



Aston Township  
established 1688

**FREE!**

# Township Times

Volume 8; Issue 5  
May 2012



The Easter Bunny Brunch, which preceded the annual Aston Township Egg Hunt at the Community Center on March 31, provided a chance for the Easter Bunny to meet some of his fans, including District Magisterial Justice Diane Holefelder (above); while the main focus (below) was giving families an opportunity to spend quality time together.



But the main event was the Egg Hunt, which found hunter/gatherers like Cydney Durbans and Morgan and Payton Evans of Glenn Road (above) and Alex and Kira Kenvin of Beatrice Lane (below) carrying away a haul.



Later in the day on March 31, the kids who participated in the Second Ward Egg Hunt obviously made out pretty good too.

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Above: At Opening Day of the Aston Valley Baseball League's 50th season, Fourth Ward Commissioner Gary Robinson delivered the township's annual donation of \$5,500 to AVBL President Mike Komorowski.

Below: Out in strength on April 14 to show their support of the AVBL were a host of township officials, including (l to r) Commissioner Robinson, Commissioners VP Michael Higgins, Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn, Township Manager/Secretary Dick Lehr, Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham, and First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti.



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A special feature on Opening Day was the induction of the first members of the AVBL Walk of Fame (above). The inductees sat in the infield and threw out the ceremonial first pitch as a group; then Aston's Rick Choate (pictured to left) sang the National Anthem to officially close the ceremonies and open the 2012 season.

(see story on page 2)



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

### **Easter Bunny Brunch Draws Crowd**

On March 31, Aston Township held its annual Community Easter Egg Hunt for all Aston children under age 12 on the field behind the Community Center, where 10,000 plastic eggs were scattered on the grass, and some were redeemable for special prizes.

In addition to the free Egg Hunt, something new for Aston families this year was a special Brunch with the Easter Bunny, which started 90 minutes prior to the Egg Hunt. Each Brunch attendee received a goodie bag containing breakfast items like cereal and juice, and other treats as well. The event also provided a chance for parents to photograph their kids with the Easter Bunny.

With over 160 attending the Brunch, the event was deemed a success. Parks & Recreation Committee Chairwoman Carol Graham thanked her fellow committee members for all their hard work, including Nancy Bowden, Gina Ruggieri, Donna Here, Maureen Dillon, Maggie Berry, Cindy Lopchinsky, Jacque Willoughby, and Kit Spayd. A special thank you was extended to Annie Favinger, the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co., and the Green Ridge Fire Co. for making sure the Easter Bunny arrived safely.

Donors who helped make the day a success included Rick and Terry Yannuzzi (Rick's Sheds), Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn, the Aston Business Association, Viso's Family Bakery, Pretzel Boys, Dairy Queen, Giant, Wawa, and Donna and John Barbosa, who donated dozens of stuffed animals to the kids.

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### **Quarterly Sewer Bills Now Due**

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

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.

### **Aston Boasts Two Poster Contest Winners**

The 24th Annual Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Awareness Poster Contest in Delaware County schools (grades 1-8) recently named its winners, with two of the 15 top spots in the county going to Pennell Elementary School students.

\$75 VISA gift cards were the prizes earned by First-grader Justin Maiorine (4th place for grades K-2) and Fourth-grader Olivia Nickerson (third place for grades 3-5).

Congratulations to both of our talented hometown winners!

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### **Aston Valley Opens 50th Season**

The Aston Valley Baseball League held its 50<sup>th</sup> Opening Day ceremonies on April 14. The organization that started out with two teams and 30 players now boasts 39 teams and 600 players.

The Opening Day Parade began at Neumann University and ended at Weir Park.

According to AVBL President Mike Komorowski, a walkway of engraved bricks will be laid at the new pavilion to be built at the field complex next year. The first AVBL Walk of Fame class members (including Sam Erb, John Smith, Jim Buggy, Richard Cage, Bob and Maryann Bullen, Dave and Gale Moore, Cliff and Carol Thompson, Jeff O'Flynn, Tom Luke, Chet Diehm, and Fran Miles), acting as a group, threw out the ceremonial first pitch to kick off the 2012 season.

