



# Aston Township

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# Township Times

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Eagle Scout Patrick Finn, of Concord Rd., displays his recognition plaque, while Sixth Ward Commissioner Jim Stigale and proud parents Ed and Margaret Finn look on. (Eagle Scout story on page 2)



Joseph McColgan, of Shubrook Lane, holds the golden clock plaque he received in recognition of his quarter century on the planning commission. He is flanked by Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins (holding Joe's proclamation) and Township Manager/Secretary Dick Lehr.



### Community Helps Displaced Family

The Meehan family, whose Pancoast Avenue home was destroyed by a fast-moving fire in mid-February, has seen an outpouring of neighborly sympathy and concern in the wake of the tragedy. Fortunately, no one was injured by the blaze, which left the house and contents as a total loss.

"A family in our community lost their home and belongings to a fire. We should come together as a community to help," Sixth Ward Commissioner Jim Stigale recently stated.

On Feb. 23, 10% of Casa Prego's receipts went to the Meehan family.

An account for donations to assist in the Meehans' recovery has been set up at TD Bank. The account is titled: For Benefit of the Meehan Family.

Donations can be made at any TD Bank location or by mail to:

For Benefit of the Meehan Family, TD Bank, 5025 Pennell Road, Aston, PA 19014.

Gift cards or replacement clothing for the family of six (two adults, three boys, one girl) can be dropped off at the Aston Community Center from 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday.



The charred rear of the Meehan house.



Troop 225 Eagle Scout Cody Lee, of Surrey Ln., is congratulated by Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn, while parents Debra and Denis Lee enjoy the moment.

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If this bulbous baffle doesn't work, nothing will.

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Just a reminder: This is what Spring looks like.



James Persing (holding gift box containing engraved watch), was recognized for 25 years as a township employee. He is congratulated here by his boss, Road Foreman Russ Palmore (far left), Sixth Ward Commissioner/Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Stigale (holding a township proclamation), and Jim's first boss, former Road Foreman Dick Lehr.

### Aston Eagles Soar

Two Eagles were recently seen together ... actually three, if you include the majestic bald eagle that was spotted riding the winds over Aston the same day that township commissioners honored Eagle Scouts Patrick Finn and Cody Lee, both of Troop 225 out of St. Joseph's Church. When Finn and Lee officially attained Eagle Scout status at a Court of Honor on Jan. 23, the total number of Eagle Scouts produced by Troop 225 in the last year went to seven - a new troop record for young men reaching Scouting's highest rank in a single year.

Finn's Eagle project involved the cleaning, organizing, and taking of inventory at the food bank at City Team Ministry in Chester.

Lee recently replaced 10 wooden benches used for outdoor services at Mt. Hope United Methodist Church as his Eagle project.

After handing out township proclamations to each of the new Eagle Scouts, commissioners recognized the selfless contributions made by Scout leaders and the parents of Boy Scouts. Longtime Troop 225 Scoutmaster Glenn Clark and Troop Leader Barry Pinkowicz were singled out for applause.

"You do a wonderful job with the youth in our community, and I thank you both," said Commissioners President Gary Robinson.

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### Township Utilizing Grant \$\$\$

Money secured through state grants is being put to good use by the township. The \$144,000 grant purchase of a sanitation truck to be used for recycling collections was authorized by commissioners in 2010.

The purchase and installation of 17 back-flow preventer valves for homes on the 200 block of Edgar Avenue (where sewer line back-ups have occurred in recent years) has been approved and will be funded by a \$73,000 grant secured by State Representative Stephen Barrar.

The township engineer has also been authorized to prepare the bid specs for the purchase and installation of an emergency generator at the Community Center. An \$80,000 grant will be used to install the generator, which will provide Aston Township with a public emergency shelter.

### Commissioners Make Appointments

At their Feb. 16 meeting, commissioners unanimously re-appointed Joseph McGinn, Jr., of Bunting Lane, to serve another five-year term as the Fifth Ward representative on the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority board of directors.

