



Aston Township
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FREE!

Township Times

Volume 7; Issue 10
October 2011

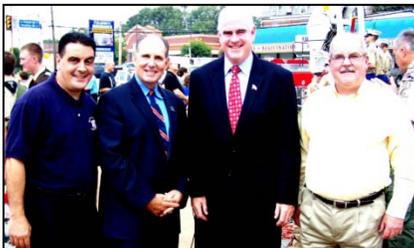


Aston Township emergency responders (Green Ridge Fire Co. members above, and Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. members below) were recently commended for their roles in keeping the community safe and sound during recent record-setting rainfall.





Joined by Commissioners' Vice President Michael Higgins (left) and Township Secretary/Manager Dick Lehr (right), Joseph McColgan proudly displays the plaque he recently received as 2011 Aston Township Outstanding Citizen of the Year.



The local officials in attendance at Aston's 9/11 service included (left to right) Aston Commissioners' President Jim Stigale, State Representative Stephen Barrar, US Congressman Patrick Meehan, and Aston Commissioners' VP Michael Higgins.



The solemn 9/11 ceremony on Sept. 11 included the playing of Taps by Boy Scout Troop 225 trumpeter Andrew Gill.

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During the 9/11 service at the Aston Township Veterans Memorial Garden, a memorial arch was formed by ladder trucks from Green Ridge and Lima Fire Cos.

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



This cute little kitten has waited an entire year for the chance to refill her cup at the Community Day celebration on Oct. 1.

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10th Annual Community Day Is **This Weekend**

Saturday, Oct. 1 will see Aston Township's 10th annual Community Day celebration! The enormously popular party for Aston residents will be held from 11am to 4pm or, in the event of Saturday rain, on Sunday, Oct. 2 (from 1-6pm).

The kick-off parade will start on Neumann Drive at Neumann University, beginning at 9:30am on Saturday. Moving east on Concord Road, the parade will feature many hometown organizations and a decorated bike brigade. Children (up to age 12) with decorated bikes, scooters, wagons, or strollers will join the procession at the Big Lots parking lot. Prizes will be awarded to the best decorators. Email Maureen Dillon at astonbikecontest@gmail.com to register a child's decorated vehicle. Inside the Community Center, the 13th annual Aston Business Expo will feature loads of free give-aways, while

promoting the products and services offered by the township's businesses. Outdoor attractions will include rides from Bette's Fun Center, games, contests, and amusements, as well as a wide variety of food and beverages from local eateries.

A special surprise guest will provide entertainment from noon to 4pm.

Wristbands that give the wearer free access to all the food and fun will be sold in advance at the Community Center at \$2 each or six for \$10. Wristbands sold on the day of the event will be \$3 each. In either case, proof of Aston Township residence must be presented.

To volunteer as a Community Day helper or to get more information, call Maryann Bullen at **610-494-2337** or email her at **mimibull@comcast.net**. For parade information and registration, call Nancy Bowden at **610-494-5490** or send email to **nbowden@webtv.net**.

Library Offers Flu Shots, Child IDs, Book/Photo/Card Sales On Community Day

The Aston Public Library will be offering flu shots from 11am-1pm on **Oct. 1**. The \$30 fee is reimbursable through most insurance companies and Medicare, Part B primary.

There is no co-pay for Aetna card holders; credit cards are not accepted for payment; and all recipients must be at least 9 years old.

For more flu shot information, call Sue Purcell at **610-891-8622**.

-The library will also offer a Child ID program on Community Day, from 12-4pm. This free service includes digital fingerprinting and making photograph-ID cards that parents can use in the event of an emergency.

-The Friends of the Aston Public Library will get half the proceeds from framed photos and note cards sold in the library meeting room on Community Day. The photos and cards will be provided by local photographer Ray Pearl.

A **Sneak Peek** of the photos and cards will be offered from **6-8pm on Friday, Sept. 30**.

-The FAPL will host its annual book sale at the Community Center from **Sept. 29 to Oct. 1**. The event will run from 10am to 8pm on Thursday and Friday, and from 10am to 5pm on Saturday.

Consider Scouting For Youth

Aston is blessed to have active Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Cub Scout programs within the township.

