

# Improvement Projects a Priority in the 2006 Budget

**R**esidents may view a preliminary budget, with no increase in taxes and with funds earmarked for a variety of projects, this month, during a review period leading to final adoption by the Board of Commissions in December.

The budget, with a total of \$12,149,242 in expenditures, allows Hatfield Township to not only maintain services at their current level, but to continue accomplishing major projects designed to improve quality of life for the community as a whole.

“There’s nothing simple about formulating a municipal budget,” Commissioner President Gerald Andris says. “But when you plan ahead for a growing population and an aging infrastructure, and add to that a solid revenue flow, the process is rewarding. This budget allows us to continue our forward momentum.”

## Past Projects

The Board of Commissioners, in the recent past, has funded such key planning projects as the Hatfield Community Pool Feasibility Study, the Act 209 Traffic Impact Study, the County Line Road/Route 309 Intersection Study, the Open Space Plan Update, and the North Broad



Commissioners and citizens review the new budget at a meeting on November 9, 2005.

Street Streetscape Improvement Feasibility Study. The planning studies are performed by professionals within their respective fields, and guided by citizen appointees, township staff, and elected officials. Additionally, department heads prepare long-range plans.

“The planning is critical,” Commissioner Andris says, “and goes far in helping all of us on the Board enter the budget process with a shared vision.”

## 2006 Projects

Implementation and planning projects earmarked in the 2006 budget include:

- \$3 million to construct a new pool complex at the site of the existing Hatfield Community Pool;
- \$100,000 to fund engineering of a new alignment for County Line Road at Route 309;
- \$200,000 to implement recommendations from the new Open Space Plan;
- \$20,000 to begin a pilot project to improve a portion of streetscape on North Broad Street, to match \$100,000 from the federal government and \$20,000 from the owner of the site;

*(continued on page 2)*

# Police Department Opens the Chapman Room

**G**enerous area residents, artisans, and business owners donated over \$21,000 and countless hours to help build a new squad room for the police department, dedicated to the memory of Officer William J. Chapman. During a special ceremony in October, the Board of Commissioners officially dedicated The Chapman Room to the service of the Hatfield Township Police Department.

“This room will provide a living legacy to Bill. It is a testimony to his outstanding professional-

ism as a police officer,” said Commissioner John Norman.

The Chapman Room was designed based on recommendations from the officers to create a comfortable and efficient working environment that would serve as a new squad room. There is a new lighting system, a center computer island, ventilation windows, and data accessibility ports at every workstation. The focal point of the room is a bronze side-profile likeness of Officer Chapman that hangs on one wall.

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# Joint Open Space Plan Nears Completion

After a year of work at the local level, the Hatfield Township and Hatfield Borough Joint Open Space plan is near completion. This plan of action will help the Hatfield community reach goals related to use and acquisitions of public open space.

At their September business meetings, the elected bodies of both Hatfield Township and Hatfield Borough voted to send the committee's draft text for a new joint open space plan to Montgomery County. Within the draft plan is a list of goals the municipalities will most want to pursue over the next several years, including those in the areas of pedestrian-bicycle paths, land acquisitions, natural resource protection, and recreation facilities. Some goals are identified as projects for the township or the borough alone; others are to be accomplished by working together.

"The recommendations in this plan are well-conceived," said Commissioner Jim O'Byrne. "There are options for all of us to enjoy the outdoors and provisions to protect natural and historical resources."

## Finalizing the Plan

Once the County has reviewed and commented on the draft text, the document enters a period of public review and a final hearing before the Board of Commissioners regarding its adoption. Having an up-to-date plan will make Hatfield Township eligible to apply to Montgomery County for funding of up to \$1,252,098, a figure determined by the 2000 census setting Hatfield Township's population at 16,712.