Commissioners officially accepted with regret the resignation of Jack Holefelder from the board of the Aston Township Veterans Memorial Garden Foundation. Holefelder was an original ATVMGF member and board president, and was wished well in his semi-retirement.

Eric Delellis, of Valley Green Drive, was named to serve the remaining two years on Holefelder's term on the ATVMGF board.

Additional appointments to the ATVMGF board of directors include John Dell, of East Chester Drive, for a two-year term; and Wayne Calloway, of Stella Lane, for a three-year term.

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### Drainage Improvements Slated

A list of township-funded drainage improvements that will help dry out several soggy areas across Aston has been unanimously approved by the board of commissioners. All drainage projects are expected to be completed by mid-summer.

The contract to replace a Baldwin Run storm sewer pipe was recently awarded to Buck Frank in the amount of \$22,500.

The Ashton Group won the contract for a number of projects that will cost \$167,195 altogether. These drainage upgrades include rear yards on Scarlet Avenue (Pancoast to Florence), Tuscany Road, and Liam Drive; the installation of a new storm drain on Florence Avenue; and improvements to Scarlet Avenue (Harrison Avenue to Bridgewater) and Sweigert Lane.

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**Read an expanded version of  
each month's newsletter at  
[www.astontownship.net](http://www.astontownship.net)**

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### Please Report Potholes

Go ahead - let 'er rip. Don't hold back. Tell it like it is. Both PennDOT and the Aston Township Public Works Department want to know exactly where potholes have developed over the winter.

Every motorist can play a role in the process of getting potholes fixed by filing accurate reports to the proper authorities.

To report a pothole on a state-owned highway, such as Concord or Pennell Roads, call **1-800-FIX-ROAD**. The same number can be used to request dead animal removal or to report signage issues on state roads.

To report a pothole on township roads, call the Public Works Department at **610-494-8005** and leave a message that includes the location of the hole.

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### Snow Dos and Don'ts

**Do: Remove snow from sidewalks within 30 hours** of the end of a snowfall. By clearing snow promptly, you will use less de-icing material.

**\*Please be sure the de-icing product you use is environmentally safe.**

**Do: Rinse and wipe your dog or cat's feet** after they have walked on treated sidewalks, as prolonged exposure to some de-icers can burn paw pads, and letting the pet lick their feet clean can make the animal sick.

**Don't: Shovel snow back into a plowed street**, as this creates a public safety hazard.

**Don't: Attempt to save or block off a cleared parking space** with any type of furniture, grills, or traffic cones. This illegal practice amounts to obstructing a public thoroughfare.

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**To learn more about  
Aston businesses, visit  
[www.astonba.com](http://www.astonba.com)**

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### Senior Centers Offer Education

Senior Community Services continues to offer low-cost opportunities for self-improvement to adults over age 50 in western Delaware County.

Educational courses that vary from single sessions to 10-week programs are now available, including driver's ed, art & design, health & wellness, literature, environment, tax payment, and understanding credit reports and Medicare benefits, et al.

The courses are held at four locations in western Delco: Aston Community Center, Brookhaven municipal building, Concord Senior Center, and Upper Chichester Community Center. For details on how to register to improve your life, call Farah Esfahani at **610-237-8100, ext. 30**.

### Seniors Learning Computer Skills At Neumann

Neumann University has partnered with the Senior Lift program to provide basic computer instruction to senior citizens. A primary goal of the four-week effort is to give seniors the tools that will allow them to share their knowledge and experience with today's youth.

Two-hour classes will be held bi-weekly through most of March. Classes include an introduction to computer functions and components; how to set-up, send and receive email; and basic typing and word processing. Classes are limited. To register or for more information, call **610-558-56-29**.

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### Neumann President Honored

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia recently presented beloved Neumann University President Rosalie Mirenda with a 2011 Distinguished Graduate Award, making her a member of the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Hall of Fame.