Aston resident Rick Choate sang the National Anthem, while American Legion Post 926 presented the colors. Other Opening Day ceremonies included the introduction of all coaches, and presentation of donation checks from the township and American Legion Post 926, and the gift of a capitol-flown American flag from State Representative Stephen Barrar. Jocelyn Kline was recognized for earning her Girl Scouts Silver Award by getting all AVBL coaches AED-certified.

During the evening of that same day, AVBL hosted a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meet and Greet (beef and beer) at the Green Ridge Fire Co.; and the next afternoon, AVBL hosted alumni softball games at Weir Park to relive the 'Glory Days.'

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### **Leaf Bagging To Continue**

In response to a resident's inquiry at the April 18 meeting, Commissioners President Jim Stigale confirmed that the board has analyzed the cost data from last year, and determined that the leaf bagging system used in 2011 is the most cost-effective method of leaf collection and disposal. Hence, leaf bagging will be continued in 2012.

A formal statement on this topic will be forthcoming from the board at the May 15 public meeting, said Stigale.

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

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### **Mount Hope UMC Extends Helping Hands**

On the heels of two arson fires in the last six months, Chester Heights Campmeeting needed a shot in the arm, so 32 members of Mount Hope United Methodist Church recently dedicated an full day to helping the historic site recover, while giving Campmeeting residents hope for the future.

A team of 75 volunteers (mostly teenagers) from seven southeastern Pennsylvania churches gathered at the Campmeeting on April 21, organized by Mount Hope's Debra DePrinzio, who holds the title of Eastern PA Conference Youth Mission Team Leader. The volunteers broke up into 12 work groups and tackled repairs on cottages, cleaned and landscaped the site, and even tore down a 100-year-old cottage that was beyond repair.

Among the "worker bees" was First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti, who spent most of the day reinforcing a sagging cottage porch.

"The actual work that's being done here is important, but it's secondary to the big picture, which is how God is working in the lives of these kids," said Fulginiti.

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### **Rabies Clinic Offered**

A low-cost Rabies Clinic will be held at the Aston Township Public Works Garage (located behind the municipal building at 5021 Pennell Rd.) from 6-7:30pm on **Tuesday, May 15**.

The clinic is open to Aston residents only, with each pet inoculation costing only \$10.

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**Register Now For  
Great American Cleanup of PA**

In conjunction with the Keep America Beautiful program, the 2012 Great American Cleanup of PA will be held from **March 1 through May 31**. During this period, registered clean-up events can get free bags, gloves, and safety vests from PennDOT.

In 2011, a total of 4,222 events were held by 159,922 Great American Cleanup of PA volunteers. Those volunteers collected 354,267 bags or over 3,500 tons of trash, while sprucing up 13,140 miles of highway, railroad tracks, and shorelines and 5,887 acres of parks and/or wetlands. For additional information, go to **www.gacofpa.org** or call Michelle Dunn at **1-877-772-3673, ext. 113**.

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**Stream Clean-up Slated**

The 15th Annual Chester-Ridley-Crum Creek Watersheds Stream Clean-up will be held from 9-11:30am on **Saturday, May 5**. The local work site will be the West Branch of Chester Creek at Lewis Fisher Memorial Park (off Mount Road).

This will be the third straight year that Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham will be hosting the local clean-up effort. Last year, over 55 volunteers turned out and removed several tons of trash and debris from the creek.

All volunteers are invited to a picnic lunch at Pavilion 8 in Ridley Creek State Park, from 11:45am -1pm, where they will get a free t-shirt.

For more information, email Graham at **cmg804@comcast.net** or call **484-832-1687**.

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**Does Your Creek Have  
"Mussel Power"?**

Did you know that freshwater mussels are the most imperiled group of animals in the United States? This is even of greater concern given all of the benefits they bring to our streams. Mussel beds strengthen streambeds against erosion and filter large quantities of water, removing nutrients and toxins (one mussel can filter up to 10 gallons a day!).