The Boy Scouts of America are accepting new registrations for local Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops, and will have an informational table set up at Community Day.

Boys ages 7 to 10 (first grade thru fifth grade) are eligible for Cub Scouts, while ages 11 to 17 can be Boy Scouts.

If you miss the chance to sign up on Community Day, call Barry Pinkowicz at **610-494-5294** or send email to **barrypnk@aol.com** to express your interest.

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

Aston Recognizes Outstanding Citizen

Joseph M. McColgan has been named Aston Township's 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year for his generous donation of time and services to the community.

McColgan has served on the Aston Township Planning Commission for 25 years, and served on Aston Township's Task Force for the Comprehensive Plan and the Multi-Ordinance Committee, as well.

Through Wescott Electric, McColgan has donated the security system for the Aston Police Department, and donated his own time to install the system.

Wescott Electric's donation of the lighting system for the Aston Township Veterans Memorial Garden at Five Points was also arranged by McColgan, who continues to donate his services by replacing fixtures and lights on the site, as needed.

During Hurricane Irene, McColgan volunteered to hook up the generator at the Emergency Command Center at the Aston Community Center, and a generator at the public works garage to keep township fuel pumps running. After the storm, the Seventh Ward resident returned to disconnect the temporary power sources and return all electrical systems to normal operation.

Township Changes Leaf Collection Process To Save \$\$\$

With the expectation of controlling expenses and saving taxpayer dollars, **the township will not be providing any type of mechanical curbside leaf collections this Fall.**

Raked leaves must now be put out in biodegradable paper bags, and placed next to regular trash containers for collection. **Leaf collections will be made in a separate truck every week on your regular trash day, from Oct. 24 thru Dec. 16.**

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. The biodegradable bags are necessary to allow composting of all collected leaves. The bags can be purchased at Home Depot, Lowe's and local hardware stores, but are available through the township office at a slight discount. Bags can be purchased at the municipal building (5021 Pennell Rd.) during regular business hours at a cost of \$1.50 for 5 bags; \$3 for 10 bags; or \$4.50 for 15 bags.

Free alternatives include mulching or composting leaves for use on your own property.

Information on the bagging process and alternatives is posted on the township website and public access TV channel, and literature is being made available to residents.

This Fall will provide an opportunity to reduce expenses through this new eco-friendly disposal system by reducing overtime and not having to purchase new leaf vacuum equipment. Residents can direct leaf collection questions to Roadmaster Russ Palmore at **610-494-8005**.

Columbus Day Trash Schedule

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on Columbus Day,

Monday, Oct. 10

Monday and Tuesday's routes will be collected on Tuesday, Oct. 11

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On Sept. 26, Aston Township resumed the regular trash schedule of once-per-week pickups. This schedule will now continue for all residents until next May.

Library Friends Need Community Support

The Friends of the Aston Public Library is a volunteer organization whose primary purpose is to support the library through fundraising and by increasing awareness of library services. The group meets at 7pm in the Community Center on the fourth Thursday of most months to plan upcoming events and discuss new ideas to support their mission. Due to recent state funding cuts, the library cannot continue to operate without community support. If keeping library services available to the public is important to you, please consider attending a FAPL meeting.

Electronic Recycling Event Set

An opportunity for residents to get rid of old electronic equipment by recycling will be offered from 9am to 1pm on Saturday, **Oct. 15** in the parking lot of the Aston Community Center. Items such as computers, printers, monitors, and TVs will be accepted at no charge.

Library Supporters Can Dine To Donate

Thanks to **Applebee's** on Pennell Road, yet another Dine-To-Donate opportunity will serve as a fundraiser for the Aston Public Library. Ten percent of every diners' tab on Monday, **Oct. 24** will be donated to the Friends of the Aston Public Library.

To cash in on this offer, patrons must present a flyer (available at the library) to their server.

Emergency Crews Always Ready

While many residents were on vacation and taking a break from their responsibilities in August, the men and women who are Aston Township's emergency responders remained on the job.

During the rain-soaked month of August, volunteers from Green Ridge Fire Co. answered 116 fire calls and 16 medical alarms, while crews from Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. and Ambulance Corps responded to 65 fire alarms and 109 ambulance calls.