The award is bestowed upon alumni who have achieved professional success in their chosen field and demonstrated a commitment to the gospel values that are the foundation of Catholic education.

Mirenda became Neumann president in 1996, and has since developed a reputation as a visionary and staunch advocate of the Franciscan mission. During Mirenda's tenure, Neumann enrollment has increased three-fold, while capital giving is up over 30%.

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### Public Meetings and Special Events

#### March 7-11, 2011 (Mon-Fri)

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

#### March 7, 2011 (Monday)

6:30pm in municipal building

Public Works Committee Meeting

#### March 7, 2011 (Monday)

7:30pm in municipal building

New Construction Committee Meeting

#### March 8, 2011 (Tuesday)

6:30pm in municipal building

Police Committee Meeting

#### March 8, 2011 (Tuesday)

7:30pm in municipal building

Executive Committee Meeting

#### March 15, 2011 (Tuesday)

7pm at Aston Public Library

Library Board Meeting

#### March 16, 2011 (Wednesday)

7pm in municipal building

Board of Commissioners Meeting

#### March 21, 2011 (Monday)

Spring curbside leaf collections begin

#### March 22, 2011 (Tuesday)

7pm in municipal building

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

#### March 23, 2011 (Wednesday)

7pm in municipal building

Planning Commission Meeting

#### March 30, 2011 (Wednesday)

Last day of discount for

2011 property tax payment

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### Aston Seniors Get Together

Aston Senior Citizens will meet on Thursday, **March 24**, starting at 10:45am, at the Community Center.

The ASC is planning a trip to the Rainbow Dinner Theater to see the comedy *Send Me No Flowers* on **March 17**.

\*

The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will meet Monday, **March 28**, starting at 10:45am, at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road.

AARP is enrolling new members. Dues are \$10 per year. For more information, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.

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### St. Patty's Parties Planned

The Women's Republican Club of Aston will be hosting a St. Patty's Day Party at the Aston-Beechwood Firehouse Banquet Hall (located at Birney Highway and Mount Road, at the bottom of Aston Mills Road hill) from 7-11pm on Friday, **March 11**.

Tickets are \$30 per person.

The fun-filled evening will include dinner, beer and wine, dancing, door prizes, and 50/50 and basket of cheer raffles.

For tickets or more information, call **610-368-9575**.

\*

Green Ridge Fire Co. is hosting a St. Patty's Day Beef-n-Beverage on Saturday, **March 19** from 8pm-midnight. Cost is \$25 per person and \$40 per couple until March 12. After

that date, tickets purchased will be \$30 per person and \$45 per couple. To purchase tickets, stop by the station (Pancoast Ave. and Dutton's Mill Rd.) around 7pm, or call **610-494-6771**, or email **greenridge63@yahoo.com**.

Come out and enjoy the food, fun, dancing, and of course, the beverages.

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### Lions To Host Poker Tourney, Pancake Breakfast

The Aston Lions Club will be the beneficiary of two upcoming fundraisers in April. All proceeds will benefit blind, deaf, or needy persons in our community.

A Texas Hold'em Tournament will be held at the Folsom firehouse (located at 4th and Sutton Aves. in Folsom) from 7-11pm on Saturday, **April 9**. Doors will open at 6pm. Prizes to be determined.

Participants must put up a \$75 buy-in (with \$50 re-buys) - cash only at the door on the day of the event. Mailing deadline for buy-in checks is March 25. Checks should be made payable to Aston Township Lions Charitable Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 2052, Aston, PA 19014-0052.

The next day, Sunday, **April 10**, ALC will hold their semi-annual Pancake Breakfast at the Community Center from 7:30am until noon.

Tickets for a complete breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, juice, and coffee are \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, and \$4 for children. To learn more about Lions' events, call Bob Hoyt at **610-517-9362**.