The Open Space Committee, a body of citizen appointees and staff from both the Borough and the Township, has been meeting regularly since November 2004 with planning consultant Gannett Fleming to draft the plan. The committee defined new goals, aided by input from the general public, from other planning documents, and from an inventory of progress both municipalities made on plans they produced in mid-1990. This work was funded primarily by Montgomery County, which awarded the two Hatfields 90 percent of the \$54,000 needed to produce the new joint plan.

Some recommended projects from the draft plan include:

## Joint Township and Borough Endeavors:

- Complete the Liberty Bell Trail and the Chestnut Street Trail;
- Prepare a bicycle and pedestrian trails multi-municipal plan;
- Construct a dog park; and
- Construct a skate park.

## Township Solo Projects:

- Preserve specified privately-owned farm properties;
- Develop a sidewalk master plan; and
- Improve the North Broad Street commercial district streetscape.

Those interested in the draft plan may obtain a copy of the recommendations section, or read the draft in the plan review room of the Hatfield Township Municipal Building, during normal business hours.

## Improvement Projects a Priority in the 2006 Budget

*(continued from page 1)*

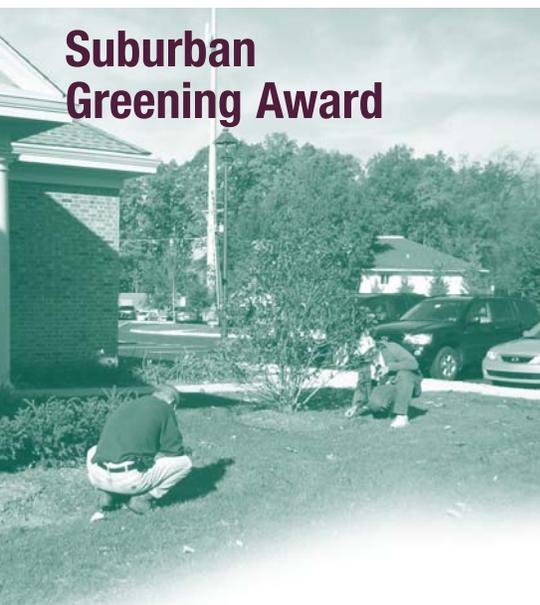
- \$11,000 to partner with Hatfield Borough to produce a joint trail plan; and
- \$50,000 to plan for and implement improvements at a recently-acquired parcel adjacent to School Road Park.

The 2006 budget will also allow Hatfield Township to continue or enhance current levels of service. Funds are budgeted to put two more full-time police officers on the force and to continue the 10-Year Road Improvement Plan now in its seventh year.

## Public Review

The preliminary budget is available for public inspection from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the municipal building, 1950 School Road, Hatfield. The document is scheduled to go before the Board of Commissioners for adoption on Wednesday, December 14.

## Suburban Greening Award



The Hatfield Township Municipal Building recently was awarded a Suburban Greening Award by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. This award is given to individuals, community groups, garden clubs, and businesses who are inspired to care for public space plantings in suburban Philadelphia, New Jersey, and Delaware.

## Hatfield Township Offices

1950 School Road, Hatfield PA 19440-1992

Telephone .....215-855-0900

Fax .....215-855-0243

Web address ..[www.hatfieldtownship.org](http://www.hatfieldtownship.org)

Township Manager:

**Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz**

### Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

## Township Meeting Schedules

### Board of Commissioners

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month at the Township Administration Building ...7:30 p.m.

### Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday of each month at the Township Administration Building.....7:30 p.m.

### Zoning Hearing Board

4th Thursday of each month at the Township Administration Building ...7:30 p.m.



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# Clemens Road Dedicated

In a major step forward to both improve the safety along Forty Foot Road and keep Hatfield Township's largest employer, Hatfield Quality Meats, where it has been since 1946, the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners and Clemens Family Corporation officially opened the newly constructed Clemens Road.

Joining the Commissioners for the November 4 ribbon cutting ceremony were members of the Clemens family, State Representative Robert W. Godshall, and Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development John Lori.

