



Aston Township

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Township Times

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April 2011

Motorcycle Safety Urged

With the arrival of Spring, the season for motorcycle and ATV riding begins. 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.

Easter Egg Hunts

Aston Township's annual Community Easter Egg Hunt (free for kids under 12 - prizes for age groups) will be held on the athletic field behind the Aston Community Center on **Saturday, April 9**, (rain date: **Sunday, April 17** - event will be held indoors, if necessary) **starting at 10:30am sharp.**

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Easter Egg Hunts exclusively for residents of the Second Ward, Fourth Ward, and Sixth Ward will be held at **1pm on Saturday, April 9** at Aston Vo-Tech School off Birney Highway, at Woodbrook Park, and at Bridgewater Park, respectively.

(Fourth Ward rain date is **April 10**)

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The American Legion Post 926 Auxiliary will be hosting their annual Community Easter Egg Hunt (free for all children) on the field behind the Community Center at **1pm on Saturday, April 16** (Egg Hunts are typically over quickly, so **DON'T BE LATE!!!**)

Good Friday Holiday

No trash or recycling will be collected on **Friday, April 22**. Friday's trash and recycling routes will be picked up on Thursday, April 21



Probationary Aston Police Officer Joshua P. Micun (far left) poses with his wife Amanda, his son Hayden, Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn, and Senior Magisterial District Justice Kenneth Miller at Micun's official March 16 swearing-in ceremony.

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Aston PD Adds New Officer

Honorable District Judge Kenneth Miller recently swore in Aston resident Joshua Micun as a part-time probationary police officer, while Micun's son Hayden held the Bible. Micun, 27, must pass a physical and psychological exam to make his hiring official. He will maintain probationary status for one year, after starting his new job on April 1.

Micun's starting pay rate is \$19.59/hr.



Josie and Juliette LaPierre walked away from last year's Community Easter Egg Hunt with their fair share of the 8,000 eggs scattered behind the Aston Community Center. If there had been a prize for the coolest outfits, the colorful sisters probably would have walked away with that too!



Aston Public Library Director Stephen Sarazin displays a township proclamation declaring the week of April 10-16 to be National Library Week, while Second Ward Commissioner/Library Liaison Carol Graham looks on. Graham thanked the dedicated library staff, the volunteers, and members of the library board for their tireless efforts to keep the Aston Public Library a vital part of the community.

Used Clothing Drive Supports Post Prom Safety

To raise funds to create a drug- and alcohol-free environment for a Post Prom party, Sun Valley High School's Post Prom Committee is holding a Used Clothing Drive **until April 8**. The goal is to collect 5,000 lbs. of clothing, all of which will be donated to men, women, and children in developing countries.

Items being sought include wearable clothing, shoes, accessories (belts, handbags, backpacks, scarves, ties), linens (bedding, curtains, towels), stuffed animals, and hard toys - which must fit into a 24" x 24" box.

Items that will not be accepted include VCR tapes, CDs, DVDs, and books.

Donations should be placed in tightly tied plastic bags and dropped off in the front lobby of Sun Valley High School from 7:30am to 2pm on weekdays and until 8pm on Wednesday evening.

Please direct questions to Mary Miller at **610-608-1632**.

New Floor For Gym

The gymnasium floor in the Rick Owsley Fieldhouse at the Aston Community Center is showing its age, after 14 years of wear and tear. Uneven, cracked, and warped tiles will soon present a tripping hazard, so a plan to replace the flooring has been launched.

The new floor could be a hardwood replacement, but a change over to a softer polyurethane surface is being considered.

Sixth Ward Commissioner Jim Stigale noted that the new gym floor will not be paid for by township taxpayers, as a variety of local organizations are cooperating to cover the cost of the pending project.

Sewer Backup? - Call For Help

According to Board Member Thomas Cozza, the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority received 15 sewer back-up calls in February. SWDCMA customers can call a 24-hour hotline (610-494-1335) to get emergency service.

SWDCMA's annual spring line maintenance program began in March. This year will see the phasing out of the Baldwin Run flow to SWDCMA and diverting this flow to DeLCORA.

Township Commissioners recently approved a revised Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan that reflects pending changes to sewer service.