That's a total of 181 fire and 125 medical emergency responses in a 31-day period, for an average of 10 calls answered per day.

Please support Aston's volunteer fire companies. The next call they answer may be yours.

Public Meetings and Special Events

October 3 - 7, 2011 (Mon-Fri)
Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

October 10, 2011 (Monday)
Township offices closed;
No trash or recycling collected
Columbus Day Holiday

October 11, 2011 (Tuesday)
6:30pm in municipal building
Public Works Committee Meeting

October 11, 2011 (Tuesday)
7:30pm in municipal building
New Construction Committee Meeting

October 12, 2011 (Wednesday)
6:30pm in municipal building
Police Committee Meeting

October 12, 2011 (Wednesday)
7:30pm in municipal building
Executive Committee Meeting

October 15, 2011 (Saturday)
9am-1pm in Community Center parking lot (off Concord Rd.)
Electronic Recycling Event

October 18, 2011 (Tuesday)
7pm at Aston Public Library
Library Board Meeting

October 19, 2011 (Wednesday)
7pm in municipal building
Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 24, 2011 (Monday)
****Bagged Leaf Pickups Begin****

October 25, 2011 (Tuesday)
7pm in municipal building
Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

October 25, 2011 (Tuesday)
7pm in municipal building
Multi-Ordinance Committee Meeting

October 26, 2011 (Wednesday)
7pm in municipal building
Planning Commission Meeting

October 27, 2011 (Thursday)
7pm at Community Center
Friends of Aston Library Meeting

Free Money Management Seminar
State Senator Dominic Pileggi and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants will be hosting a free seminar on Personal Money Management at the Aston Community Center fieldhouse on Thursday, **Oct. 13**, starting at 6pm.

Interested parties can register by calling Pileggi's office at **610-358-5183** or by visiting the website at **www.senatorpileggi.com**.

Seniors Getting Together

Aston Senior Citizens' next meeting is slated for 10:30am on Thursday, **Oct. 27** at the Community Center. Membership is open to all Penn-Delco residents, ages 55 and over.

For more ASC meeting information, call Liz Anderson at **610-565-5650**.

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The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will meet at 10:45am on Monday, **Oct. 24** at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road. New members are welcome. Dues are \$10 per year.

AARP will host a bus trip to Resort Casino on Wednesday, **Oct. 12**. The \$23 per person cost includes bus transportation, show ticket, and a \$10 voucher. The bus leaves Furey Road in Boothwyn at 10:30am. To reserve a seat, call Margo at **610-358-0704**.

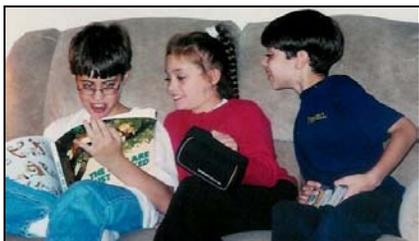
To learn more about AARP events, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.

A temporary curfew for minors will be in effect from 9pm to sunrise from Friday to Monday, Oct. 28 thru 31.

Library Holds Photo Contest

The Aston Public Library is having a photo contest to promote Family Reading. Any Delco family can participate by bringing photos (limit two per family) to the library's front desk or by emailing entries to **hello@astonlibrary.org**. All entries must include name, address, and phone number, and will become the property of the library. **The deadline for submissions is Saturday, Oct. 1.** Photographs (no drawings, please) must be no more than one year old, and must include only your family members.

Entries will be judged by the library, where the winners will be displayed.

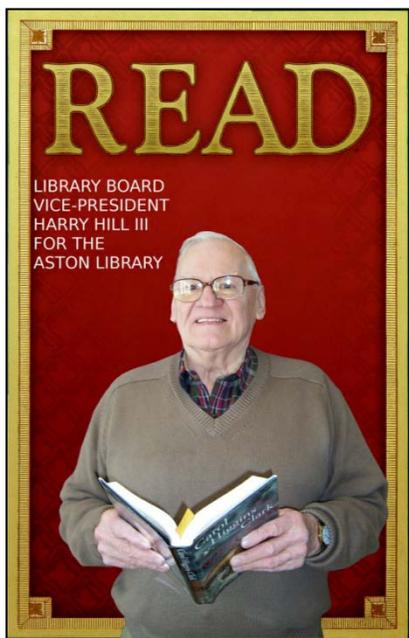


This photograph is an example of what the library is seeking as entrants for the Family Reading photo contest.