## Partnership with the Clemens Family

"The name of this roadway is a fitting tribute to a family that has done so much for so long in Hatfield Township," Commissioner President Gerald Andris said of the new road, which replaces the former Funks Road as the connection between Forty Foot Road and Derstine Road.



Commissioner President Gerald Andris, along with Hatfield Quality Meats President, Douglass Clemens, cut the ribbon officially opening Clemens Road on November 4, 2005 with an audience that also included Senator Stewart Greenleaf and Representative Robert W. Godshall, third and fourth from left.

This public/private partnership benefits Hatfield Quality Meats, allowing the business to expand in Hatfield Township, while also benefiting residents with a safe, signalized intersection.

Clemens Road was constructed through a joint effort between Hatfield Township and Clemens Family Corporation, combined with a \$1.2 million grant from the Pennsylvania DCED. Clemens Family Corporation covered the additional cost of the project over the amount of the grant.

# Road Improvement 2006-2007



**H**atfield Township's Ten Year Road Improvement Program was initiated in 1999 to make sure every road in the town-

ship was maintained on a regular basis. The following is a list of roads that are slated for repairs in the next two years. Please contact Hatfield Township at 215-855-0900 with any questions concerning this program.

## 2006

Carpenter Lane  
Col. Philip Reed Drive  
Fortuna Drive  
Friendship Circle  
Leas Way  
Logan Drive  
Maple Avenue  
Moyer Road  
Peterson Way  
Pine Street  
Thomas Penn Avenue

## 2007

Amber Drive  
Bronze Drive  
Cambridge Drive  
Crystal Drive  
Diamond Street  
Fairgrounds Road  
Industry Road  
North Penn Road  
Richmond Road  
Sandstone Drive  
Sterling Drive  
Stratford Avenue  
Wellington Way

# Snow Reminders!

As the Township gears up for this winter season, keep in mind that the Township Code of Ordinance requires that:

- Within 18 hours after snowfall stops, a two-foot wide pathway must be cleared along the sidewalk.
- Basketball nets, trashcans, and recycling bins always be kept out of the street. If left in the street during a snowfall they may be accidentally hit by the snowplows.
- When a snow emergency is declared, residents must remove their cars from the street. A snow emergency is declared by the Chief of Police when two or more inches accumulate during a period when snow plowing is occurring. This emergency shall not exceed 72 hours from the end of the snowfall.

Hatfield Township residents can help the snowplows this season by following the items below:

- Pile snow on the right side of the driveway so the plows don't re-block your driveway.
- Make sure your mailbox doesn't extend out into the street. The front of the mailbox should be flush with the back of the curb so that there is at least six inches between the street and the box. This will help eliminate the chance of your mailbox being clipped by the snowplow.
- Dig out the snow around the fire hydrants on your property.

## Police Department Opens the Chapman Room

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"With his likeness looking over the new squad room, it will remind everyone what the high standards and ideals of police work are all about," said Chief of Police Mark Toomey.

Sergeant William Tierney oversaw the renovation of The Chapman Room and donated his own personal time to complete the project. Fittingly, Tierney was also honored at the October Board meeting for his 20 years of service with the Hatfield Township Police Department.

# Winter Parks and Recreation Programs

Please call the township building at 215-855-0900 for class details and registration information.

