

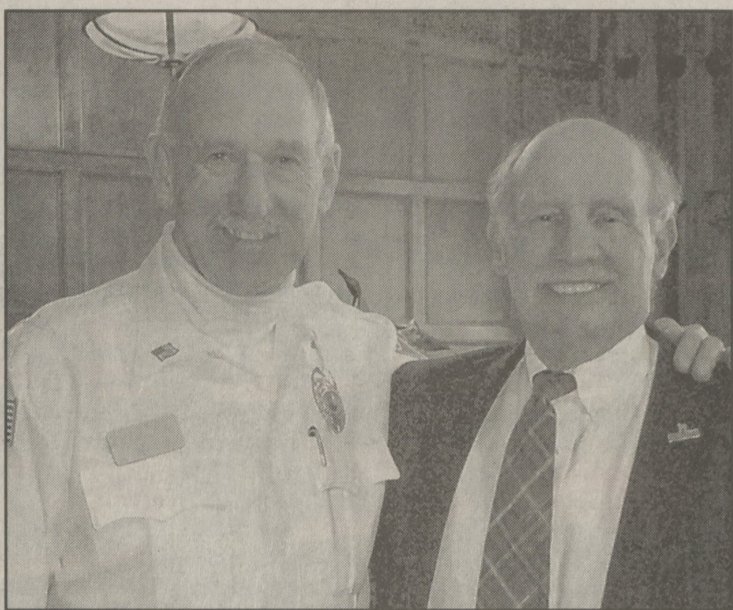
# 'Ticket Tom' retires from MU

Misericordia University Campus Safety Officer Thomas Matinas, of Swoyersville, retired in December after more than 21 years of befriending students, faculty and staff and patrolling the more than 124-acre campus in the Back Mountain.

Matinas quickly earned the nickname, "Ticket Tom," due to the frequency in which he issued parking tickets and enforced parking regulations on campus.

Matinas also ardently patrolled the upper and lower campus to ensure campus safety and oftentimes directed guests to the proper location on campus for various cultural and academic events.

The campus community recognized Matinas and his wife, Carol, at a surprise retirement party at T.C. Riley's Pub & Inn in Trucksville on Nov. 30.



Misericordia University President Michael A. MacDowell, right, thanks Thomas Matinas on his last day of work for his years of dedicated service to Misericordia University and the campus community.

## JACKSON TOWNSHIP

# Taxes to remain steady

By SARAH HITE  
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Supervisors adopted the 2012 budget on Dec. 22, stabilizing taxes for the upcoming year.

Supervisor Al Fox said property taxes will remain at 1.32 mills, but getting there wasn't an easy process. He said increased expenses forced the board to make cuts throughout the budget in order to keep the tax rate steady.

A mill is \$1 tax for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

Expenses in the township increased by about \$185,000 between last year and this year, and Fox said slight cuts were made to every budget item, which resulted in an overall savings of about \$47,000. He said the move actually created more revenue than if the board had hiked the tax rates.

Fox also wanted residents to know the cuts did not affect the township's various services, including police, fire and ambulance and a full-time secretary to handle zoning and other inquiries.

"There have been some tightening of the belts this year," said Chairman John Wilkes Jr. "I don't like to use the word cuts, but we made the budget leaner."

The only increase residents

will see is a \$20 hike in sewer rates. Fox said over the past three years the township has been able to absorb rate increases from the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, but this year it just wasn't possible.

*In other news ...*

Residents questioned the board about a sewer replacement project that has been ongoing for two years.

Resident Mitch Smolow asked why the project on Bulford Road was being paid for by those residents. He said there are rumors swirling about how the supervisors are handling the project.

Solicitor Jeff Malak said the project benefits mostly those 19 residents affected by the project, and the township is splitting some of the costs for the work, including engineering fees and road repairs.

Fox added no grants were available for the project and state Department of Environmental Protection officials recommended the financial plan as the only viable way to get the work done.

Fox also said a meeting was held with those residents prior to construction and most agreed with how the process would be handled financially.