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You can now access books for your Kindle with your library card. Go to digitallibrary.delcolibraries.org to see what is available.

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Aston Public Library Board Vice-President Harry Hill III is the latest library supporter to help promote the READ! program.

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Kids Storytimes for ages 2-6 are offered every week at the library and spaces are currently available. You can choose either Tuesday or Thursday at 10:30am. Sign up at the library desk or online.

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A free six-week Chair Yoga class will be offered at the library on Saturdays, starting in October - the exact dates are yet to be determined. This gentle form of yoga uses a chair for support and is appropriate for adults of all ages and genders. Visit the library's website at www.astonlibrary.org for more information. Space is limited, so interested parties should register now at tinyurl.com/astonadulthevents.

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Library Book Clubs returned in September. The Aston Library Book

Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month, while the Delaware County Book Club meets on the fourth Thursday, with both groups starting at 7pm. Go to tinyurl.com/astonevents to learn more.

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The library is looking for volunteers to help with important work like calling patrons, organizing books in order, and delivering flyers and posters. Applications can be picked up at the library service desk or submitted online at tinyurl.com/APLVolApp.



Scouts Praised For 9/11 Service

Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts from Aston hosted a memorial ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Garden at Five Points Intersection on Sept. 11 (Patriot's Day) to pause and reflect on the 10th anniversary of deadly terrorist attacks on America.

At the Board of Commissioners' Sept. 21 meeting, the vital service that the ceremony provided to the community was unanimously applauded.

"The scouts did an outstanding job with the commemoration ceremony," noted Commissioners' VP Michael Higgins. "It was both professional and well-run."

Special acknowledgement was given to vocalist Lindsay Ronaldson, Master of Ceremonies/Bag-piper Kevin Gane, the Sun Valley ROTC color guard, and Father Vogan of St. Joseph's Church and Pastor McGill of Mt. Hope United Methodist Church.

A 9/11 on-campus performance of the Neumann University Concert Chorale, presenting "Peace and Love in the World," was also appreciated by commissioners.

Boy Scout Troop 225 Leader Barry Pinkowicz was among the event organizers who were praised.

Pinkowicz in turn expressed his gratitude to local fire companies, the Aston PD, local veterans and other community service organizations, and a host of township employees.

"Everybody came together just for that one day, and it was nice that, after 10 years, everybody still remembers," said Pinkowicz.

Commerce Corner

Liquor License Transfer, Business Expansion Approved

Commissioners have unanimously approved the transfer of a liquor license from Chester Township to Tom's Pizza Place at 3223 Concord Road in Aston. The sandwich shop has sold take-out beer since 2002, but hopes to add wine and liquor sales, once additional floor space becomes available next door in the near future.

Nicholas Kardasis, the son of owner Chris Kardasis (son of the late Tom Kardasis), told commissioners that his family wants to utilize the additional space for 30-45 seats to create "a nice sit-down family restaurant," that would feature a small bar for diners.

The Kardasis family has operated Tom's Pizza at the same location for 32 years. First Ward Commissioner and Fellow Aston Business Owner V. Michael Fulginiti could appreciate the desire to expand a family business.

"You have a right to grow your business; You have a right to make a profit; and You have a right to compete with the other businesses in this township," Fulginiti told the family.

When the Kardasis family activates their liquor license in an estimated "1 to 3 years," their new restaurant will become the 11th Aston establishment currently selling wine and liquor, with five being located in the Seventh Ward, according to Seventh Ward Commissioner Michael Higgins.

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Another family-owned enterprise - Knight Brothers, Inc. - also received unanimous commissioners' approval to expand, in this case by creating a second location. The Lenni Road-based tree-trimming business received final plan approval for the erection of a 2,000-sq. ft. facility on the south side of Mount Pleasant Drive, about 1,800 feet south of Crozerville Road.

