



Aston Township
established 1688

FREE!

Township Times

Volume 7; Issue 12
December 2011



A surprise snow and sleet storm on Halloween weekend left more than a little frost on the proverbial pumpkin this year.



Site excavation and construction recently began for a Giant convenience store and gas station on the south side of Concord Road.



A throng of Aston Township Lions Club members and supporters, including Aston Township Commissioners and State Senator Dominic Pileggi, turned out on Nov. 19 to dedicate the organization's first permanent home on Gamble Lane.



The official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Aston Lions' new home included (left to right) Township Manager Richard Lehr, Lions President Robert Willoughby, and State Senator Dominic Pileggi.

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The Aston Lions Club, represented here by President Robert Willoughby and First Vice President Steve Allman (far right), gave special recognition plaques to Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins (far left) and Commissioners President Jim Stigale (holding plaque), as well as Pennsylvania Senator Dominic Pileggi, to express their gratitude to Aston Township for providing the land and to Pileggi for providing the funding to help establish the Lions' headquarters in Aston.

(see story on page 2)

Don't Miss Winter Fun Festival!

Aston Township's annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony and visit from Santa has been expanded into the first annual Winter Fun Festival for children. The free event will be held from **6:30-9pm on Friday, Dec. 2** at the Community Center and Aston Public Library.

This fun-packed evening will include crafts, kids' games, group singalongs, photos with Santa, and a special performance of The Polar Express by library storyteller Mr. Malcolm. Refreshments, including pretzels, cookies, juice, and hot chocolate, will be served.



As a cost-saving measure, the use of trashcan-size biodegradable paper bags like this one has been adopted for this Fall's curbside leaf collection program.

(see story on page 2)

Township Needs Cooperation For Leaf Collection Changes

This year a new eco-friendly green initiative was adopted in regards to the leaf collection procedures for the Public Works Department. In the past, the Public Works Department would handle removing township residents' leaves by way of machines that would ingest them from piles that residents would be required to move from their lawns to their front curbs. The new, more eco-friendly process, which has been viewed as a success so far by our Public Works Department, has the residents who choose not to mulch their leaves bagging them in biodegradable paper bags and placing the bags curbside for pickup on their regular trash day **until Dec. 16, 2011.**

The bags needed for leaf collection can be purchased at Giant Food Store, Home Depot, Lowe's, and many local hardware stores. The township has also secured a supply of bags which can be purchased at the Township Office in packages of 5 for a discounted price of \$1.50 per package. The bags are sold during regular business hours on the second floor of the municipal building, located at 5021 Pennell Rd.

Like most things that change, this will take some time before all residents know and accept the new process. The Public Works Department, however, is already convinced it was a great change. Road Foreman Russ Palmore has already pointed out that his team has been more effective during the leaf collection period in other aspects of their jobs, compared to previous years where a very large portion of their time was spent removing residents' leaves. They have been using this extra time to focus on removing leaves from and maintaining our wonderful public parks, and ensuring trash and recycling is being picked up in a timely fashion, along with other duties.

The new process has been met with some resistance from residents. Most recently, at the November Commissioners' meeting, a few residents came to voice their opinion of the new process. It seems that most complaints pertain to how the township will be handling individuals who do not comply with the new initiative and what the potential effects

could be from leaves left out in the streets. The Commissioners appreciate this feedback and encourage it. Commissioners President Jim Stigale did point out that the new leaf collection initiative is a "work in progress," and in a statement echoed by other Commissioners, asked that the residents practice patience and cooperation with the program to give it a chance to succeed. The Commissioners, however, are aware that the project must prove to be beneficial for the taxpayers. Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti encouraged residents to communicate questions, comments, and concerns by saying: "We (township officials and all commissioners) are trying to do the best that we can, and will take everything into consideration."

