

To HARMONY TOWNSHIP Residents:

As we are beginning another year we would like to thank you, the residents of Harmony Township, for your support and cooperation throughout the year. Especially during the recent Sanitary Sewer Construction Project and Road Repair Project.

The Township was able to adopt a budget for 2009 that holds real estate tax levels at 21.0 mills. During these difficult economic times, we believe that everyone, including ourselves, needs to be conscious of our spending habits on whatever that might be.

As another road repair season is quickly upon us, we now have to get down to the dubious task of sorting out how brutal this past winter was on not only our roads, but also our budgets. Each year, the Harmony Township Board of Commissioners works diligently and responsibly to enact a balanced budget. The budget summarizes the revenues and expenditures the Township Administration expects to encounter during the course of a fiscal year. While the administration strives to ensure that the Township does not go over budget, there can be unforeseen circumstances that arise during the course of the year. Such as this past winter.

The 2009 will retain, without reduction, the existing services and programs that are currently in place to serve the residents of the Township. As we look back, the last two years have been very busy, with much accomplished.

The Township of Harmony is governed by an elected body organized under the First Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That Board is called the Board of Commissioners and consists of five (5) elected officials, each serving a four (4) year term.

### **PLEASE VOTE**

There are five (5) voting districts in Harmony Township:

Districts #1 and #2 – vote at the Highland Elementary School on Highland Avenue

District #3 – vote at the Harmony Township Municipal Building

District #4 and #5 – vote at the Harmony Township Fire Department Building on Beaver Road

### **STREET SWEEPING**

We will not have a street sweeping schedule this year, but once the Road Department begins sweeping, we ask that residents keep the following in mind:

- Please be patient
- Do not sweep cinders or road debris into the catch basins
- Kindly remove vehicles from the street when you see the sweeper on your street

If you have any questions, please call the Township office.

## **ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

Laws that are enacted by the Harmony Township Board of Commissioners are known as ordinances and can regulate any interest relating to Harmony Township, including administration, building codes, fire protection, business regulations, motor vehicles, zoning and taxes. At this time, the Township's Code of Ordinances is being reorganized and put into a format suitable for the Web site. Please check back for the on-line version. If you need to reference an ordinance before then, you may do so at the Township office.

## **RECENTLY ENACTED ORDINANCES:**

The various boards and commissions in the Township are designed to help the Township better understand the needs and desires of the residents, business owners and developers who have chosen this community as their place to live and work. Residents who serve on these committees are advocates for the people of Harmony Township and each member brings with them their own experiences, advice and input which can be influential when policy decisions and ordinances are voted on.

## **STREET LIGHTS**

If you notice a street light that is out or not operating properly, please call the Township office with the location, address and/or pole number. We will immediately contact Duquesne Light.

## **COLUMBIA GAS**

For information concerning work being done by Columbia Gas in your neighborhood, please check their website or contact the Township office:

<http://www.columbiagaspa.md.com/>

## **BURNING**

Burning is illegal in Harmony Township. The Board of Commissioners will select a Spring and Fall burning date each year. Please call the Township office for those dates.

## **NEW SIGN MARQUEE**

If this looks familiar, it is because you have seen it in front of the old Ambridge Area High School on Duss Avenue. The Ambridge Area School District generously donated the marquee to Harmony Township and the Harmony Township Road Department members installed and updated it for use at the Harmony Township Municipal Building. Please check it out for meeting dates and public notices.

### **TAX RATES**

Harmony Township 21.0 mills  
Beaver County 22.2 mills  
Ambridge Area School District 61.02 mills

Local Services Tax - \$52.00 per year (formerly Occupation Tax) All persons engaged in employment within the limits of Harmony Township shall be subject to the Local Services Tax

Wage Tax – 1%

### **SNOW PLOWING**

The Road Department is responsible for plowing and salting all Township owned roads. Harmony Township is not responsible for maintaining State owned roads.

### **HARMONY TOWNSHIP ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Frank Presto - Road Foreman  
Rudy Colella, Jr. – Laborer  
Harry Oswald – Laborer

The Harmony Township Road Department is responsible for the maintenance of all Townships owned roads, properties and buildings. This department is also responsible for storm sewer and sanitary sewer maintenance. Three (3) full time employees make up the Road Department and offer a number of services in-house. The Road Department strives to save Harmony Township thousands of dollars in construction and maintenance costs annually.