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### Enviro-Friendly Yard Management Seminar Free To Public

The Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association will be hosting a special presentation and discussion entitled "Healthy Yards, Healthy Streams" at the Brookhaven municipal building (2 Cambridge Rd.) from 7-9pm on Thursday, **May 5**.

The program will feature registered Landscape Architect Bryn Richard, who will offer seasonal strategies for managing and landscaping properties in an attractive and environmentally-sustainable manner.

This informational session is free and open to the public, and is jointly sponsored by Aston Township and Brookhaven, Parkside, and Upland Boroughs. To preregister, call **610-892-8731** or visit **www.crc@nni.com**.



**It's fair to say that last month's Aston Public Library Storytime Valentine's Day Party was a heartening experience for all participants.**

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### Library Offers Free E-Books

Now library patrons can get free e-books on their e-book readers. The Delco Library System has scheduled a training session at the Aston Public Library to demonstrate how to use the new service on **March 8**, starting at 7pm.

The session will focus on using the Barnes & Noble Nook and the Apple iPad. Amazon's Kindle reader is not compatible with this service.

Training session space is limited and registration is required. Go to [www.tinyurl.com/astoncompclasses](http://www.tinyurl.com/astoncompclasses) to sign up.

-The Aston Public Library now offers wireless Internet access (WiFi) in the building. Please come to the circulation desk to sign up.

-The library is holding another Bookmark Contest for students in grades K-12. Entry is free and winners will get prizes. Students can pick up an entry form at the library or at [www.aston.library.org](http://www.aston.library.org).

-Now that paper tax forms are no longer being mailed to households, the library may be the best location to pick up a wide variety of federal and state tax filing forms - and they're all free!

-To become a Friend of the Library, go to [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org) and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your information.

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### Aston Elementary Helps Fund Pusey House Recovery

The historic Caleb Pusey House in Upland, and other historic buildings nearby, were flooded with several feet of muddy water from Chester Creek during heavy rains on Oct. 1. Although all of the priceless antique furnishings were saved by volunteers from the Upland Fire Co., the flood damaged all the creekside buildings, knocking out utility service, prematurely ending the tour season,

and causing the cancellation of the site's fifth annual Welcome Day Celebration in late October.

When Aston Elementary fourth-grade Teacher Vivienne Cameron read of the plight of the Pusey House, she passed along the sad news to her students. Cameron has led many field trips to the National Historical Register site, as part of the Passport to History program. The Pusey House is among the oldest existing English cottages in America (built in 1683) and the only standing American structure that can verify visits from William Penn. Hearing that the Pusey House needed additional funding to recover from the flood, the Aston Elementary student body rose to the occasion and started a campaign to raise money in November. In December, a check for \$219.54 was sent to the Friends of the Caleb Pusey House, the site's non-profit overseer.

"It was the process of the kids caring about a piece of history in their community," Cameron said of the student-driven fundraising effort.

The donation check was signed by the 15 members of the Aston Elementary Student Council, and was sent with a letter that stated: "We know that it is not a ton of money, but we hope it will help make a difference."

FCPH President Ray Peden was most appreciative of the contribution made by both teacher and students.

"It was truly heartwarming when we received the contribution from the thoughtful Aston Elementary students. It was wonderful to know that our young folks are being introduced to community service and historic preservation at such an early age," said a grateful Peden.

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**This group of historical preservationists includes Aston Elementary Student Council Leader Duston Gladfelter (left rear corner), Teacher Vivienne Cameron (right rear corner), Miss Cameron's fourth-grade class (standing), and members of Student Council (kneeling) - all of whom played a vital role in raising emergency funding for the historic Caleb Pusey House in Upland.**



**Township Engineer Eileen Nelson, of Stantec Consulting, recently accepted a township proclamation "for all engineers everywhere" from First Ward Commissioner and fellow ABA Member V. Michael Fulginiti, recognizing Feb. 20-27 as National Engineers Week, under this year's theme: Engineers - Turning Ideas Into Reality.**

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You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook by visiting [www.facebook.com/astonlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/astonlibrary).