Like in all great communities, certain organizations and individuals have stepped up to help the most affected residents. Residents who are unable to mulch or bag their own leaves can reach out to one of the many local organizations who are willing to help. Some local organizations that have already come forward asking to help are the Boy Scouts, Youth Soccer Clubs, the Penn Delco School District, and St. Joseph's Church. If you are a member of an organization who would like to help, please feel free to contact the Aston Township Office at **610-494-1636** with your information and we will gladly pass it along to our residents in need. If you have any additional questions about the leaf collection process, or would like more information on how to mulch your own leaves, please contact Aston Township Road Foreman Russ Palmore at **610-494-8005.**

Please Support Lions' Charity

The budget of the Aston Township Lions Club can no longer support the annual Christmas Party for the needy children of Aston, so the community service organization is turning to local residents for the additional fiscal support needed to carry on this special 55-year tradition. If you can help the Lions brighten the holidays for less fortunate children, please send donations to Aston Township Lions C. F. Inc., P.O. Box 2052, Aston, PA 19014-0052 and designate your gift for the children's party.

Lions Dedicate New Headquarters

Establishing a permanent home for the Aston Township Lions Club was a notion that was as old as the service organization that has been helping residents of this community for the last 58 years. That dream was finally realized with a building dedication on Nov. 19, when the new headquarters of the Aston Lions was formally opened at 3 Gamble Lane.

"Everybody worked hard to get this done," said Aston Lions President Bob Willoughby. "It's huge and it's beautiful, and it's going to do a lot of good for the community. We can get a lot more done by centralizing the things that the Lions Club needs, to do what they do on a daily basis."

In attendance were Aston Township Commissioners, who arranged for the 3-acre lot on township property to be leased to the Lions for a nominal sum, and State Senator Dominic Pileggi, whose \$25,000 legislative initiative grant funded construction of the 40 x 60-foot building.

"I'm happy to have been of assistance, and in some small way helped you to reach your objective," stated Senator Pileggi. "Aston is a very special community. There's such a sense of teamwork in Aston, between the commissioners and the residents, and in every community activity I've ever seen, the Lions have been a part of it."

"It's so appropriate that this ribbon-cutting ceremony is so close to Thanksgiving, because there's so many people that we need to thank," said Commissioners President Jim Stigale. "The first ones we need to thank is the entire Lions Club, for all they do for Aston. You deserve this building."

"And we'd like to thank Senator Pileggi for all his efforts to get us the funds to have this facility, and Dick Lehr, who personally took this on to make sure you had this property."

The building is already being used for storage of equipment that the Lions use for their breakfast fundraisers and medical equipment that is loaned to those in need (*see back page*). Utility service to the structure is yet to be connected, and the addition of a bathroom, kitchen, office, and meeting room inside is also pending.

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

Township Officials Look to Trim Potential Tax Hike

The Township Manager and Board of Commissioners will be sharpening their pencils in an effort to reduce the modest 0.18-mill tax increase that was needed to balance the township's 2012 preliminary budget. The proposed tax hike would mean an additional \$31.50 in township tax for the average property owner, assessed at \$175,000. The preliminary budget total of \$10.8 million represents a 0.44% increase in expenditures over this year. Contributing factors are the planned purchase of two new vehicles and salary increases for the police department; a 2.9% increase for fire protection; 2% pay increases for non-uniform township employees; and an additional \$226,936 for the Public Works Department, which will spend \$90,000 to replace a dump truck, \$50,000 for drainage improvements, and \$200,000 for road resurfacing.

While the preliminary budget reflects a small property tax increase, the annual trash service fee is projected to hold steady at \$220 per household.

"There will most likely be changes and they will be announced at the Dec. 21 meeting," noted Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins.

ABA Collecting Toys and Food For Needy

The Aston Business Association is collecting unwrapped toys or (preferably) gift cards from Walmart, Target, or Giant Food Store to help brighten the holidays for needy children in Aston. Donated items can be dropped off during regular business hours at Rick's Sheds, Iron Workers' Bank, or the Aston Community Center (all on Concord Road), or at the municipal building on Pennell Road. Donations in the form of a check can be mailed to Aston Business Association, P.O. Box 2177, Aston, PA 19014, with "Toys For Tots" written on the memo line. The deadline for donations is **Dec. 16**.