Submit newsletter information by the 22nd of the month to newsletter@astontownship.net or castarkis@comcast.net



As a cost-saving trial, the use of trashcan-size biodegradable paper bags like this one will be mandatory for this Fall's curbside leaf collection program.

Commissioners Reorganize Committee Assignments

The Board of Commissioners has changed some of their committee assignments for the remainder of 2011. The new assignments include:

Executive Committee:

Commissioners Jim Stigale (Chairman) Jim McGinn, and Michael Higgins.

Insurance Committee:

Commissioners V. Michael Fulginiti (Chair), Mark Osborn, and Gary Robinson.

Fire Committee:

Commissioners Carol Graham (Chair), Robinson, and Osborn.

Finance Committee:

Commissioners Higgins (Chair), Robinson, and Osborn.

Police Committee:

Commissioners McGinn (Chair), Robinson, and Fulginiti

New Construction Committee:

Commissioners Fulginiti (Chair), Higgins, and Robinson.

Public Works Committee:

Commissioners Robinson (Chair), Fulginiti, and Graham.

Board of Health Committee:

Commissioners Osborn (Chair), Robinson, and Fulginiti.

Personnel Committee:

Commissioners Higgins (Chair), McGinn, and Stigale.

Police Committee for FOP Contract:

Commissioners McGinn (Chair), Osborn, and Fulginiti.

Recreation Committee:

Commissioners Graham (Chair), Robinson, and Fulginiti.

Ordinance Committee:

Commissioners Fulginiti (Chair), Graham, and Higgins.

Sewer Authority Committee:

Commissioners Higgins (Chair), Fulginiti, and Robinson.

Penn-Delco School Committee:

Commissioners Stigale (Chair), Fulginiti, and Osborn.

Citizens Advisory / Recreation Committee:

Commissioners Graham (Chair), Osborn, and Higgins.

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First Ward Commissioner Fulginiti will serve as the board's liaison to the **Township Planning Commission;**

Fifth Ward Commissioner McGinn will continue to serve as liaison for **Aston Senior Citizens;** and Second Ward Commissioner Graham will stay on as liaison to the **Aston Public Library.**

Commissioners Award Contracts; Will Rebid Others

At Commissioners' Sept. 21 meeting, a number of annual service contracts were awarded to the qualified bidders, while a handful will have to be rebid. The awarded contracts include:

-Ordinary street maintenance and repairs to A. F. Damon, Inc., and Road Materials to Pyramid Materials, both on an as-needed basis.

-Traffic Signal Maintenance to Charles A. Higgins & Sons for \$8,206.

-Street Light Maintenance and Repairs to Republic ITS, Inc. for up to \$36,191.

-Supplying Bulk Trash Containers to Opdenaker Trash Removal, Inc. for \$12,060.

-Supplying Gasoline and Diesel Fuel to Superior Plus Energy for \$120,739.

-Snow Removal to both Rick's Sheds and Tree Tops on an as-needed basis.

-The one-time contract for purchase and installation of a used emergency generator for the Community Center was given to Charles A. Higgins & Sons in the amount of \$103,110.

***The contracts for Maintenance of Retention Ponds and Installation of a new floor in the Community Center gym will be rebid, as no bids were received. The contract for Restriping of Lines and Intersections will also be rebid, after the bids received exceeded the amount budgeted.

Lions Offer Social Network

The Aston Township Lions Club was established in 1948 and is now looking for a few good men. The service organization offers its members a social network of fellowship that can be beneficial when in search of new job opportunities or when seeking a chance to participate in a community project as a volunteer. The relationships you will develop with fellow Lions will serve you well by expanding your personal network.

Interested parties can call Bob Hoyt at **610-517-9362** or send emails to **charleshoyt01@verizon.net.**

Eagle Scouts Need Projects

Boy Scout Troop 225 Scoutmaster Glenn Clark is asking Aston residents to come up with worthwhile community, church, or school improvements that might serve as senior projects for future Eagle Scouts. Call Clark at **610-494-3573.**

Adult Hockey At Ice Works

Founded in 2001, ShinyUSA is an adult no-check/no-referee ice hockey league that plays games at the Ice Works skating rinks on Duttons Mill Road, providing a venue for older men and women hockey players who are not ready to hang up the skates.