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**Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn recently presented a proclamation to Patti Hollenback of Cherry Tree Rd., recognizing March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Hollenback is a nurse navigator at a Crozer Keystone Health System cancer center. Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in American men and women, but is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases.**

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**Progress continues at Fisher's Corner, where student housing for Neumann University is under construction. Completion is expected by July.**

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**All newsletter submissions must be received by the 22nd of the month to appear in the next month's edition. Submit newsletter information to [newsletter@astontownship.net](mailto:newsletter@astontownship.net) or to [castarkis@comcast.net](mailto:castarkis@comcast.net)**

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### Recycling Reduces Trash Fees

The amount Aston residents ultimately pay for trash processing depends on the total tonnage collected *and* how much trash tonnage is reduced through recycling.

Recyclables include: cartons (milk/juice), aluminum/metal cans, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs (caps removed), phone books, greeting cards and junk mail, glass bottles and jars, loose metal jar lids and steel bottle caps, paper towel rolls, corrugated cardboard and paper bags (flattened).

**\*\*\*Please note: All recyclables must be separated from regular trash.**

Different types of recyclable items can be co-mingled in a recycling can, but newspapers should be bundled or bagged and placed next to the can.

**In 2010, Aston recycling collections included 735 tons of co-mingled items picked up curbside, 119 tons of newspaper collected in the container behind the municipal building, 1,600 lbs. of aluminum cans collected by the Aston Lions Club, and 17 tons of scrap metal and 3,340 gal. of used motor oil collected at the public works garage.**

**Through one community's recycling efforts for just one year, 872 tons of discarded material was kept out of the landfill, while Aston Township recycling revenue totaled \$10,462.71.**

**The impressive 12-month revenue total proves that, truly, one man's trash is another man's treasure.**

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Okay, enough already. How about for this last month of winter we let it not snow?

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### Free Smoke Detectors

To learn how to receive a free smoke detector for your home, visit [www.astonbeechwood72.com](http://www.astonbeechwood72.com)

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### Cooperation Needed From Property Owners

Commissioners are asking all township residents and businesses to help the township provide essential services and maintain public safety, especially in the wake of a snowfall.

**-Whenever possible, do not park in a public street during a snowstorm.**

Fewer cars allow for better plowing.

**-A 30-inch-wide pathway must be cleared on sidewalks within 30 hours of a snowfall ending.** Failure to comply is a citable offense, under the township code.

Property owners are also responsible for keeping icy sidewalks treated with rock salt or anti-skid material.

**-Property address numbers must be kept visible at all times to assist emergency responders.** - Obviously, this common-sense safety law applies to all seasons of the year.

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### Snow Requires Extra Safety On Roadways

Additional safety precautions must be taken to survive a snow event on the highway. PennDOT is urging all motorists to observe the following safety rules during and immediately after a snowfall:

**-Before driving, always clear snow and ice** from the mirrors, front and rear windshields, hood, roof, and tail lights of a vehicle.

**-Maintain twice the normal following distance** behind other vehicles when snow is falling. Following too close is the cause of most snow-related crashes.

**-Stay at least six car lengths behind a snow plow. Never try to pass a snow plow,** as the plow blade is wider than the truck.

**-Since windshield wash is used more frequently** during the winter, the reservoir under the hood needs to be checked and refilled more often.

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### Aston Establishes 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' Food Pantry

Starting this winter, the Aston Township Community Center on Concord Rd. will be utilized as a food pantry collection depot that will help

feed dozens of local families and children.

This year-round help network is building on a successful effort at Christmas, when Aston Police Officer Tom Hearty enlisted Giant Food Store to donate the ingredients for turkey dinners to 15 local needy families.

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors network has already recruited Giant, the Aston Police Department, the Penn-Delco School District, and other Aston organizations that want to help. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Community Center any day of the week during business hours. Community Center staff will securely store all donations.

