



Aston Township
established 1688

Township Times

Volume 7; Issue 5
May 2011



An estimated crowd of 500 - the largest turnout ever - came to the Community Center on April 9 to participate in Aston Township's annual Community Easter Egg Hunt, where thousands of plastic eggs (see story on page 2) were scooped up in minutes.

*



Eight-month-old Ava Irvin needed an egg-holding assist from her mom, Jennifer.

*



The Easter Bunny was on hand, posing here with Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham and Township Manager Dick Lehr.



Leyla Robinson, of Gerald Drive...



Teagan Watson, of Colonial Way...



And Kiera Graham, of Maple Lane, collected all the eggs they could carry... and then some.

Expanded Trash Schedule Now In Effect

As of April 25 and until Sept. 23, a second weekly pickup of regular trash will be made at all Aston homes. The additional collection day for each area of the township is the same as last year. Trash schedule details can be found in the township calendar.



Last month's semi-annual Aston Lions Club Pancake Breakfast fundraiser was a resounding success, with over 400 satisfied patrons being served a delicious breakfast at the Aston Community Center.



Memorial Day Trash Collections

No trash or recycling will be collected on **Monday, May 30** on the **Memorial Day Holiday**

*

Monday's trash and recycling routes will be picked up

on **Tuesday, May 31**

-No second pick-ups on Tuesday

Sewer Back-up?...Call For Help

In the event of a sewer system back-up, Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority customers can call a 24-hour hotline (610-494-1335) to get emergency service.

CORRECTION:

The April edition of *Township Times* reported that 2011 would see the phasing out of the Baldwin Run flow to SWDCMA and diversion of that flow to DELCORA. However, the initial diversion of sewage flow to DELCORA is expected to take place on or before Dec. 31, 2014.

Egg Hunts Create Eggscitement

The largest crowd ever attended this year's annual Aston Township Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Community Center, with three age groups of children picking up 10,000 plastic treat-filled eggs in record time.

Prizes were handed out to the lucky hunter-gatherers who found special eggs. The prize-winners included: (Ages 0-3) the Evans siblings and Thomas Houser; (Ages 4-7) Madison Marconi, Alex Oliver, and Olivia Spayd; (Ages 8-12) Richie Oliver and Lindsay Turunc.

Three township commissioners also sponsored egg hunts for the children of their own wards.

Commissioners President Gary Robinson held the Fourth Ward's annual Easter Egg Hunt at Woodbrook Park; Commissioner Carol Graham organized the Second Ward egg hunt, held outside the Vo-Tech school off Birney Highway; and Commissioner Jim Stigale held the Sixth Ward's annual egg hunt at Bridgewater Park.

The Easter Bunny managed to attend all the different events around town on April 9. A special thank you goes out to Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. members Tommy Piraino and Anthony Grosso, who made sure that the Easter Bunny arrived on time.

"Thanks to everyone who helped out with the township egg hunts. We had a wonderful day," Graham stated at commissioners' April 20 meeting, speaking on behalf of the entire board.

ASTON EXTENDS A SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETING to **Bea McGinn (the mother of Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn), who celebrated her **94th birthday on April 23.****

Northley Speller

Advances To Nationals

Northley Middle School eighth-grader Veronica Siko won the Delaware County round of the 2011 Scripps National Spelling Bee on March 19, earning a trip to Washington D.C., where she will compete against the top spellers in the country on June 1-2.

As the Delco winner, Siko will receive a \$100 savings bond, an engraved trophy, a Merriam-Webster's International Dictionary, a one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online, and, of course, an all-expense-paid trip to Washington.

"We expect her to be very successful at the national level," Northley Assistant Principal Dan Hill said of Siko, after her Delco win.

American Legion Junior Elected To Regional Post

Congratulations to Julie Carpinelli, one of the Junior members of Aston Township's American Legion Green Ridge Memorial Unit 926 Auxiliary, who was recently elected by her peers to serve as Junior Eastern Vice President.

Junior Auxiliary members are all girls, 17 or under. Upon turning 18, these volunteers officially become Seniors.

Carpinelli was elected by Juniors from across Pennsylvania at the Junior Convention in Whitehall, PA in April.

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 picking up litter and cleaning the curbs along Concord Road from Chichester Avenue to Bridgewater Road on March 26, providing a valuable community service. In all, 34 troop volunteers (scouts and adults) collected 27 bags of trash in just one day.

Troop 225's next Adopt-A-Highway project is tentatively slated for June.

Aston Recognizes Children's Mental Health Week

Commissioners recently read a proclamation declaring **May 1-7** as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, and **May 3** as a special day to be aware of the mental health needs of Aston's many children and families.

Commissioners Make Appointments

Several appointments to public service positions were made by township commissioners at the April 20 board meeting.

-Cathy Jones, of Scott Lane, was named to a three-year term on the township's Planning Commission.