Scouts Thanked For Roadside Cleaning

Commissioners recently commended Boy Scout Troop 225, out of St. Joseph's Church, for their annual roadside clean-up program. Members of the troop were out cleaning Aston's curbs again on March 26, providing a valuable community service.

Snow/Ice Removal Responsibilities Clarified

With the sincerest hope that snow and ice removal laws are a moot point until December, Aston commissioners recently adopted an ordinance amendment that expands and clarifies the wintertime responsibilities of property owners.

Effective March 26, in addition to the clearing of public sidewalks (which must have a 30" path cleared within 24 hours of the end of snowfall or sleet), home and business owners must also

clear driveway aprons and handicap-accessible ramps cut into the curb.

As always, property owners must treat icy sidewalks with salt or de-icing material.

When clearing a property of snow and/or ice, the shoveler may pile snow on the curbside of the sidewalk, but not in the gutter or street.

Commissioners noted that citations would not be issued by code enforcement officers for instances where a sidewalk was shoveled, then covered over by a passing snowplow. In such cases, however, it remains the responsibility of the property owner to re-shovel a path for pedestrians.

Township Fee Schedule Amended

The fee schedules outlined in Aston Township's codified ordinances have been revised to more accurately reflect the cost of providing professional and administration services.

Effective April 1, fees have been increased for the issuance of certain permits, applications, escrows, conditional use hearings, board of health and fire inspections, and all contractors' licenses.

For specific information of the new fee schedule, call the township office at 610-494-1636.

Bodley Road Office/Garage Garners Approval

Commissioners have unanimously approved construction of a 10,000-sq. ft. building (600 square feet for office space; 9,400 square feet of warehouse) on a 1-acre lot on the southeast side of Bodley Road.

The property owner, Jomilin Partnership, will install a 119-foot-long, 15-inch-diameter stormwater pipe that will prevent runoff from flooding Bodley Road and the neighboring property, owned by Weeds, Inc.

The subterranean pipeline will be laid in a steep slope area dotted with mature trees. According to the excavation plan, no more than one tree will have to be removed. The pipe trench will be stabilized with fill and matting every day during installation to prevent erosion.

According to Township Engineer Eileen Nelson, the benefits of adding the roadside stormwater drainage pipe outweigh the negatives associated with steep slope disturbance.

Recycling Program Expanded

For the convenience and benefit of Aston residents, the township has added #4, 5, and 7 plastic food and beverage containers to the co-mingled items collected curbside in blue recycling cans.

More sorting done by individual households, means less time and money spent sorting recyclables later.

Acceptable recyclables include: cartons (milk/ juice), aluminum/metal cans, #1, 2, 4, 5, 7 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, phone books, paperback books, greeting cards, office paper, junk mail, and flattened corrugated cardboard, paper towel rolls, beverage carriers, and paper bags.

All containers should be emptied and rinsed out, and all boxes flattened.

A good rule of thumb when it comes to paper or cardboard recycling is:

"If you can rip it, recycle it."

Non-recyclable items include:

Plastic bags, lids, caps, six-pack holders, and microwave trays, as well as window panes, mirrors, ceramics, Pyrex dishware, waxed paper or waxed cardboard, styrofoam or paper to-go containers, organic food waste, electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, computers, etc.), and stickers or address label sheet waste.

Hazardous items that are not recyclable and should be disposed of through special collections include needles and syringes, paint, pesticides, and cleansers.

Beware Scrap Metal Thieves

For the month of January 2011, the township collected virtually none of the scrap metal left curbside by residents, costing the township (that is to say, costing taxpayers) hundreds of dollars in recycling revenue.

Commissioner Jim Stigale recently attributed the sagging scrap metal collections to trash-pickers who comb township streets in the early morning hours to glean valuable recyclables.

"If you see anyone other than a township employee going through the trash to collect scrap metal, we advise you to please call the police. The township is losing money," said Stigale.

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. No one was injured in the blaze, but the house and contents were 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.

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.

**Read an expanded version of
each month's newsletter at
www.astontownship.net**

Please Report Potholes

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 getting potholes fixed by filing 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.

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**.