For example, PDE Science Director Danielle Kreeger has located one older bed of approximately 500,000 mussels in the Lower Brandywine River which she estimates is removing 25 tons of pollutants each year, about 7% of the

total load. Unfortunately, none of the mussel beds discovered so far have been found to be reproducing.

Freshwater mussels can live up to 100 years, but if they are unable to reproduce, their valuable benefits to water quality will slowly disappear as the beds die off.

This past fall, Kreeger installed several trial mussel beds in Ridley Creek in Upper Providence to see if they will survive, and most importantly, if conditions are suitable for them to reproduce.

On **Saturday, May 12**, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and CRC will hold a lecture and **training for volunteers interested in helping with the mussels project** at Pavilion 8 at Ridley Creek State Park from 9 to 11am.

Participants will first hear Ms. Kreeger speak, and then can follow staff biologist Angela Padeletti to a stretch of Ridley Creek in the Park to learn how to identify mussel beds in their local creeks. Volunteers will receive sufficient training to be able to correctly survey designated sections of their local creeks for the presence and non-presence of mussels and report back to CRC and the Partnership to be included in their survey.

One or two group "Flex Your Mussels" survey days will be held in June and July to cover specific reaches of Ridley, Chester, and Crum Creeks, and volunteers can also sign up to survey tributaries and additional sections on their own, sometime this summer. Two likely meeting places are Okehocking Preserve with CRC and Supplee Valley Preserve with the East Goshen Conservancy Board.

Pre-register for free CRC training at **cr@nni.com** or call **610-892-8731**.

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**Public Meetings and Special Events**

**April 30, 2012 (Monday)**

Second Weekly Trash Pickups Begin

**May 7-11, 2012 (Mon-Fri)**

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

**May 7, 2012 (Monday)**

**3pm in municipal building**  
Police Committee Meeting

**May 7, 2012 (Monday)**

**6:30pm in municipal building**  
Public Works Committee Meeting

**May 7, 2012 (Monday)**

**7:30pm in municipal building**  
New Construction Committee Meeting

**May 8, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**6:30pm in municipal building**  
Executive Committee Meeting

**May 15, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**7pm at Aston Public Library**  
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

**May 16, 2012 (Wednesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**  
Board of Commissioners Meeting

**May 22, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**  
Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

**May 22, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**  
Ordinance Committee Meeting

**May 23, 2012 (Wednesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**  
Planning Commission Meeting

**May 28, 2012 (Monday)**

Township offices closed;  
No trash collected



**Memorial Day Holiday**



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**Aston Seniors Plan Events**

The next meeting of the Aston Senior Citizens will be held on Thursday, **May 24**, at 10:45am at the Aston Community Center.

The menu includes chicken parmesan, penne pasta, green beans, salad, and tiramisu for dessert. Entertainment will be provided by Guitarist/Vocalist Liz Gordon. Tickets for the June 14 luncheon will be sold at this meeting. For more Aston Seniors information, call Gloria Brazunas at **610-859-9085**.

\*

The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will be hosting a joint bus trip with St. John Fisher Church on Wednesday, **May 30**. The destination is Resorts Casino to see the musical "House Party." Tickets are \$25 each. The bus leaves from the St. John Fisher parking lot on Chichester Avenue at 10am. To reserve a seat, call **610-358-0704** or **610-361-0481**. For more AARP information, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.

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### Delco Symphony To Perform

The Delaware County Symphony will perform its last concert date of the 2012 season at Neumann University on **Sunday, May 6**, starting at 3pm. The concert is entitled "French Connection," and will feature the works of Debussy and Faure, and the world premiere of Impromptus and Arabesques by Benjamin Boyle. Admission tickets are \$15 each; \$12 for seniors and students; and only \$10 per person for groups of 10 or more. For more information, call **610-879-7059** or visit [www.dcsmusic.org](http://www.dcsmusic.org).

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Dozens of volunteers from Mount Hope United Methodist Church recently spent an entire day sprucing up Chester Heights Campmeeting, where the improvement projects included (above) Mission Team Leader Debra DePrinzio (right) and Andrea Fulginiti weeding and replanting a flower garden; and (below) a group of volunteers (including First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti, on ladder) rehabbing a porch on one of the cottages.