Non-perishable food items are also needed to provide meals for less fortunate Aston families through the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food bank at the Community Center. Food donations can be dropped off in the Community Center lobby during regular weekday business hours.

Any resident who knows of a family in need this holiday season can contact Commissioners President Jim Stigale at stigale@comcast.net or **610-496-2580** to enlist the help of the ABA.

Public Meetings and Special Events

December 1, 2011 (Thursday)

7pm at Community Center

Friends of Aston Library Meeting

December 2, 2011 (Friday)

6:30-9pm at Community Center/Library

Christmas Tree Lighting
and Winter Fun Festival with Santa

December 5-9, 2011 (Mon-Fri)

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

December 11, 2011 (Sunday)

2-4pm at Aston-Beechwood Banquet Hall

Second Ward Christmas Party
(for children up to age 12)

December 12, 2011 (Monday)

6pm at Hennessey's Restaurant

Aston Business Association
Christmas Dinner Party

December 13, 2011 (Tuesday)

6:30pm in municipal building

Police Committee Meeting

December 13, 2011 (Tuesday)

7:30pm in municipal building

Executive Committee Meeting

December 16 & 17, 2011 (Fri. & Sat.)

Friday evening; Saturday afternoon

Santa tours Aston on fire truck

December 19, 2011 (Monday)

6:30pm in municipal building

Public Works Committee Meeting

December 20, 2011 (Tuesday)

6pm at 51 Old Pennell Road

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

December 21, 2011 (Wednesday)

7pm in municipal building

Board of Commissioners Meeting
(includes public hearing for
proposed zoning ordinance)

December 23 & 26 (Fri. & Mon.)

Christmas Holiday

Dec. 30 & January 2 (Fri. & Mon.)

New Year Holiday

Township offices closed;
No trash or recycling collected

January 3, 2012 (Tuesday)

7pm in municipal building

Commissioners' Reorganization Meeting

Seniors Plan Holiday Celebrations

Aston Senior Citizens' December meeting will be a Christmas luncheon on Thursday, **Dec. 8**, starting at noon at the Ballrooms at Boothwyn on Meetinghouse Road. Doors open at 11:30am.

ASC membership is open to all Penn-Delco residents, ages 55 and over. For more ASC meeting information, call Liz Anderson at **610-565-5650**; for special trip information, call Alice at **610-494-3534**.

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The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will hold its Christmas Party on Monday, **Dec. 19** at the Lima Estates Banquet Room, located at 411 N. Middletown Road. Doors open at 11:30am, and the meal will be served at noon. Entertainment will be provided by Ginger Mollichella. For more information, call Josephine at **610-497-2884**.

AARP will host a bus trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Wednesday, **Jan. 11**. The \$23 per person cost includes transportation, a show ticket, and a \$15 voucher. The bus leaves Furey Road in Boothwyn at 10:30am. To reserve a seat, call Margo at **610-358-0704**. For more AARP information, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.

St. Joseph's Celebrates 60 Years

St. Joseph's Parochial School recently celebrated its 60th anniversary of service to Aston residents. Father Robert Vogan presided over the school's rededication ceremony, and was joined by Principal Anne Cook and two famous alumni - former pro baseball players Glenn and Ben Davis. A special 60th Anniversary Day will be held at the school on **Dec. 7**.

Township Vehicle For Sale

A used 2003 Ford sedan, that once served as a police cruiser, then as a code enforcement officer's car, is being offered to the highest bidder. The condition is rated as fair to poor, with 90,195 miles on the odometer. Sealed bids must be received by the township office (c/o Township Manager Dick Lehr) no later than 4pm on **Dec. 12**.



Mount Road Resident Alma Carroll holds the township proclamation that she and her husband Ralph recently received in recognition of their 60th wedding anniversary, celebrated on Oct. 27, while Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham congratulates the happy couple.

Holiday Trash Schedule

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on Christmas and New Years Day weekends,

**Friday and Monday,
Dec. 23 and 26
AND
Dec. 30 and Jan. 2**

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Friday's routes will be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 22 and Dec. 29; Monday's routes will be picked up on Tuesday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3



Members of the Aston Lions Club (above) treated over 400 patrons to their semi-annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Nov. 6, while the ladies of the Aston Lionesses Club (below) set up a table of craft items for sale in the Community Center gym.