Seussical Is Magical At SVHS

If you did not see this year's Sun Valley High School multi-grade student production of *Seussical the Musical*, you can still catch the one-hour show on the Penn-Delco School District's cable channel.

Commissioners President Gary Robinson saw a live performance, and could not say enough good things about the impressive stage production.

"These kids were outstanding," Robinson raved at commissioners' March meeting. "They put on one unbelievable show. If you have the chance to watch, it's a hour well-invested," he advised.

Public Meetings and Special Events

April 4-8, 2011 (Mon-Fri)

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

April 6, 2011 (Wednesday)

6:30pm in municipal building

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

April 6, 2011 (Wednesday)

7:30pm in municipal building

Recreation Committee Meeting

April 9, 2011 (Saturday)

10:30am at Community Center

Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt

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**1pm at Vo-Tech School, Woodbrook
and Bridgewater Parks**

2nd, 4th, and 6th Ward Egg Hunts

April 11, 2011 (Monday)

6:30pm in municipal building

Public Works Committee Meeting

April 11, 2011 (Monday)

7:30pm in municipal building

New Construction Committee Meeting

April 12, 2011 (Tuesday)

6:30pm in municipal building

Police Committee Meeting

April 12, 2011 (Tuesday)
7:30pm in municipal building
Executive Committee Meeting

April 12, 2011 (Tuesday)
7pm at Aston Public Library
Library Board Meeting

April 20, 2011 (Wednesday)
7pm in municipal building
Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 22, 2011 (Good Friday)
Township offices closed;
No trash or recycling collected

April 25, 2011 (Monday)
Second weekly trash pick-ups begin

April 26, 2011 (Tuesday)
7pm in municipal building
Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

April 27, 2011 (Wednesday)
7pm in municipal building
Planning Commission Meeting

**To learn more about
Aston businesses, visit
www.astonba.com**

Lions Host Pancake Breakfast

The Aston Lions Club will hold its semi-annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on **April 10**. All proceeds will benefit local persons in need.

Held at the Community Center, the event will run 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.

A Lions-sponsored Texas Hold'em Tournament fundraiser that was planned for April 9 at the Folsom firehouse has been cancelled.

Lionesses Plan Spring Fashion Show/Dinner

The Aston Lionesses Club will be presenting "A Shower of Spring Fashions" - a fashion show and dinner at the Concordville Inn - from 6-9:30pm on Thursday, **April 14**.

The fashions will be from Dress Barn, while dinner will be a choice of either chicken piccante or fried crab cakes. Tickets are \$30 each. The evening will include door prizes and a gift table.

For tickets or more information, call Mrs. Finley at **610-361-1971**.

**Stream Cleanup Planned
- Volunteers Welcome**

The 6th annual clean-up of the West Branch of Chester Creek will be held from 9-11am on Saturday, **April 16**. The enviro-friendly task is organized by the Chester-Ridley-Crum Creek Watersheds Association. The target site in Aston this year will be Lewis Fisher Memorial Park, located on the west side of Mount Road.

There is never a shortage of work to be done, so any and all volunteers are welcome to participate. Workers should bring their own work gloves and wear boots.

Aston Seniors Slate Meetings

Aston Senior Citizens will meet on Thursday, **April 28**, starting at 10:45am, at the Community Center. The guest speaker will be Lynn Nichols of Riddle Memorial Hospital, who will talk about seniors and nutrition.

For more ASC information, call Gloria Brazunas at **610-859-9085**.

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The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will meet Monday, **April 25**, starting at 10:45am, at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road. This month's program will be "Laughter Is the Best Medicine."

A bus trip to the Tropicana Casino is planned for **May 25** to see the "Best of Broadway" show. Tickets are \$23 per person. The bus will leave Furey Rd. at 10:30am. Call Margo at **610-358-0704** to reserve a seat.

A bus trip to Harrisburg to meet with local legislators is slated for **June 7**, leaving at 10am. This free event is for AARP members only, and includes transportation, lunch, and a t-shirt.

For more information, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.

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.

Breakfast Fundraiser Supports Library and Historical Society

An All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's (4301 Pennell Road) from 8-10am on Sunday, **May 22** will be a fundraiser for the Aston Public Library AND the Aston Township Historical Society.