All donated items (including gift cards, individual cans or cases of food) will be distributed to needy local families, as contributions allow in the coming months.

"These are families who have fallen on hard times because of job loss or just can't make ends meet. We're going to help provide some food for them, so they can pay some other bills," Sixth Ward Commissioner Jim Stigale stated.

"So we're asking for anyone shopping at Giant who sees a two-for-one special to drop off one of those items at the Community Center."

"We helped families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but now it's time to help year round," suggests Stigale.

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### Commissioners Make Appointments

Among Commissioners first business items of the new year were a series of appointments and re-appointments to a variety of public service positions.

The following postings were all unanimously approved at the Jan. 19 board meeting:

After the resignation of Virginia 'Ginny' Wakefield was accepted with regret, C. Robert Hoyt and Harry Hill III were re-appointed to the Aston Township Library Board of Trustees for 3-year terms; Cindy Limpchisky was appointed to her first 3-year term; and Michele Dorman was appointed to serve the remaining two years on Wakefield's unexpired term.

Katherine 'Kit' Spayd, Christopher Possenti, Dina Liss, and Sean Joyce were appointed to the Aston Township Citizens Advisory Committee for 3-year terms.

Sister Corinne Wright, Michael Panco, and John Marchlik were re-appointed to the Aston Township Planning Commission for 4-year terms.

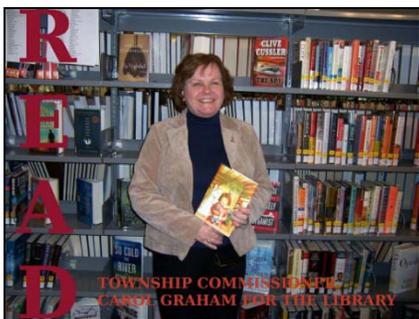
After the resignation of Robert Naef was accepted with regret, Eric Delellis was re-appointed to the Aston Township Zoning Hearing Board for a 5-year term; Michael Viscuso was appointed to his first 5-year term (moving from alternate to full board member); and Donald Miller was appointed to serve as an alternate until January 2015.

Thomas Cozza was re-appointed to the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority for a 5-year term. Philip Ewaka was re-appointed to the Aston Township Board of Health for a 5-year term.

Otto Zitarelli was re-appointed to the Aston Township Civil Service Commission for a 6-year term.

James Graham and Joseph Ahearn were both re-appointed to the Aston Township Veterans' Memorial Garden Foundation for 5-year terms; Kit Spayd and Maryann Bullen were appointed to 3-year terms; and Jeffrey Brown was appointed to a 2-year term. "To everyone who was appointed this evening, I want to wish you luck and thank you for your service and dedication to our town," stated Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham.

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Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham is the familiar face featured on the first of a series of celebrity posters that the Aston Public Library will be creating to promote the endless benefits of reading.

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*If any resident knows of an Aston veteran who is returning home from overseas duty, please notify the township office of the expected date and time of arrival, so that a red carpet welcome can be organized.*

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### Park Is For Pedestrians

Residents should take note that cars are not permitted in Vinsmith Park. Violating vehicles will be towed.

### Beware Vehicle Break-ins

Aston police are advising residents to avoid keeping valuables in parked vehicles or to lock valuables in the trunk. Break-ins occur day and night, targeting locked and unlocked cars. The most common items stolen are electronic equipment, like laptop computers and GPS units.

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### Seniors Keeping Tabs On Charity

In support of the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, Aston Senior Citizens are collecting the pop tabs from aluminum cans. The Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home for critically ill or injured children and their families.

The charity receives an average of 30 cents per pound of can tabs collected, with 1,267 tabs in every pound. Collecting just the tab is more space efficient, as there is more aluminum in each tab than in the can itself.

In 2009, the Ronald McDonald House received \$5,310 from pop tabs, with over 17 million collected by groups like the ASC.

Please bring your tabs to the next ASC meeting, or contact Marge Dwyer at **610-497-1666** for more information.