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Meanwhile, outside the Community Center, former Aston Lions Club President John Vernon donned a lion suit to help promote the Pancake Breakfast.

Lions Offer Medical Equipment

The Aston Lions Club loans medical equipment such as hospital beds, shower chairs, portable commodes, and mobility aides (including wheelchairs, motorized scooters, and walkers) to local residents who need them. If anyone has a late model wheelchair or any of the equipment listed above and would like to donate it for use, or if a disabled person is in need of such equipment, please call Anthony at 610-368-3435 or send mail to P.O. Box 2052, Aston PA 19014.



The Aston Lions Club has dozens of pieces of gently-used medical equipment that are available for loan to disabled persons in need.



A display case at the Aston Public Library shows off the collection of items that are being raffled off as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Aston Public Library.

Raffle To Raise Library Funds

The Friends of the Aston Public Library are offering a basket filled with holiday-related items through a raffle to help raise money to support the library's priceless community service. The raffle prize includes a variety of tea blends, hot chocolate, Christmas mugs, cookies, candies, and a pumpkin pie-scented candle. To get your chance to win, raffle tickets can be purchased at the library for \$2 each; three for \$5; or seven for \$10.

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The library will be open until 8pm on **Dec. 2**, extending its hours to participate in the Winter Fun Festival that evening.

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You can support the library by dining at Zac's Hamburgers at Five Points Intersection on Monday, **Dec. 12** between the hours of 4-9pm. Pick up a flyer at the library, then present same to your server (dining in or take-out) for a portion of your bill to be donated to the Friends of the Library.

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Space is still available for Children's Story Times (sponsored by the ABA for the rest of this year), with a choice of either Tuesdays or Thursdays at 10:30am for children ages 2-6. Sign up now at the front desk or by visiting the website at www.astonlibrary.org.

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There is still time left to make a tax-deductible donation to the library for 2011. Donation forms are available at the front desk. Contributions can also be made through the United Way, using the library's N095 organization number.

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The library is holding another Bookmark Contest for students in grades K-12. Entry is free and prizes are awarded to the winners. Entry forms can be found at the library and on the website. The deadline for submissions is Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

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

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



Members of Boy Scout Troop 225 and Cub Scout Pack 225, both out of St. Joseph's Church, pose with the truckload of 3,450 canned goods that they recently collected for the Sisters of Charity food bank in Chester. Other Scout troops in Aston, including Packs 77 and 292 out of Mt. Hope Church, collected 3,500 canned goods for Mt. Hope's food bank.

Thanks For A Job Well-Done

At their Nov. 16 meeting, commissioners thanked Public Works Department employee Bud Kolachny for the recent installation of new windows in the municipal building's public meeting room, and Michael Iacona and Bruce Reimer for the fresh coat of paint on the walls. The meeting room looks better than ever!

Third Ward Speeders Beware

Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn, who was recently elected to his first full term on the board, is giving those who speed through his ward fair warning. In response to residents' complaints of speeding on residential streets, Osborn has enlisted the Aston PD for additional patrols on high-volume thoroughfares like Cherry Tree Road.

"So if you get written up for speeding on Cherry Tree Road, well, you've been warned," Osborn recently stated.

New Stop Sign Approved

Commissioners have approved the installation of a stop sign on Edwards Lane at the intersection of Edwards and Hillcrest Lanes. The new traffic control was recommended by the traffic safety officer of the Aston Police Department.

Grant Sought For Tot Lot Equipment

Commissioners recently submitted an application for a PECO Green Region Open Space Program grant in the amount of \$10,000, to help pay for the purchase and installation of tot lot equipment for handicapped children. Aston Township is putting up \$18,443 in matching funds to finance the Smiles in the Playground project.

Quarterly Sewer Bills Overdue

The Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority sent out its quarterly sewer service invoices on Oct. 31, with payment due by Nov. 30. Any SWDCMA customer who has not yet received this bill should call the office at **610-494-1335** to request one to avoid late fees.