Tickets are \$6.50 for adults and \$4.50 for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at the library or from a representative of either benefiting organization.



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Everyone enjoys Pajama Storytime parties at the Aston Public Library.

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Lose Weight To Support Library

The Aston Public Library is hosting a Weight Loss Challenge, starting in April. The entry fee is \$35 per person, a portion of which will benefit the Friends of the Library. The fee covers 12 weeks of classes,

which will cover topics such as nutrition, exercise, heart health, and dining out. Two sessions will be offered at the Community Center each week - at 10:30am on Fridays (starting April 1) or at 7pm on Wednesdays (starting April 6). Classes are now forming.

In June, cash prizes will be awarded to the top three weight-loss winners.

To register or for more information, call Jennifer at **267-294-8206**.

-The library is offering Chair Yoga classes at 11am on Saturdays **until April 9** for a fee of \$7 per class.

-The Friends of the Library will be holding a book sale in conjunction with the Aston Lions Club pancake breakfast (7:30am to noon) on Sunday, **April 10**.

-The library will be hosting a free workshop on Chiropractic Treatment at 11am on Saturday, **April 16**.

-When dining at Zac's Hamburgers at Five Points on Monday, **April 18** (from 4-9pm), a portion of the bill will go to the Friends of the Library. The flyer that you must present at Zac's is available at the library.

-The library is currently having a Shoe Donation Drive, seeking gently-used footwear.

-The library's public Bulletin Board is located by the copier and available for promoting all community events. Please bring items for posting to the front desk.

-The library offers wireless Internet access (WiFi) in the building. Come to the circulation desk to sign up.

-The library has 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 and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your information.

-Friday morning Toddler Storytimes are coming to the library in April. Visit the library's website for more information.



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

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 or to castarkis@comcast.net

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.

*****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. For the month of January 2011, recycling collections included 65.7 tons of co-mingled items, 8.5 tons of newspaper, 150 lbs. of aluminum cans, and 480 gallons of used motor oil, generating a total revenue of \$2,235.

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 just one community's recycling efforts for just one year, 872 tons of discarded material was kept out of the landfill. Aston Township's 2010 recycling revenue totaled \$10,462.71.

Free Smoke Detectors

To learn how to receive a free smoke detector for your home, visit www.astonbeechwood72.com

Aston Establishes 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' Food Pantry

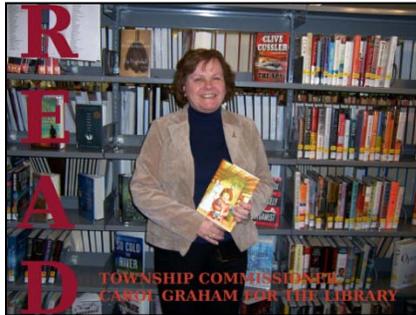
Starting this winter, the Aston Township Community Center on Concord Rd. will be utilized as a food pantry collection depot that will help feed dozens of local families and children.

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.

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



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.

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.

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.

You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/astonlibrary.

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.

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 could recall today, such as the following excerpt:

Milk Runs: One of the chores at our home was to take a one-gallon can and walk to a Chester Heights farm every night to get a gallon of

milk. The milk was still warm, as it came directly from the cow. The cost of the gallon of fresh milk was about 25 cents.

Getting a bicycle for the trip helped. I had to push it all the way up Birney Highway, but it was a nice ride on the way home going down the hill.

My brother Gerald had to do this chore when I could not do it. He always complained about doing this, until he inherited my bicycle. After he started using the bicycle, he never again complained about the daily milk run.

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 AHS and help preserve historical resources.

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.

Pair Feted For Service

Commissioners recently thanked two men who have given freely of their time for the benefit of the township.

Joe McColgan was commended for serving 25 years on the Aston Township Planning Commission, but his community service goes much further. The Aston resident has also donated electrical work to the Veterans Memorial Garden and security and video equipment to the police department; and served on the Municipal Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Multi-Municipal Ordinance Committee.

Jim Persing joined the township's public works department in March 1986, and now serves as the head custodian at the Community Center.

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**.

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.

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

Aston (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."

FACP 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.

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.