(see story on page 2)



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Eagle Scout-elect Scott Rickards (far right), of Village Drive in Aston, recently completed his Eagle project with the construction of a dozen duck habitats for the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Tinicum.



Ginger used to be a therapy dog, and was the paws-down winner of the *Township Times* Aston Pet of the Year Contest in 2009, but now she is sick and needs your help.

\*

### Superstar Ginger Needs Help

Roland Rivera of Dublin Way West and American Pit Bull Terrier Ginger have been inseparable since he adopted her from the SPCA in 2007. The gentle dog has made many friends at Bryn Mawr Hospital, where Roland used to take her as a therapy dog for patients who needed some affection. But Ginger was diagnosed with cancer in December, and is now undergoing chemotherapy to slow down her terminal illness. An online fundraising campaign this winter paid for a gall bladder removal, but the cancer had spread too far to be stopped. With two or three more chemo treatments slated for upcoming weeks, Rivera will be facing some hefty vet bills. If you would like to help, send email to [rolandjrivera@gmail.com](mailto:rolandjrivera@gmail.com).

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On April 3, Troop 225 Scout Leader Barry Pinkowicz was honored by American Legion Post 926 as the 2011 Pennsylvania State Scouter of the Year. Involved in scouting for the past 44 years, Pinkowicz poses here with Green Ridge Post 926 Commander Cy Yost (left) and Sons of the American Legion Post 926 Commander Michael Kane.

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**Submit newsletter information by the 22nd of the month to [newsletter@astontownship.net](mailto:newsletter@astontownship.net) or [castarkis@comcast.net](mailto:castarkis@comcast.net)**



These are the winners of this year's Bookmark Contest at the Aston Public Library. From left to right: Dominique Delgiorno, Emma Stewart, Mary Arena, Jaime Fleming, Giana Buoni, Jacob Sapiro, Molly Gasiorowski, and Lindsay Wigo.

### Library Book Cover Contest

Answer the question: "When you read a book, what do you see?" by drawing, collaging, photographing, or creating a new cover for your favorite book or the book that you may write yourself. Pick up entry forms (with complete rules) at the Aston Public Library service desk.

**The Book Cover Design/Re-Design Contest runs until May 19.** All ages may enter. Winning entries will be displayed at the library.

- There are still spaces open for a free six-week Chair Yoga class, which starts Wednesday, **May 2**. This gentle form of yoga is practiced sitting in a chair or standing, while using a chair for support, and is appropriate for all ages, genders, shapes, and sizes. Go to [tinyurl.com/astonadultevents](http://tinyurl.com/astonadultevents) to pre-register for this program.

- The popular Science in the Summer Program will be returning to the library from **July 16-19**, with morning and afternoon options available. This year's theme will be Electricity and Physical Science. To apply for a spot in this free educational program for grade-schoolers, come to the library to **register from May 1 thru May 31**.

- Do you have 5 hours a week to spare? We have many places where we need volunteer help. Pick up an application at the library's front desk or visit [tinyurl.com/APLVolApp](http://tinyurl.com/APLVolApp).



Aston Public Library Director Stephen Sarazin recently sat down with Flat Stanley to discuss all the library's books about him.

### Fishing Derby Returns

On April 28, the Lenni AC sponsored its 3rd Annual Fishing Derby for children 12 and under on the banks of the West Branch of Chester Creek at Lewis Fisher Memorial Park. There was no shortage of fish, as the Lenni AC had stocked the stream with about 900 trout prior to the event.

Prizes and trophies were handed out to first, second, and third place finishers in three age groups for the largest and smallest trout landed.

Look for Fishing Derby photos in the June edition of *Township Times*.

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### Commissioners Plan For Future

Aston Commissioners have authorized a number of expenditures that will show their real value in the long run.

\*The purchase of a Ford 650 dump-body truck equipped with salt spreader and snow plow was approved at a cost of \$90,553. The multi-purpose vehicle was purchased from Bayshore Ford through the state's Co-Stars program.

\*The replacement of the HVAC unit compressor on the Aston Public Library's roof was awarded to CM3 Building Solutions at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.