Payments can be made by mail to P.O. Box 2466, Aston PA 19014 or dropped off at the sewer authority office at 1 Gamble Lane, Aston, Monday thru Friday, from 8am-4pm. Credit or debit card payments can be made online at www.swdelcoma.org for a small convenience fee. Customers who cannot pay their bill in full can call the office to set up payment terms.

FREE SMOKE DETECTORS

To learn how to receive a free smoke detector for your home, visit

www.astonbeechwood72.com

Aston Adopts Inspection Ordinance To Curb Stormwater Infiltration

Commissioners have unanimously adopted an ordinance that requires the inspection of sanitary sewer lines at the time that any residential or commercial property is being sold or major building alterations are being done. If heater or air conditioner condensation, swimming pool water, or stormwater is being dumped into the sewer system through the discharge of sump pumps or gutter downspouts, those illegal connections (which can overload the system and add thousands of dollars to sewage treatment costs) must be removed, before a certificate of occupancy will be issued by the township.

"The basic premise here is that there's water getting into our sewers that causes extra costs," explained First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti. "It's not nice to pay per gallon for extra water in the system, and we're all paying for this...The only water that should be going into our sanitary system should be from sinks and toilets."

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

Please Pick Up Pet Waste

When a dog does his dooty outside, the pet's owners have a responsibility to pick it up and dispose of it properly and promptly. Pet waste left lying on the ground is a source of many harmful microorganisms, including E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Brucellosis, and Giardia, as well as roundworm and hookworm parasites. Many of these microorganisms can survive for months in the soil, and some for up to four years, if not cleaned up.

Children and landscape workers are at the greatest risk for exposure, but studies have shown that dog waste is a significant source of bacterial and nutrient contamination to streams. Rain storms can carry these pollutants to streams by washing the waste off lawns and hard surfaces.

To protect your family and neighbors, please "scoop the poop" into a plastic bag and dispose of it in your trash can, then remember to wash your hands. (Composting or burying pet waste does not destroy harmful organisms.) Never go barefoot or wear open shoes in dog parks or areas where pets frequently deposit waste, and don't allow children to play in these areas.

Township Seeks Bids For Renovations

Commissioners have authorized the township engineer to prepare the bid specs for two renovation projects. Replacement of the gymnasium floor in the Community Center is being re-advertised, as no bids were received for the project on the first attempt to secure a contractor.

The installation of an HVAC system with heat pump in the One-Room Village Green Schoolhouse is also planned to help mitigate mold in the historic structure.

Emergency Responders Never Take the Holidays Off

During the month of October, volunteers from Green Ridge Fire Co. answered 62 fire calls and 20 medical alarms, while crews from Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. and Ambulance Corps responded to 34 fire alarms and 120 ambulance calls.

That's a total of 236 emergency responses in a 31-day period, for an average of 7.6 calls answered per day.

No Tick Tock On Clock

Have you noticed that the time is always 9:12 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, causing time to apparently stand still. A replacement part has been ordered and the repair has been scheduled for mid-December.

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.

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.



Members of Cub Scout Pack 77 from Mt. Hope Church recently paid a visit to the public meeting room at the municipal building, where Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham invited the future community leaders to sit at the commissioners' table.

Aston's Role In Cold War Recalled

Did you know that an underground missile complex in Aston and Upper Chichester Townships helped defend the Philadelphia region during the Cold War? Research by Philadelphia resident Chris Milewski has compiled a fascinating history of the dozen NIKE missile sites that used to ring the city.

The PH-67 Village Green Base Integrated Fire Control area was located at the current Pennell Elementary School off Route 452, while the missiles themselves were housed underground at what is now Hilltop Elementary School on Cherry Tree Road in Upper Chichester.

To learn more about this bygone era of Aston history, visit the website at www.ph15.org/ph67. To contribute additional information to the website, email Milewski at info@ph15.org.

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.

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

Call Barry Pinkowicz at 610-494-5294 or send email to barrypnk@aol.com to express your interest.

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.

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.**

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.

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.