Wilkes said the reason a municipal sewer system is being constructed in the development

is because there were "many failures" of the existing system, and the township didn't want individual residents to pay thousands of dollars to replace the sewers.

He said the area is one of a few spots in the township that is not part of the municipal sewer system.

"You're going to be seeing this a lot more in municipalities," Malak said about the cost-splitting plan.

The board also wished Supervisor Tim Evans a "speedy recovery." Evans has been absent from municipal meetings for about a month due to an extended illness, said Wilkes.

Wilkes also made a plea for residents to become involved on the township's various community boards, such as the zoning hearing board, the planning commission, the recreation board and the SCI Dallas Citizens Committee.

He said the township has been seeking letters of interest for more than two months, and very few residents have expressed interest in the position.

"These boards are taxed," said Wilkes. "We need residents to serve."

The board's reorganization meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3 in the municipal building with the regular monthly meeting to follow.

## CIVIC BRIEFS

### Trees collected in Kingston Township

The Annual Christmas Tree Collection Program in Kingston Township will be conducted from January 3 through January 13.

Residents are asked to have the trees placed at the curbside where they will be picked up between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Residents are asked to remove plastic bags, all ornaments, lights and stands before placing trees at the curbside.

The trees are mulched and these items can damage equipment.

Residents may also drop off trees at the composting site behind the Public Works Facility at 225 E. Center St.

For more information, contact the Kingston Township Administration Office at 696-3809.

### Alzheimer's support group meets

The Dallas Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5 in the board room of the Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 4 E. Center Hill Rd., Dallas.

### Contra dance set

A New England Contra dance will feature the music of the Wyoming Valley House Band and calling by Bob Nicholson at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7 at the Church of Christ Uniting in Kingston, Sprague Avenue, Kingston.

No partner or previous experience is necessary.

Admission to the dance is \$9 for adults and \$24 for families.

For information, call 333-4007.

### Dallas workers will collect Christmas trees

The Dallas Borough Road Department will commence curbside collection of Christmas trees on January 9 and continue until January 27.

Christmas trees must have all decorations removed prior to being placed curbside. Residents are to refrain from placing their trees curbside prior to weather predictions for snow and/or freezing rain events.

Any questions or comments may be directed to the road department at 674-5362.

## JOAN HARRIS DANCERS COLLECT TOYS



The Joan Harris Dancers once again joined forces with Toys for Tots this holiday season to help needy children in our community. New unwrapped toys were collected at all of their recent productions of "The Holiday in Whoville." From left, are Jayslin Pritchard, Jackson Township; LCPL Steffon Mitchell, USMC; LCPL Daniel Raymond, USMC; and Madelyn Bozinski, Dallas.

## Exhibit opens at Friedman Gallery

The art of American master Edward Hopper will go on display beginning January 21 in the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery at Misericordia University.

The exhibition, "Edward Hopper: Early Impressions," is a collection of Hopper's early works in charcoal, pen and ink, pencil and graphite.

The exhibit, "Winslow Homer: Woodcut Prints," and also a display of recent paintings by Pennsylvania artist Michael Molnar will be on display

in the adjacent MacDonald Art Gallery in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall.

The exhibits will open with a free reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21 and run through February 11. Pauly Friedman Art Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

For more information, call 674-6250.

## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

# Board of supervisors unanimous in adopting new budget for 2012

By GERRI GIBBONS  
Dallas Post Correspondent

The board of supervisors unanimously adopted a 2012 budget on Tuesday night that includes a slight increase in real estate taxes.

Supervisors Ted Dymond, Michael Prokopchak and William Miller voted in favor of a \$288,625 spending plan that Prokopchak said would result in an average additional cost of \$4.16 per township parcel.

The budget increases the tax millage to .6 of a mill, from the current .58 mill.

A mill equals \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

Prokopchak noted the budget was "basically the same as last year." He said both revenues and expenses had remained relatively flat.

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Richard Melvin, board secretary/treasurer, said that because grants reflected in the 2011 budget would not be received during the 2012 fiscal year, there was a slight reduction in the total budget amount.

The supervisors meet next at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3 when they will reorganize to name officers and set meeting dates and times for 2012.

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