very confusing," she said. "It's supposed to make things better but I don't see it."

Kim Shepherd of the Harveys Lake Post Office said she receives calls from customers trying to better understand the postal switch.

"There has been some concern that customers have problems understanding the four different zip codes," she said. "It's confusion with Monroe Township -- (customers) think it should be one zip code."

Addresses were also changed to reflect "street style" addresses instead of rural routes and post office boxes. The street names were approved by Monroe Township supervisors and the numbers on houses reflect their distance from the beginning of the road. This change will also help emergency service providers to find residents in need of assistance.

The address changes have also affected the following municipalities in Wyoming County: Tunkhannock Township, Tunkhannock Borough, Washington Township, Meshoppen Borough, Meshoppen Township, Mehoopany Township, Windham Township, Braintrim Township, Laceyville Borough, Noxen Township, Forkston Township, and North Branch Township.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

For more information about the Monroe Township address changes, residents may call, toll free, 1-877-806-6816.

# No tax increases in Ross Twp.

By EILEEN GODIN  
Times Leader Correspondent

Supervisors approved a \$499,080 budget for 2011 without raising taxes during a year-end meeting held Tuesday night.

The new budget will keep the mill rate the same at .23. A mill rate is \$1 for every \$1,000 in assessed tax value. Chairman Stan Davis said the earned income tax rate will remain at one half of 1 percent.

The 2011 budget is \$100,630 more than the 2010 budget of \$398,450. The difference is from an anticipated Community Development grant for \$100,000. Davis said the municipality applied for the grant but is not sure if they will

UP NEXT

Supervisors will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 3 in the municipal building for their annual re-organizational meeting.

be approved.

If the township does receive approval for the grant, plans are to use the funds for road projects.

The board also passed a resolution to carry over the current sewage disposal systems fees into 2011. Last year the township approved a motion to pass along the total cost of permits and fees for the sewer enforcement officers to residents.

The fees are as follows: \$420 for application for a sewage disposal system including a percolation test, two soil probes, review of design and final inspection; \$420 application fee for repairs, modifications or alterations to an existing sewage disposal system; \$200 application fee for repairs, modification or alternatives to an existing sewage disposal system; \$150 fee for evaluation of existing systems requiring a dye test or inspection of the system's components; \$150 application fee for a tank; \$125 fee for major subdivision module; \$100 fee for inspection of an existing system on a vacant lot that has not been used for one year before any replacement dwelling can be placed on the vacant lot; \$80 fee for site verification of prior testing; \$50 fee for holding tank inspection; \$75 fee for minor subdivision module; \$35 for each additional probe, and; \$35 per hour fee in addition to mileage, determined by the IRS rate, for miscellaneous expenses such as water testing, additional inspections and evaluations.

CLARIFICATION

The story, "Local couple in step with Back Mountain," featured on page 1 of The Dallas Post on Sunday, Dec. 26, needs clarification. George Pyle did not serve as a pilot in the U.S. Navy. Rather, George served in the U.S. Navy as a Naval Aviation Cadet, 1943-45, and later in the U.S. Naval Reserve, 1952-69, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. As with all retired service personnel, they are able to fly free ("Space Available") to anywhere in the world that a military plane is going. George held a civilian pilot's license 1943-75.



Michael Golden and his mother Lisa stand on the porch of their house on Tamanini Drive in Shavertown. The home was nominated as a finalist in the Holiday Houses light contest.

# HOLIDAY

Continued from Page 1

burned out," said Lisa. "He has patience. He sat and figured it all out."

His parents said that if given the chance, Michael Jr. would completely cover the house with lights, just like the Griswold home.

"He loves Christmas. He loves the whole process," said Lisa. "He loves counting down the days and he loves giving gifts. I'm proud that he sees Christmas not for the toys but for what it really is."

Robert Hivish Jr., assistant township manager and member of the recreation board in Kingston Township, said the holiday house contest is about bringing a more festive atmosphere to the township. The contest has been a holiday tradition for more than a decade in the township that spans Shavertown, Truckville and a part of Wyoming.

"It raises the Christmas spirit, and it's just fun to drive around the township and look at all the lights," he said.

Hivish and his wife, Erica, who is also a member of the recreation board, drove to each of the six nominated houses on Dec. 19 and took pictures of the holiday décor. He then e-mailed the photos to the other three members of the recreation board for judging purposes.



Mike and Joan Dzanko's home on Harris Hill Road in Shavertown was also nominated.



Michael Golden adjusts a reindeer that has been blown loose.

He said that in the past, attempts to congregate all the recreation board members for an in-person peek at the houses were futile, and sometimes only two people were responsible for picking the winners.

"Every single person agreed this year that (e-mailing photos) was (fairer)," he said.

There is really only one contest rule -- houses cannot win two years in a row. Hivish said six houses were nominated this year, and the township usually gets six to 10 nominations every year.

Four gift certificates to Lowe's hardware store will be awarded at the board of supervisors meeting on Jan. 12. First place receives \$60, second place receives \$55, third gets \$45, and fourth place is awarded \$40.

Homeowners and contest nominees Mike and Joan Dzanko of Harris Hill

# Kingston Twp. residents can save on insurance

By SARAH HITE  
shite@mydallaspost.com

Kingston Township residents may have a chance to get their homeowners insurance rates lowered as a result of water main and fire hydrant replacements.

Residents can call the township to see if a new hydrant has been placed within 1,000 feet of their residence over the last five years.

Brian Corbett, of Corbett Insurance in Shavertown, said different areas have different ISO (Insurance Services Office Limited) ratings depending on structures' access to fire hydrants and other preventative fire services. The scale ranges from 1 to 10.

For example, Corbett said

New York City would be a 1 on the scale because many buildings are equipped with preventative measures to extinguish fires. A rural area would be rated a 10. He said the insurance companies charge different rates depending on a dwelling's proximity to the area's fire department and fire hydrants.

Corbett also said the replacement or increased number of fire hydrants can make a big difference in ratings. Replaced or installed hydrants must be within 1,000 feet of one's home to qualify for a change in ISO ratings.

Corbett checked three different insurance companies to see the difference in price for insurance is between a 9 and a 6 ISO rating in Kingston Township. He said the differ-

ence could be anywhere from 10 to 18 percent in savings, and as calculated on the average cost of a house in the township, it could result in savings of up to \$100 to \$180 per payment.

Corbett said some suburban areas may already have a higher ISO rating due to the ability of the fire department, despite whether hydrant placement has changed.

Township Zoning Officer Bill Eck said the average change in Kingston Township with the water main and hydrant replacements could be from a 9 to a 6 rating, which could add up to a hefty discount for residents.

Eck advises residents to also call their insurance agent to check their ISO rating and whether they have changed.

# KINGSTON TOWNSHIP HYDRANT REPLACEMENTS

Below is a list of streets that have had hydrants replaced within the last five years. If you live on any of these roads, contact your insurance provider to see if you qualify for a reduction in your insurance rates.

- Spring Garden Street, Shavertown
- Terrace Avenue, Shavertown
- Highland Avenue, Shavertown
- Meadowcrest Drive, Shavertown
- Dug Road, Shavertown
- Manor Drive, Shavertown
- All developments off of Manor Drive, Shavertown
- Howell Road, Shavertown
- Greenpond Road, Shavertown
- Shadetree Road, Shavertown
- Parts of Sunrise Estates, Shavertown
- Parts of Harris Hill Road, Shavertown
- Bramblewood Drive, Shavertown