"ShinyUSA is about much more than playing ice hockey - it's about a lifetime recreational activity, camaraderie, and the sharing of a sport with friends," notes Pat Cronin, director of player recruitment. "Our mission is to provide the adult hockey player, regardless of age, with the opportunity, support, and motivation to learn and play hockey for a lifetime."

To sign up or for more information, call Cronin at **855-274-4669, ext. 704** or visit **www.shinyusa.com.**



ShinnyUSA Director of Player Recruitment Pat Cronin (right) poses with adult hockey league player/founder Jim Malesich at the Ice Works skating facility in Aston.

No Tick Tock On Clock

Have you noticed that the time is always 9:17 when you pass the Aston Township Veterans Memorial Garden at Five Points Intersection?

Truth be told - the four-faced clock's main gear simply wore out last month, causing time to stand still. A replacement part has been ordered and will be installed in December.

Comcast Offers Internet Discounts

A new program from Comcast Cable called Internet Essentials will help low-income households enjoy home computer use and Internet access.

All families that have an annual income of less than \$30,000 and households with children who receive free lunches through the National School Lunch Program qualify to take advantage of this offer, provided they have not had Comcast Cable service in the last 90 days and do not have overdue invoices or unreturned Comcast equipment.

Under this program, a computer can be purchased for \$149.99, plus tax; free Internet training will be provided; and the cost of online service is just \$9.95 per month, plus tax. There are no activation fees or equipment rental fees, and the price for service will never go up.

To sign up or to get more information, call Comcast toll free at **1-885-8-INTERNET (1-885-846-8376)** or visit **www.InternetEssentials.com**.

Police Urge Safety Precautions

Due to recent thefts from vehicles and homes, Aston police are advising residents to avoid keeping valuables in parked vehicles or to lock valuables in the trunk. The most common items stolen from vehicles are purses, wallets, and electronic equipment, like laptop computers and GPS units.

Break-ins have occurred both day and night, often targeting unlocked cars or homes.

As a precaution, residents should keep vehicle windows closed and doors locked, while the doors and windows of the house should be locked, as well. Whenever possible, park vehicles in a well-lit area, and keep the outside of your home illuminated.

Residents should immediately report any suspicious persons and/or vehicles in their neighborhood by dialing 911.

Free Smoke Detectors

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

Keep Trash Cans Curbside On Trash Day Only

Township officials are reminding residents that an Aston ordinance mandates that trash and recycling collection **containers should not be placed curbside more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up time.** Furthermore, empty trash containers must be **removed from curbside the same day that collections are made.**

Recycling Reduces Trash Fees

The amount Aston residents 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.

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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), 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.

'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' Food Pantry

The Aston Township Community Center on Concord Road is now being utilized as a food pantry collection depot that will help feed dozens of local families and children.

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.

"The need has, unfortunately, been increasing, and our food bank is starting to dwindle," Commissioners President Jim Stigale recently stated. "So if anyone wants to contribute non-perishable goods during business hours at the Community Center, it would be much appreciated."

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

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.

Medical Waste Requires Special Disposal

Residents who generate medical waste are reminded to take all biohazardous material to a special disposal facility or return it to the place of purchase for proper disposal.

Please do not try to drop off medical waste at either of the township's fire companies, and **DO NOT PLACE IN TRASH CANS WITH REGULAR TRASH**, as this represents a danger to public works department personnel.

Questions regarding medical waste disposal can be directed to Aston Township Deputy Health Officer James Talbot at **610-494-0384**.

To stay informed during emergencies, residents should check updated postings on cable Channel 10 and on the township website.



Bookmark Contest Winner Casey Butterworth supports the Aston Public Library's READ! program.

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

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

West Nile Vigilance Important

Residents are reminded that the fight to control the spread of West Nile Virus continues, with the best weapon being the elimination of stagnant water that can serve as a breeding area for disease-carrying mosquitoes. Mosquitoes recently tested positive for West Nile in Aston, Brookhaven, and Parkside.