\*A vendor has not yet been selected, but signing an agreement to create off-site back-up of all data on township computers has been authorized at a cost not to exceed \$900 per year.

"So, God forbid, we have a fire or some natural disaster and everything crashes, we will not lose our data," Technology Committee Chairman Mark Osborn noted.

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### Fee Schedules Amended

Commissioners have unanimously approved changes to the fee schedules that govern the issuance of permits, administration fees, application fees, escrow fees, conditional use hearing fees, board of health fees, fire inspection fees, and all licensing fees. The new fee schedules are **effective as of May 1, 2012**, and more accurately reflect the costs incurred by the township for the administration of these matters.

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**Did You Know?:** The crossroads now known as Fisher's Corner (the intersection of Concord, Convent and Aston Mills Roads) was known as Corner Ketch in the 19th century.

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### Sidewalk Requirements Changing

Commissioners are planning to amend the township code at an upcoming public meeting to require the installation of sidewalks and curb under certain circumstances.

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The AVBL mascot was pumped up and ready to "Play Ball!" on Opening Day on April 14.

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### Stop Sign Disregard Dangerous

Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins took a moment at the board's April 18 session to read a prepared statement warning residents of the dangers of speeding and running/rolling stop signs. The common illegal practices not only put a driver and his/her passengers at risk, but are very dangerous for pedestrians as well.

"I'm especially concerned now that the school year is coming to an end, and children will be out playing during daylight hours," Higgins said. "The speed limit is posted in residential areas and needs to be respected."

Higgins noted that violators are both men and women of all ages, from teens to senior citizens. He said he fully supports the efforts of the Aston Police Department to enforce stop signs and speed limits within the township to promote safety.

"Just slow down and stop. The safety of our residents is first and foremost," Higgins concluded.

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### Sex Offender Residency Restrictions Repealed

In the wake of a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling, the township solicitor advised the board to repeal the residency restrictions established for convicted sex offenders in 2006, so Aston Commissioners did so unanimously at their April 18 meeting, effective immediately.

The Megan's Law provisions that Aston Township adopted under Ordinance No. 834 to keep registered sexual predators away from children were also enacted in municipalities across the state, but the earlier wave of approval has now been replaced by a wave of repeal.

The Supreme Court decision that struck down the residency restrictions has now set a precedent that will become the legal tool used to overturn similar restrictions anywhere in the state.

"Unfortunately, some of these ordinances were too restrictive and came under challenge by interest groups representing these individuals," noted Aston Solicitor Elizabeth Naughton-Beck. "So we are incapable of enforcing this ordinance in Aston Township, and for that reason it is being repealed."

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### Admin Assistant Now Full-Time

George Needles III, who was hired as a part-time administrative assistant to Aston Township Manager/Secretary Dick Lehr last November, has been unanimously approved by the Board of Commissioners to move up to full-time status, as of May 14.

Needles has been attending Neumann University since he was hired, and will graduate on May 12. His work during his brief tenure in the township office has been outstanding by all accounts.

"George has been doing a great job for us, and the intent was always to bring him along, so this is just moving along according to plan," said Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn.

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### The Library Has Good Friends

The Friends of the Aston Public Library will be holding its next meeting at the Community Center at 7pm on **May 24**. There is no membership fee, and new members are always welcome.

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### Township Website Upgraded

Aston Township's official website has been vastly improved.

Website upgrades include video clip capabilities, an annual township calendar, the ability for residents to view and sign up for new editions of *Township Times*, permit information and forms for residents and contractors, archives (such as past newsletters), and photo galleries of community events.

The township's cable access channels have also been upgraded with a new Verizon/Fios connection to the municipal building, which will allow the township to give Verizon customers the same community information service that Comcast users have always received. With Comcast customers continuing to use public access channel 10 and Verizon customers now using access channel 45, all Aston residents with cable service can now see commissioners' meetings live and on video tape, as well as scrolling power point presentations and community updates. According to Technology Committee Chairman Mark Osborn, other recent tech upgrades include an email link between the township's administrative offices and the Public Works Garage and Community Center.