## Scrapbooking

### Kids ages 7 and up

• **PM SESSIONS:** Tuesday, Dec. 6, and Wednesday, Feb. 8

**TIME:** 1 to 4 p.m. (early dismissal)

• **AM SESSIONS:** Saturday, Jan. 7, March 11, and April 8

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to noon

### Adults

**DATES:** Tuesday Dec. 6, Wednesday, Feb. 8, and Fridays, Jan. 6, March 10, and April 7

**TIME:** 7 to 10 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Community Room

**FEE:** \$50 for beginners, \$15 for practicing scrapbookers with their own supplies.

## Make 'n' Take Rain Stick

### Youth and adults

**DATES:** Two Saturdays, Jan. 14 and 21

**TIME:** 1 to 2:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Community Room

**FEE:** \$20

## Team Art (for the Very Young)

### Kids ages 3 to 5 with adult companion

**TIME:** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Community Room

### Disc Fish

**DATE:** Tuesday, Jan. 24

**FEE:** \$12 for two person team

### Sculpty Clay Creatures

**DATE:** Tuesday, Feb. 21

**FEE:** \$15 for two person team

## Start Smart Basketball

### Kids ages 3 to 5 with adult companion

**DATES:** Six Fridays, Jan. 13 to Feb. 17

**TIME:** 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Community Room

**FEE:** \$45 for residents, \$55 for non-residents

## Read to Me

It is not necessary to pre-register, no fee

**DATES:** Every Wednesday

**TIME:** 7 to 7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Community Room

## Winter Blast

### • TEENS

**Friday, Feb. 17 — 7 to 10 p.m.**

### • FAMILIES

**Saturday, Feb. 18 — noon to 3 p.m.**

**LOCATION:** Penndale Middle School

A two-day event to liven up the cold-weather season – featuring teen bands and family entertainment – will be presented by the North Penn Recreation Consortium (NPRC), a multi-municipal planning team of parks and recreation staff.

Free and open to the public, the event will showcase three teen bands, chosen by audition, and include snacks and ice-breakers of appeal to kids of middle school age and older on Friday, Feb. 17. On Saturday, Feb. 18, children and their adult companions will enjoy magician Linda Holliday, Steve Pullara of Cool Beans Music, and Mock Turtle Marionette Theatre. Activity stations for families to make a craft themed to winter, play simple carnival-like games for prizes, or have refreshments, will be set up in classroom wings just outside the auditorium.

Information on event sponsorship opportunities and teen band auditions is available by calling Hatfield Township at 215-855-0900.

*Township Manager*  
Stephanie Teoli Sharkowitz  
John F. Norman  
Scott Brown  
James A. Bleakly, Jr.  
*Vice President*  
Jim O'Byrne  
*President*  
Gerald S. Andris  
**Hatfield Township  
Board of Commissioners**

1950 School Road  
Hatfield PA 19440-1992  
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The 2006 budget is  
up for review,  
see page 1 for highlights.

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## Nature Area Assessment

The flora and fauna of the Nature Area is under study this season by a firm specializing in protection, restoration, and management of land and streams. Staff with NAM Planning & Design LLC has walked the 40-acre site bound by Vine Street, Maple Avenue, Orvilla Road, and Cowpath Road to assess the general health of the woodland. The team evaluated the makeup of the plant species mix to see if it is reproducing a future forest, and looked for evidence of over browse by deer, excessive soil erosion, and other conditions that can compromise the health of the valuable natural features within this passive park.

### Recommending Projects

NAM photographed the conditions they observed in the Nature Area. They, along with recommendations for action, will be documented in a report the Township will receive as part of the work.

"This assessment is an important step toward monitoring the health of this critical area," says Charlotte Dubroff, chairwoman of the Environmental Advisory Council. "We are concerned not only for the West Branch Neshaminy,



NAM photographed the Nature Area as part of the assessment.

but for all the living things that make this small area of protected land their homes."

It is anticipated that the Nature Area Visual Assessment will lead to projects and new land management practices in which both volunteers and staff can be involved.

The Nature Area is open from dusk to dawn, with an entrance to public parking on Cowpath Road, next to Sibel Realtors. The park includes mulched walking paths through the woods and along the Neshaminy Creek, and mowed grass paths through two meadows.