Recycling collections for the month of October 2011 totaled 88.7 tons of comingled items collected curbside, 6 tons of newspaper dropped off at the municipal building container, 102 lbs. of aluminum cans collected by the Aston Lions Club, 1,600 lbs. of scrap metal, and 475 gallons of used motor oil, all of which generated a total township revenue of \$4,231.

'Neighbors Helping Neighbors'

Food Pantry Needs Help

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 and 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.

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**.

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.

Students Learn Fire Prevention

During National Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 9-15), firefighters from the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. met with students from Aston Elementary and St. Francis de Sales schools to teach some of the basics of fire safety. Students prepared for the visit with a coloring contest, sponsored by Zac's Hamburgers at Five Points.

The contest winners were:

Aston Elementary, Kindergarten: **Emma Sweede** (1st place), **Avery Landis** (2nd), and **Sara Lillis** (3rd).

Aston Elementary, First Grade: **Megan Saunders** (1st place), **Emily Penzone** (2nd), and **Hayden Micun** (3rd).

St. Francis de Sales: **Gus Opdenaker** and **Sara Ciocco** (1st place), **Sara Roach** and **Courtney Tonn** (2nd), and **Moria Donnelly** and **Shea Flemming** (3rd).

Among the safety techniques taught were Stop, Drop, and Roll, and Cover Your Face; What to do when you hear a smoke detector go off; and Go Low and Go to escape a burning building. The grade-schoolers practiced these skills at the A-BFC's new Fire Prevention Station, then checked out fire trucks and received junior fire helmets and fire safety bags.

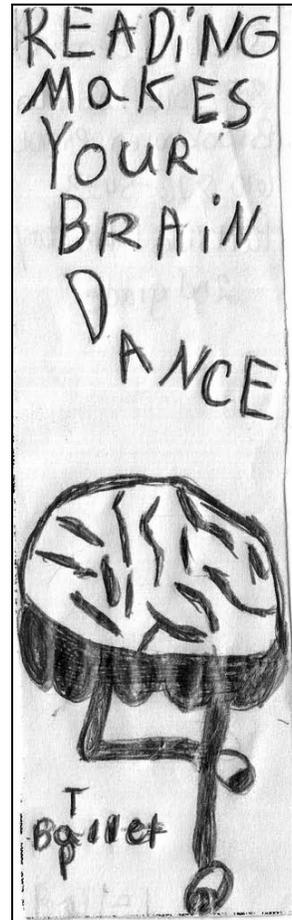
To view photos of the contest winners, go to **astonbeechwood72.com**.

**To become a Friend
of the Aston Public Library**
go to **www.astonlibrary.org** and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your information.
Click the "Donate" button to make a contribution.
*
You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook by visiting **www.facebook.com/astonlibrary**.



This photo of Tom Mackey reading to his daughter Katie was declared the winner of the Aston Public Library's recent The Family That Reads Together contest.

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A recent Aston Public Library Bookmark Contest winner made by Shelby Celentino accurately describes the effect that reading can have on a person.

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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**.



Sgt. Jeffrey Brown of the Aston PD recently received a Valor Award from Police Chief Dan Ruggieri for actions taken this summer.

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Officer Lauded For Bravery

Aston Police Sergeant Jeffrey Brown recently received a Valor Award (the highest commendation the Aston PD can bestow) for his crucial role in ending an armed standoff in Trainer Borough on July 4, 2011.

After an enraged man had shot five people, killing three, the murderer barricaded himself inside his home and refused all requests to surrender.

Once all attempts to negotiate had failed, police determined that only entry into the house would subdue the armed man. Brown, a 12-year veteran of the Aston force, volunteered to lead the entry team, following up a tear gas assault on the premises. Although visibility inside the home was poor, Brown showed tremendous restraint in trying to take down the suspect by non-lethal means, but was ultimately compelled to use lethal force on the deranged shooter.

"Sergeant Brown's courage and poise under fire directly resulted in other team members maintaining their composure and properly using all force options, before resorting to deadly force. He is a credit to himself, the Aston Township Police Department, and the law enforcement profession," stated Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri.
