



The Board Walk

from
Greene County Board of Commissioners
Pam Snyder, Chairman
Dave Coder
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For Immediate Release

Greene County Board of Commissioners

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WAYNESBURG, Pennsylvania – January 31, 2005

BUDGET

Budget Director

Preliminary numbers for the year ending 2004 indicate that the County to date has collected 98% of budgeted revenue and spent 96% of budgeted expenses. These numbers are expected to fluctuate until all accruals are posted and the accounts are closed out in March.

COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH

Information Technology

The 911 Computer Aided Dispatch System is currently being tested by the Information Technology Office for compatibility with standard County software applications. Full integration of this system into the County-wide Area Network is projected for March, and the system is expected to be online and active in July.

COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH

EMA, 911 Communications Center

The staff of the 911 Center will begin training and installation of the County's Computer Aided Dispatch System. The system will assist dispatchers in locating, dispatching, and documenting incidents. The system is being funded through a grant from the PA Chief's of Police Association.

EMERGENCY RADIOS

EMA, 911 Communications Center

Staley Communication Company continues to install new radios in all ambulance stations. These radios were funded through a grant provided by the PA Department of Health and the Emergency Medical Services Institute. All should be installed over the next couple of weeks.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

Emergency Management Agency

The Department is offering assistance to any volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance service with the completion of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program Application. Deadline for the grant application is February 28, 2005. The grant is a competitive grant with amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD

Assessment Office

The Greene County Assessment Office is charged to receive, to review, to approve or deny, and to notify all applicants for the recently adopted Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Act 72. Using the Assessment Office's data files, the office was able to provide pre-filled applications and letters that were used by the five school districts to mail applications to homeowners. This process allowed the applications and letters to be produced at a savings to the school districts. In total, the districts mailed approximately 14,142 applications in the first mailing and an additional 7,929 in the required mailing in December. Hundreds of dollars in savings were realized by the school districts in using the data and forms provided by the Assessment Office. As of January 15, 2005, the Assessment Office has received 6,990 applications. Of the applications received, 6,120 applications qualified for Homestead Exclusion and 62 qualified for Farmstead Exclusion. The remaining 870 applications were denied due to the property not being the primary residence of the owner. In March, the Assessment Office will provide a Median Assessed Value report for each district. In the months following, the school districts will determine if the adoption of the program is in the best interest of the tax payers and school districts.

Questions concerning the school district's adoption of the program should be addressed to the School District Business Manager.

M.A.G.I.C.

Department of Human Services

Greene County M.A.G.I.C. is studying the assets and needs in Greene County. M.A.G.I.C., with financial support from Greene County Human Services, is sponsoring a county-wide assessment initiative known as MAGIC Map. The goal of the MAGIC Map initiative is to: study the assets & needs in our county, coordinate assessment activities among organizations in our county and to encourage ongoing community assessment activities. To understand the assets and needs in Greene County and continue to design and deliver innovative human services, it is important to hear from everyone in the community, including residents, businesses and resource providers. To get input from the community, discussion groups and surveys are being planned. Discussion groups will be held in February in each of the five county school districts. The schedule for the discussion groups are as follows:

- February 1, 2005 – Morris Twp. Bldg. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Snow date: February 15, 2005
- February 2, 2005 – Central Greene Elem/High 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Snow date: February 16, 2005
- February 3, 2005 – Jefferson Elem/High 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Snow date: February 17, 2005
- February 8, 2005 – Penn Pitt Elem 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Snow date: February 22, 2005
- February 9, 2005 – Carmichaels Elem 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Snow date: February 23, 2005

MENTAL HEALTH OFFICE RELOCATION

Department of Human Services

The Greene County Human Services Mental Health Office (which includes the CAASP/Child and Adolescent Service System Program) has relocated their offices within the Fort Jackson Building. Dean Virgili's Office can be accessed at the Mezzanine Level. Diane Krall and Melanie Balogh may be reached by using the entrance door on High Street immediately next to the main entrance of the CareerLink at 4 W. High Street. All phone numbers remain the same.

MINI-MAINFRAME SERVER

Information Technology

The purchase of the County's new OS400-based, IBM 15 mini-mainframe server is completed and the server is being set up and tested at this time. Full incorporation into the Windows 2K3 network is anticipated for February.

PRISON

Greene County Prison

Each week inmates from the Greene County Prison volunteer to work at the County fairgrounds and the Corner Cupboard Food Bank. These are minimum security inmates who are supervised by full-time employees. They do a variety of projects each week and without their help, many of the projects would take a long time to complete. This is just one way that the inmates can give back to the community; while at the same time, gain confidence and at times learn new skills.

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