All property owners should strive to eliminate potential breeding grounds **from April through October**. Preventive measures should include disposal of empty cans, ceramic pots, and any other container that can hold water. Roof gutters should be unclogged; wading pools should be turned over when not in use; and swimming pools should be chlorinated and cleaned regularly.

To learn more about the prevention and control of West Nile Virus, visit www.westnile.state.pa.us.

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 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. To learn how to register, call Farah Esfahani at **610-237-8100, ext. 30**.

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.

Stigale Elected To Serve As Commissioners President

At the board's July 20 meeting, Sixth Ward Commissioner Jim Stigale was unanimously elected by his peers to replace Fourth Ward Commissioner Gary Robinson, who had held the post of commissioners president for the last 29 months.

"The time for Aston Township to come together is now," Stigale said in a prepared statement. "We as commissioners have refocused our efforts to lead Aston to the forefront of Delaware County. Our commitment is to deal with the issues that are affecting the quality of life in our township. Our overall goal is to be **ASTON PROUD**."

Stigale identified commissioners' priorities as developing a strong policy to address abandoned homes, cars, and businesses by enforcing property maintenance codes and ordinances; helping Aston businesses to be more profitable; attracting new businesses to Aston; providing facilities for youth sports programs and worthwhile activities for all children; getting public input on the pending sewer authority transition; and improving communication with residents through the township's website and cable television channel.

"These are just some of the topics we are focusing on. I hope the residents of Aston will work with us to help us achieve our goals," stated Stigale.

Lawn Care Helps Manage Stormwater Runoff

The way that each homeowner tends to their lawn can have a significant

impact on stormwater management for the entire township. The following lawn care practices will promote rainwater absorption and help reduce runoff:

-Test your soil to determine what kind of fertilizer is needed to grow healthy turf. Lush lawns have deeper roots, which can absorb more rainwater.

The best time of year to fertilize is after Labor Day, using slow-release fertilizers that are less water-soluble and less polluting to streams.

-Adding trees and shrubs to a yard helps control excess rainwater and prevents soil erosion. Large broad-leaf trees (such as oak, maple, or black gum) can intercept over 1,000 gallons of rainwater each year, once mature.

Fall is the best time of year to plant young trees and shrubs.

Planting flowering native perennials will attract pollinating birds and butterflies, while their extensive root systems will absorb rainwater and enrich the soil.

-Cutting grass to no less than 3 inches in height will help keep lawns green and healthy. Mowing often enough that clippings are no more than one-third the length of grass blades allows clippings to decompose easily into the soil. Mulched grass clippings can supply up to 50% of your lawn's nitrogen and phosphorus needs.

-Mulched flower beds or rain gardens trap and infiltrate more rainwater than bare lawns or soil. Layers of mulch should not be more than 3 inches deep and should not cover the roots of trees or contact the bark.

Never spread fresh wood chips around trees or shrubs, as their decomposition may harm plants.

-Creating strategically-placed rain gardens or pocket meadows on a lawn can help absorb runoff from gutter downspouts, paved areas, and compacted soil areas. Consider replacing impervious surfaces like asphalt and concrete with pervious materials like gravel or pavers that will allow runoff to absorb.

-The best time to use pesticides is Spring or early Summer, with biological controls being preferable to chemical treatments that can damage soil and kill off beneficial insects.

-To reduce chemical runoff into streams, spot treat weed patches, rather than treating the entire yard; and leave a 3-foot unmowed apron

along stream banks, ponds, and drainage channels.

Useful Tips For Stormwater Management

The ultimate goal of stormwater management is to enable rainwater to soak into the ground to recharge the groundwater table. Here are a few tips that will help achieve that purpose and minimize the impact of heavy rains.

-Replace paved surfaces (concrete and blacktop) with blocks or pavers with gravel- or grass-filled voids. The open surfaces absorb rainwater and reduce runoff.

-Direct surface water to seepage areas by channeling gutter downspouts to mulched or stone seepage beds or grassy areas of the yard.

-Collect rainwater for later use. By funneling downspouts into rain barrels, an ample supply of rainwater can be held for lawn and garden watering during dry periods.

-Plant more trees, shrubs, and flowers to intercept runoff and promote absorption. Deep-rooted plants collect rainwater better than mowed lawns.

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.