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### Aston Adopts Hazard Prep Plan

At the Board's March 21 meeting, Commissioners unanimously adopted the 2011 Delaware County Hazard Mitigation Plan to protect Aston residents.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines the proactive steps that municipalities should take to prepare for natural disasters to reduce or mitigate the impact on residents.

Municipalities across the county are lining up to sign on to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, as being a signatory is a prerequisite to getting federal and state disaster relief funds.

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In a related matter, Commissioners plan to adopt amendments to the township's flood plain ordinance at their May 15 session, to remain current with changing state regulations, and to ensure that Aston residents have access to flood insurance and flood recovery funds.

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The members of American Legion Auxiliary, Post 926, in Aston held a special program on March 18 to honor the winners of the organization's annual Americanism Contest.

### Americanism Winners Feted

The annual Americanism essay contest sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 926 recently produced a patriotic boatload of winners. The participants all came from local schools in grades 3-8, with three winners named from each grade. The winners were:

**3rd Grade:** Gianna Miles (first place), Alexis Haughey (second), Kendall Bard (third).

**4th Grade:** Sean Guinan (first), Jacob Strehle (second), Kaitlyn Dechant (third).

**5th Grade:** Tommy Christaldi (first), Lindsey Misci (second), Cassidy McClintock (third).

**6th Grade:** Stefan Borcky (first), Catherine Possenti (second), Conor Culloty (third).

**7th Grade:** Emile Campese (first), Catherine Zwiercan (second), Meghan Patterson (third).

**8th Grade:** Mary Clare (first), Corey Boornazian (second), Joseph Bakey (third).

First place winners Sean Guinan, Stefan Borcky, and Mary Clare have all advanced to the next level in the contest, which is a review by the ALA Delaware County Council.

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## Memorial Day Trash Schedule

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

**Monday, May 28**

Monday's route will be collected along with Tuesday's regular route

**on Tuesday, May 29**

**No second pickups (summer schedule) will be made on Tuesday**

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### Appeal Board Adopted For Code Grievances

In 2004, the Delaware County Uniform Construction Code Appeal Board was established to provide a venue for resolving potential grievances between municipal code enforcement officials and residents. That same year, Aston Township adopted the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code as the foundation of the township's own building code. As of 2012, Aston Township has joined the Delco municipalities that will utilize the county's appeal board to resolve code grievances.

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### 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**.

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**To stay informed during emergencies, residents should check cable TV's public access channels for updated postings on Comcast Channel 10 and Verizon Channel 45, as well as the township website.**

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### Sewer Authority Offers Emergency Relief

Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority customers are reminded that emergency service is available 24/7 for sewer back-ups by calling the hotline at **610-494-1335**.

Aston residents are urged to visit the SWDCMA website to learn more about the ongoing effort to reduce stormwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer system - a growing problem that costs every resident with a public sewer connection extra money for unnecessary processing.

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

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### Please Pick Up Pet Waste

Pet waste is the responsibility of the animal's owner or owners. The cleaning up and disposal of pet waste should be done 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 place the waste 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.

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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.**

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### More Bucks For the Bang

Commissioners recently approved the expenditure of \$17,000 to continue Aston's longstanding practice of sponsoring a public fireworks display on July Fourth. This year's expense is a \$500 cost increase over last year.

Provided by Starfire Corporation, the annual fireworks display will commence at dusk on **Wednesday, July 4**, at Sun Valley High School.

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### 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 March 2012 totaled 58.2 tons of comingled items collected curbside, 8 tons of newspaper dropped off at the municipal building container, 135 lbs. of aluminum cans collected by the Aston Lions Club, 900 lbs. of scrap metal, and 300 gallons of used motor oil, all of which generated a total township revenue of \$1,149.

The township's Spring Leaf Collection program picked up nearly 3 tons of leaves during the last week of March.

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### Medical Waste Requires Special Disposal

Residents who generate medical waste must take all biohazardous material to a 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**.

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### To become a Friend of the Aston Public Library

go to

**[www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org)** and

click on "Join Our Friends" to

send in your information.

Click the "Donate" button to make a contribution.