## A Recycling Reminder!

Hatfield Township residents are required by Township Ordinance to recycle the following items:

- Clear and colored glass
- Newsprint
- Aluminum
- Steel and bimetallic cans
- #1 PET and #2 HDPE plastics

Make sure your recyclables don't end up in the landfill by following these guidelines:

- Clean and rinse your recyclables.
- Keep on labels.
- Throw away lids.
- Crush plastic bottles and jars to save space in the recycling bin.
- Do not break or crush glass bottles or jars.

### Do You Need a Recycling Bin?

Hatfield Township residents may stop by the Municipal Building anytime during normal business hours and ask for a FREE recycling bin.

If you find that your hauler is not properly collecting your recyclables, you can make an official complaint in several ways. You can contact Hatfield Township at 215-855-0900 and we will forward your concerns to the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission. You may also contact the DEP's Southeastern Regional Office at 484-250-5991 and they will log your complaint as well.

**Hatfield Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is committed to preserving and improving our community's environment — but they can't do it alone!**

# Stormwater Management



Fish stickers on storm drains remind residents not to dump.



Polluted stormwater runoff is often transported to inlets and storm sewer systems and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a Stormwater Management Program that is intended to improve the nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that stormwater picks up and carries into storm sewer systems during storm events.

Common pollutants include oil and grease from roadways, pesticides from lawns, sediment from construction sites, and carelessly discarded trash, such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles. When deposited into nearby waterways through the storm sewer system, these pollutants can impair the waterways, thereby contaminating drinking water supplies and interfering with the habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife.

## Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

One program element is Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. This measure requires the Township to develop a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. To complete this task, the Township is conducting inspections of all stormwater outfalls over a four-year period. Some examples of an illicit discharge are:

- Dumping of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies, and paint down any part of the storm sewer system;
- Soil and other pollutants, such as debris and chemicals, leaving construction sites in stormwater runoff;
- Connection of your sanitary sewer lateral to the storm sewer system or effluent from your septic tank;
- Car wash wastewaters;
- Radiator flushing disposal; and
- Laundry wastewaters.

Please report any discharges from stormwater outfalls during times of dry weather — a sign that there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.

## Know the Code: Motorized Vehicles

Many Hatfield Township residents are proud owners of ATVs, motorbikes, snowmobiles, and other motorized vehicles that provide hours of recreational enjoyment, especially in the winter-time. Residents are permitted in Hatfield Township to use these motorized vehicles on their own property. However, the Hatfield Township Code of Ordinances places several provisions on the operation of these vehicles. The Code states that motorized vehicles:

- Must be registered with the Hatfield Township Police Department within 30 days after being brought into the Township. The registration fee is \$25 and remains valid unless revoked or ownership changes.
- Shall not create unreasonable noise and be equipped with a muffler in good working condition. No muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device shall be installed or used.
- Be operated only during daylight hours from one hour after sunrise to one hour prior to sunset.
- Shall not be operated on private property of another person, publicly owned property, or public school grounds without the express written permission of the owner or occupant of the property.
- Shall not be operated in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner that would endanger the safety of any person or property.
- Shall not be operated in such a manner as to raise or cause excessive amounts of dust or debris.

Any violation of these provisions shall be subject to fines up to \$600 or 30 days imprisonment. Along with the provisions above, these motorized vehicles can also cause severe damage to the environment. The Environmental Advisory Council advises that these vehicle owners take the following precautions:

- Do not drive along stream corridors, as it will damage important natural buffers.
- Drive with care. Motorized vehicles can leave deep ruts in the ground, compacting the soil, harming the roots of trees, and killing important undergrowth.
- Drive for shorter periods of time to keep the emission of hazardous fumes to a minimum.

*In Our Backyard* is published by Hatfield Township for insertion with *The Hatfield Connection*.

For meeting information, call Hatfield Township at 215-855-0900, or check the township calendar on the web at [www.hatfieldtownship.org](http://www.hatfieldtownship.org)

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*The meadow pictured on the front page banner is located in Hatfield, off Orvilla Road.*



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