### **MEETINGS**

If a resident has a concern he or she feels needs to be addressed by the Township, the individual is encouraged to contact the Township Secretary's office which may be able to address the matter promptly and/or schedule an appropriate time for that individual to present concerns to the Board of Commissioners. Because our Commissioners work full time at their places of business and/or employment residents are encouraged to present their views on Township matters on any of the means available, including letters, e-mail, telephone and voice mail. The Board strives to facilitate your communication with Township officials.

## **RECYCLING**

Although the Township currently does not participate in a recycling program, there are recycling options available through the Beaver County Department of Waste Management. For a list of acceptable items, unacceptable items and fees you may contact them at 724-843-2868 or check the following website for more information:

[www.beavercountyrecycling.com](http://www.beavercountyrecycling.com)

## **SANITARY SEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

The Harmony Township Sanitary Sewer Project construction was completed .23% (\$5,879.72) under the bid prices.

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>	<u>FINAL CONSTRUCTION COST</u>
A	\$1,130,000.00	\$1,100,393.99
B	\$1,460,066.50	\$1,479,972.79
C	\$ 20,995.00	\$ 24,815.00
Totals	\$2,611,061.50	\$2,605,181.78

Contract A - Ridge Road and Cedar Avenue areas

Contract B - Woodland Road Area

Contract C - Purchase of residential grinder pumps (This amount was over due to the addition of an additional residence in the project)

The Harmony Township Board of Commissioners and Harmony Township Municipal Authority have worked wisely with the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) to acquire as much grant funds and low interest loan funds as possible.

Project costs paid with loan funds: \$1,509,000.00

Project costs paid with grant funds: \$ 838,750.00

All remaining project costs were paid with tap-in fees and Township funds.

The user fee per month for the Harmony Township residents that are a part of the new sanitary sewer project will be \$52.00 per month. This amount was finalized upon closeout of the USDA grant/loan program.

The \$52.00 monthly fee is for debt service for the USDA loan funds and also for monthly treatment fees by either the Ambridge Sewage Treatment Plant or the Baden Sewage Treatment Plant.

These residents will receive a sewage bill in the amount of \$104.00 every two (2) months. If you would prefer making monthly payments, please just contact the Township office. We would be happy to accommodate you.

### **SEWAGE BILLING**

All other residents of Harmony Township will continue to receive quarterly bills as per the following schedule:

January-February-March	Billed April 1 <sup>st</sup>
April-May-June	Billed July 1 <sup>st</sup>
July-August-September	Billed October 1 <sup>st</sup>
October-November-December	Billed January 1 <sup>st</sup>

**FOR ALL SEWAGE CUSTOMERS, PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR BILLING SCHEDULE DATES. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A BILL, PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ACCOUNT REMAINS CURRENT.** We often receive telephone calls from residents informing us that they did not receive a sewage bill. We appreciate these calls from residents. It will allow us to send a new bill without the account becoming delinquent.

The Township does have an agreement with the Ambridge Water Authority for the termination of water service for unpaid sewage bills. If your water is terminated, you will be responsible for additional fees for the termination and reconnection fees, in addition to late fees and penalties.

Effective January 1, 2009 the Ambridge Municipal Authority enacted a 10% sewage rate increase for Harmony Township residents. This increase **was not** passed onto Township residents, the Harmony Township Board of Commissioners and Harmony Township Municipal Authority agreed to absorb **this** increase.

Operating expenses by both the Ambridge Municipal Authority and Baden Municipal Authority have risen and both authorities must maintain a rate structure that guarantees that sewer revenues will not exceed expenses and debt service by regulated safety factor percentages.

Debt service and treatment expense costs for the Township have little flexibility. This is why it is so important for homeowners to not have illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system for rainspouts, roof drains, driveway drains or sump pumps. Sources of ground water and rainwater are not to be connected to the public sewage system. The Township has worked very hard in the last several years to eliminate sources of ground water by upgrading older sewage lines.

It is never easy or desirable to increase sewage rates. Please be assured that the Harmony Township Board of Commissioners and Municipal Authority will continue to take

measures to provide quality service and maintain this valuable part of the infrastructure of our Township in as fiscally responsible manner as possible.

**UPDATE**

Harmony Township  
2501 Woodland Road  
Ambridge, PA 15003

724-266-1910  
724-266-7330 (FAX)

E-Mail: [harmonytwp.com](mailto:harmonytwp.com)

Township Secretary: Lyla L. Swan

Office hours: 8:30AM to 4:00PM weekdays (closed during lunch)

A new drop-off box has been installed for the convenience of the residents.