-Robert Willoughby, of Lamp Post Lane, was appointed to a five-year term on the Aston Township Zoning Hearing Board; and Joseph Ward, of Highgrove Lane, will serve as a Zoning Hearing Board alternate member until January 2016.

-Lester Berry, of Tryens Road, was named to serve a three-year term on the Aston Township Veterans Memorial Garden Foundation Board.

Conditional Use Approval Granted

At its April 20 public meeting, the board of commissioners unanimously granted conditional use approval to Valley Auto Advisors to operate a retail/wholesale auto sales company in the Rolling Hills industrial park, located off Birney Highway.

Garnet Valley resident Bill Van Belle (owner) and his son Matthew (manager) will sell used vehicles from their office at 7 Crozerville Road. Most of the cars will be sold wholesale to dealerships, while an estimated 25% will be retail sales to customers with appointments.

Walk-in sales will not be encouraged by the owner, as the bulk of his business will be generated by Internet and newspaper ads, the elder Van Belle told commissioners during a conditional use hearing.

Cars will not be stored outside on the lot, but will be parked inside the garage. No vehicle repairs will be made on site, and no fuel or chemicals will be stored at the Valley Auto Advisors office.

Fire Police Sign On For Mutual Aid

Aston Township has joined a cooperative pact between several local municipalities to provide special fire police services as needed and as available.

In the event that fire police personnel in a neighboring community would need back-up or assistance, fire police from Aston's Green Ridge and Aston-Beechwood fire companies could be

called in to provide emergency scene services such as scene security, crowd control, and rendering assistance to law enforcement officers.

The agreement goes two ways, with Chester Township, Lower and Upper Chichester Townships, Middletown Township, Marcus Hook Borough, and Trainer Borough fire police now being available to provide back-up coverage at Aston emergencies.

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

Food Licenses Past Due

Food and eating establishment owners are reminded that 2011 licenses were due on March 31. The Aston Township Board of Health has set a May 6, 2011 deadline for all delinquent licensees to secure a current license. Failure to do so will result in operating licenses being revoked.

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**.

Public Meetings and Special Events

May 2-6, 2011 (Mon-Fri)

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

May 5, 2011 (Thursday)

6:30pm in municipal building

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

May 5, 2011 (Thursday)

7:30pm in municipal building

Recreation Committee Meeting

May 9, 2011 (Monday)

6:30pm in municipal building
Public Works Committee Meeting

May 9, 2011 (Monday)

7:30pm in municipal building
New Construction Committee Meeting

May 10, 2011 (Tuesday)

6:30pm in municipal building
Police Committee Meeting

May 10, 2011 (Tuesday)

7:30pm in municipal building
Executive Committee Meeting

May 17, 2011 (Tuesday)

7pm at Aston Public Library
Library Board Meeting

May 18, 2011 (Wednesday)

7pm in municipal building
Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 24, 2011 (Tuesday)

7pm in municipal building
Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

May 24, 2011 (Tuesday)

7pm in municipal building
Ordinance Committee Meeting

May 25, 2011 (Wednesday)

7pm in municipal building
Planning Commission Meeting

May 30, 2011 (Monday)

Township offices closed;
No trash or recycling collected
Memorial Day Holiday

Yard Management Tips 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 Road) 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.

**To learn more about
Aston businesses, visit**

www.astonba.com

Volunteers Needed For Park & Stream Cleanup

In conjunction with the annual Second Ward spruce-up of Lewis Fisher Memorial Park (located on the west side of Mount Road), the 14th annual clean-up of the West Branch of Chester Creek will be held from 9-11:30am on Saturday, **May 7**.

The waterway-friendly task is organized by the Chester-Ridley-Crum Creek Watersheds Association. The target site this year will be the section of creek adjacent to Lewis Fisher Memorial Park, stretching from Aston Mills Road to a former dam site.

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

All creek cleaners get a CRC t-shirt and are invited to attend a free picnic at Ridley Creek State Park, from 11:45am to 1:00pm in Pavilion 8.

Rabies Shots Offered

Aston Township will be holding its annual Rabies Clinic (for township residents only) from 6-8pm on Thursday, **May 12** at the Public Works Garage behind the municipal building. The cost of each cat or dog inoculation is \$10.

The "Civil War Doctor" Is In

Biologist/US Army medic/historian Clarence Hickey will be portraying Dr. Edward E. Stonestreet of Maryland at the **May 12** meeting of the Aston Township Historical Society, which starts at 7pm in the municipal building (5021 Pennell Road, use rear entrance).

Hickey has authored a book detailing the life and times of Dr. Stonestreet, including his Civil War battlefield surgeries and medical procedures.

The live "Civil War Doctor" presentation is free to the public, but ATHS donations are always welcome.

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

Seniors Plan Road Trips

Aston Senior Citizens will meet on Thursday, **May 26**, starting at 10:45am, at the Community Center. Tickets (\$20) for the June 9 luncheon will be sold at this meeting.