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You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook by visiting

**[www.facebook.com/astonlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/astonlibrary)**

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### Commissioners Thank Ice Works

It's not everyday that Aston Township is mentioned on ESPN and in news reports around the world, but that was the case during February's National Curling Championships at Ice Works.

"It took us a lot of time to get this plan together, but it has given us a lot of national publicity, not only with the curling, but also with the Olympic skaters who practice here, so I just want to say thank you to Ice Works for coming to Aston Township," stated Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn, who was a driving force in the negotiations that brought the skating facility to town.

Commissioners President Jim Stigale agreed with McGinn, noting that Ice Works' prominence is good for the entire business community. Aston Township Day (Feb. 12) during the Curling Nationals was a particularly important day for the ABA.

"There were a lot of people behind the scenes that were able to get in there and promote a lot of Aston businesses," Stigale acknowledged. "People from out of town were able to come in and get a taste of what we can offer. It was a great day and a great turnout, and a shot in the arm for our township."

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Despite the need to dodge a few raindrops, Sixth Ward residents managed to carry away quite a haul from the Easter Egg Hunt at Bridgewater Park on March 24.



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Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins (left) and Aston Police Chief Daniel Ruggieri (right) had nothing but praise for Captain John McKenna of Aston, who is retiring after a 58-year career with the Delco CID and PA State Police.

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### Captain McKenna Hangs Up Badge

John McKenna retired from the post of Chief of Detectives with Delaware County's Criminal Investigation Division in February, after spending the last 30 years with CID. He had previously logged 28 years with the Pennsylvania State Police, attaining the rank of captain. To this day, he is still addressed by many friends and colleagues as Captain McKenna.

"Honor, integrity, professionalism, loyalty, and dedication are just a few words to describe Captain McKenna," stated Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri on March 21, when McKenna was honored by the Aston Board of Commissioners.

"Delaware County has always recognized the Aston PD as second to none, and it's certainly been kept that way under the tutelage of Chief Dan Ruggieri," McKenna noted, returning the compliment.

McKenna has been an Aston resident for the last 49 years, and plans to continue living here.

"My wife and I love Aston Township, and call it the 'Garden Spot of Delaware County,' said McKenna. "I refused promotions 14 times in my career, so that I wouldn't have to move out of Delaware County, and specifically Aston."

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### Citizens Urged To Use Environmental Hotlines

Any citizen can help report environmental violations or problems they notice in their neighborhood or in local streams, before the situation can cause more damage and pollution. You may be the first person to notice an illicit, non-permitted discharge, and could be the first person to report it to the Pennsylvania Department of

Environmental Protection or a similar regulatory body.

-If an Aston resident witnesses sediment leaving a construction site during a heavy rain event, they should promptly call the Delaware County Conservation District at **810-892-9484** and send a photo, if possible.

-If pollutants are seen in a stream; clogged or leaking sanitary sewer lines are found; or inadequately treated discharge is observed from a sewage treatment plant, call the Aston Township office at **610-494-1636** during business hours or dial **911** after hours.

-If illegal dumping, spills, or other directed discharges (other than rainwater) into storm sewers or streams is observed, call the DEP 24-hour Water Quality Hotline at **484-250-5900** or the DEP Water Quality Complaints Department at **484-250-5991** (weekdays from 8:30am-4:30pm only).

-To report a fish kill in a stream or pond, call the PA Fish and Boat Commission at **717-626-0228** or the DEP 24-hour Water Quality Hotline at **484-250-5900**.

-To report a water main break, call the Chester Water Authority at **610-876-8181** or Aqua PA at **610-525-1402** at any time of day or night.

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### Township Reduces Debt

Commissioners recently approved the refinancing of \$1.8 million of existing debt to save township taxpayers money in the long run.

Working through the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority, Aston Township will be able to lower its monthly debt payments by issuing a new series (2012) of general obligation notes.

"In English, this simply means we're retiring a current bond issue, and re-issuing a bond to take advantage of interest rates, without extending the term," explained Third Ward Commissioner/Finance Committee Chairman Mark Osborn. "This is very good for us," he summarized.

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