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### Emergency Preparation Begins At Home

Citizens rely on emergency services to protect our town's health and welfare, but it is also important that each individual household recognizes the need for emergency preparation.

Among the precautions that every family should take is establishing a crisis plan in advance.

Many hazardous situations call for sheltering-in-place. Bottled water, a flashlight, battery-operated radio, and fresh batteries are among the items that should be kept at home for emergencies.

If evacuation is called for, secure your home; bring pets indoors and provide them with food and water for at least three days; and bring along extra clothing, medications, and bedding or blankets for your family.

An emergency evacuation supply kit should be pre-packed and easily accessible, and should include cash, non-perishable foods, bottled water, personal toiletries, first-aid items, an extra set of car/house keys, and important papers (id, insurance cards).

During a community-wide emergency, do not call 911 unless reporting an immediate life-threatening situation.

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### Hometown Historian Tells Tales of Aston Mills

Lifetime Aston resident Paul Dougherty, who founded the Aston Township Historical Society in 1993, recently completed a 40-page booklet of his hometown recollections, entitled *Growing Up In Aston Mills*.

The pocket-sized book gives the reader a glimpse of a by-gone era in Aston's storied history. The tales told span the 20th century, while the educational text is augmented by black & white photos of yesteryear.

Dougherty reveals many personal details of his own childhood, but also relates the evolution of Aston from industrial mill town to thriving suburb. The booklet contains stories that few Aston residents would recall today, such as the following excerpt:

#### "Ragman!"

On Saturday mornings, a man would come around the neighborhood and go to the cellar door. He would knock loud and yell out "Ragman!" My father always managed to have some rags lying around. I don't know where they came from, but a few rags were always produced.

The ragman carried a large burlap bag and a hand-held scale. He would weigh the bag before putting any rags in, and then weigh the sack again with our rags inside. He always made sure that the person selling him the rags saw the scale before and after, so there was no question of cheating.

The ragman paid a penny a pound for the rags.

Copies of *Growing Up In Aston Mills* are for sale for \$5 each at the Aston Township Historical Society room at the Community Center on Monday evenings and every day at Aston Pharmacy, located at the corner of Scheivert Ave. and Concord Rd. All proceeds will benefit the ATHS and help preserve historical resources.

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### To maintain a safe environment

for children, all residents, and especially those living near schools, are urged to **dial 911 or call the Aston PD at 610-497-2633** to report any suspicious activity.

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### **GFWC Open To All Women**

The General Federation Woman's Club of Aston holds monthly meetings at the Community Center on the fourth Monday of every month, from September through June.

Membership is open to all women. If you are interested in community involvement, please come and join us.

For more GFWC information, call **610-497-5234**.

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### **Commissioners Aim To Clean Up Town**

Recent revisions to the township's littering law include a prohibition on leaving grass clippings in the street, while certificates of occupancy for residences will be withheld, if sidewalks, curbs, or driveways are in disrepair.

Grass clippings blown or swept into a public street can lead directly to clogged storm sewers, which can lead to roadway flooding. Hence, grass clippings are now deemed as litter, joining the discarding of papers, bottles, and cans as a citable offense.

Whenever a property is sold or transferred to another owner, the condition of deteriorated sidewalks, curbs, and driveway aprons must be addressed. Broken, cracked, or loose concrete presents a public safety hazard, and must be repaired or replaced prior to the issuance of a CO. Commissioners have also amended the property maintenance ordinance to include the removal of weeds in and around the sidewalk and curb area.

Flower or vegetable gardens are the only portion of residential lots that do not have to be mowed and kept as a lawn, under the updated ordinance.

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### **Motorcycle Safety Urged**

As Spring approaches, so does the season for motorcycle riding. PennDOT is offering free safety courses for riders, and a new course for three-wheeled motorcycles, from March thru October. For more information, visit **[www.pamsp.com](http://www.pamsp.com)**.

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