An ASC trip to West Virginia is slated for **May 2-6**, and a Mystery Trip is planned for **May 19**, with 46 adventurous souls already signed up for the bus excursion.

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

*

The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will meet Monday, **May 23**, starting at 10:45am, at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road. Visitors are welcome. For meeting information, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.

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 Road 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. Lobby Day is a free event for AARP members only, and includes transportation, lunch, and an AARP t-shirt.

To reserve a bus seat for Lobby Day, call Stanley at **610-494-5434**.



The winners of the Aston Public Library's 2011 Bookmark Contest display their entries. The annual contest winners are (left to right): Andrea DeSantis, Jayming Liu, Olivia Hall, Shelby Celentino, Erica Love, Lindsay Wigo, and Casey Butterworth.

*

Library Director Earns Kudos

Aston Public Library Director Stephen Sarazin was hired in 2008. Since then, the Prospect Park resident has brought innovative programs to Aston families and helped the library set records.

March 2011 saw a new high in circulated items for that month, as the library starts another record-setting year, Sarazin told commissioners at their April meeting.

The positive direction that Sarazin has

taken the library with limited staff and shrinking state funding has impressed many Aston residents.

"I think you're doing a fantastic job. It's quite apparent that you really care and that you're engaged in this community," Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti told Sarazin.

-The popular Lapsit Storytime for infants up to 2 years of age is returning in May, starting at 10am on Mondays. Registration for this four-week session is required at tinyurl.com/astonkidsevents.

-The library will be showing G-rated movies **every Saturday in May**. Call for details on showings.

-At 10am on Saturday, **May 14**, the library will present a free nutritional foods workshop with Dr. Kevin Wilkins. Find out which foods to avoid, which ones to consume, and the best times to consume them.

-Free genealogy resources are available at the library, thanks to county and state funding. At 1pm on **May 14**, the library will host a presentation on how to utilize this vast database to conduct your own genealogical research.

-At 1pm on Saturday, **May 21**, the library will host a seminar for persons interested in starting their own business. A SCORE representative will give tips on business planning, financing, insurance, and marketing.

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.



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



Aston Fireworks Display Set

The annual Fourth of July fireworks display in Aston Township will again be provided by Starfire, Inc., starting at dusk on Monday, **July 4** at Sun Valley High School.

Commissioners authorized spending \$16,500, the same amount as last year, to pay for the pyrotechnics display.

While thousands will watch the show from the high school area, a crowd will also gather at Neumann College, where Delaware County's highest elevation provides an excellent vantage point.

Commerce Corner



On April 25, Primo Hoagies opened a new location in the Village Green Shopping Center, next to Big Lots. Originally founded in South Philly, Primo Hoagies' Aston store is now one of 70 locations in the Tri-State region.

The new eatery is open from 10am to 8pm every day of the week, offering seating for up to 17 diners, and local delivery service and catering, as well.

All the rolls used for made-to-order sandwiches and a selection of cookies are fresh baked on the premises. Specialties include Italian hoagie sampler and meatball trays, healthy-choice hoagies, pre-made salads, and vegetarian selections.

Owner Dennis Call is still accepting applications for employment in his new store.

All newsletter submissions must be received by the 22nd of the month. Submit newsletter information to newsletter@astontownship.net or to castarkis@comcast.net

Beware Scrap Metal Thieves

Through the winter months of 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.

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.

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 March 2011, recycling collections included 59.5 tons of co-mingled items, 7 tons of newspaper, 127 lbs. of aluminum cans, and 225 gallons of used motor oil, generating a total revenue of \$2,151.

Meanwhile, Spring curbside leaf collections gathered up two truckloads of raked leaves for a total of 3.9 tons.

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. Aston Township's 2010 recycling revenue totaled \$10,463.

Free Smoke Detectors

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

'Neighbors Helping Neighbors'

Food Pantry Growing

Since this past winter, the Aston Township Community Center on Concord Rd. has been 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.

"I want to thank the Aston residents who are helping out the Neighbors To Neighbors food program," Sixth Ward Commissioner Jim Stigale recently stated. "We appreciate all that you've done so far, and ask that you continue to do all you can."

"We're starting to help a lot of people," noted Stigale.

Aston residents who know of a neighbor in need should contact 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.

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**.

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.

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.

To become a Friend of the Library, go to www.astonlibrary.org and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your information.

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:

Fresh Food: The delivery and purchasing of certain fresh foods has changed dramatically in Aston Mills since I was young.

There was a local farmer who would butcher an animal in the morning, then put it in a truck and drive around the neighborhood, cutting off the pieces of meat that customers wanted right from the truck.

There was a fish market in Lenni that would come around on Fridays with fresh fish in the back of a truck, and you could pick out what you wanted.

Most small household items could be purchased at Laughhead's Store on Aston Mills Road. For most of the main food staples, however, you would have to go into Chester or Media to shop at a full-service store.

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.

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.

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.

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**.

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.
