

Township Times

Pride In Our Community

Volume 8; Issue 12

December 2012



Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by the Community Center to greet Aston children at last year's inaugural Winter Fun Festival; while Storyteller Mr. Malcolm (below) captivated the kids with a Christmas tale. The second annual event on Dec. 7 promises even more of the same family fun, with a special visit by Mickey and Minnie Mouse.



Santa Tours Aston

Santa Claus will be touring Aston Township on a fire truck on the following dates:

Neighborhoods around the Green Ridge Fire Co. on **Dec. 8;**

Neighborhoods around the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co.

on **Dec. 14 & 15**

Aston Township CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & WINTER FUN FESTIVAL



Come join us at our Annual Township Christmas Tree Lighting

Hosted by: Commissioner Carol Graham & The Parks & Recreation Committee

WHEN:

Friday, December 7th, 2012

TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Aston Township Community Center



Santa - Crafts - Refreshments - Music

Come and

"CELEBRATE THE MAGIC"

ABA Collecting Toys For Tots

The Aston Business Association is collecting unwrapped toys and/or gift cards from Wal-Mart, Target, or Giant Food Stores to distribute to local needy children at Christmas.

Donated items can be dropped off at Rick's Sheds, Iron Workers' Bank, and the Aston Community Center (all on Concord Road); at the Aston Township municipal building on Pennell Road; and at other locations around town. Check the township website for a complete list of drop-off sites.

Contributions will be accepted at the Dec. 7 Tree Lighting/Winter Fun Festival at the Community Center.

The deadline for donations is Dec. 14.

Township Grateful For Hurricane Sandy Response

Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Morgan, Sr. was recently feted by Aston Commissioners for the exemplary job he and others did during Superstorm Sandy on Oct. 29. Commissioners President Jim Stigale singled out Aston PD Officer Tom Hearty and Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Sean Joyce, while Assistant to the Township Manager George Needles was commended for manning the command center in the municipal building. Wawa and Pretzel Boys were thanked for donating food to the emergency responders.

The Aston-Beechwood and Green Ridge Fire Cos., Aston Police Department, Aston Fire Police, and the Public Works Department were all thanked for their heightened state of readiness and the extra efforts put forward to keep residents safe.

"They all did a fine job," said Stigale.



Husband and wife team Denis Gronostayski and Anastasia Babayeva, who both trained with the Bolshoi Ballet, are featured dancers in the annual *Nutcracker* presentation on the Neumann University campus.

(see details on page 2)

Neumann Offers World-Class 'Nutcracker' Ballet

The holiday tradition of staging performances of the Christmas classic *The Nutcracker* will continue this year, with six shows slated at the Meagher Theater on **Dec. 13-16**.

International Ballet Classique's *The Nutcracker* features over 130 hand-made costumes that are sure to delight every family member.

Performances start at 7:30pm on Friday, Dec. 14; at 2pm and 7:30pm on Saturday, Dec. 15; and at 2pm on Sunday, Dec. 16. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$16 for seniors or students.

Special abridged productions designed for children will be performed at 10am and 11:30am on Thursday, Dec. 13, with special ticket prices of \$5 for children and \$6 for adults.

For group discounts or additional information, call **610-459-9221**.

Preliminary Budget Sees Potential Tax Hike

The 2013 Aston Township preliminary budget is projecting a need for a 0.32-mill property tax increase. This projected increase, along with the additional \$20 trash service charge, is to help cover a potential \$215,000 revenue shortfall. Aston Township is facing increasing costs in 2013 and decreasing funding from sources outside of taxes. The preliminary budget is \$11.36 million, but that figure could change. Finance Committee Chairman Mark Osborn reminded residents that township officials will be looking very hard at the budget and working to narrow the gap. "The work done between now and then will hopefully make this situation much better," said Osborn at the November Commissioners' meeting.

The projected tax increase of 0.32 mills would amount to \$56 on a home assessed at \$175,000.

Aston Eyes Recycling & Trash Fee Increase

The 2013 preliminary budget shows an increase in the trash service fee of \$20 for all homes whose trash and recycling are picked up by the township. Commissioners have been working hard over the past few years enacting policies and changing procedures to combat the increasing expenses associated with the

collection of trash and recycling. While all of these programs have helped save taxpayers money, it was still not enough to compensate for the increase in trash processing fees levied by the Delco Solid Waste Facility.

"Really the only way we can combat this fee is to increase our recycling numbers, while decreasing our trash tonnage. We have seen an increase in recycling tonnage over the past few months after going to weekly collections, but we are still not where we need to be. We need everyone to recycle as much as possible," said Commissioners VP Michael Higgins.

Fire Consolidation Committee Seeks Resident Volunteers

The Aston-Beechwood and Green Ridge Volunteer Fire Companies are seeking individuals interested in sitting on the "steering committee" for consolidation feasibility amongst the two fire companies.

Interested individuals are urged to send in a letter of interest to: Attn: Aston Fire and EMS Cooperative Partnership Committee 5021 Pennell Rd. Aston, PA 19014

The steering committee will consist of 4 individuals from each fire company, who are acting in the best of interest of the township, community, company and membership. These individuals will have the job of formulating a plan to present to the fire companies, township and residents depicting and describing how consolidation could benefit the township as a whole, as well as how it could be beneficial for the residents and membership.

Interested individuals should be:

1. Keeping in mind the best interest of the residents, township, and fire companies
2. Able to commit to monthly meetings
3. Capable of having an open mind and willing to put forth input
4. Able to work with a group to help make the best plan for the future of fire service in Aston Township

Interested individuals should not be:

1. Affiliated with or related to any member of either Aston fire company or affiliated with or related to any political official within the township
 2. Seeking any personal gain by wanting to be a part of this committee
- Letters of interest must be received by **Jan. 4, 2013**.

SVHS Marches Into First Place

Over the past decade, the Sun Valley Marching Band has evolved from a group that could not attract members to now being Delaware County's premier marching band.

The Vanguard Marching Band took first place in no less than six different Delco band competitions this year, winning special awards for percussion, drum major, and color guard units. To cap off the season, Sun Valley High School's marching band placed second at the state competition in Hershey, while Vanguard color guards placed fifth in the state.

"Congratulations to Band Director Tim Pry and everyone associated with that program. They did an outstanding job," said Fourth Ward Commissioner Gary Robinson.

Christmas & New Year's Day Trash Schedule

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

collected on Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesdays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

...Monday and Tuesday's trash and recycling routes will be picked up on Wednesday, Dec. 26, while

Wednesday and Thursday's routes are collected on Thursday, Dec. 27

...New Year's Day's regular trash and recycling routes will be picked up on Wednesday, Jan. 2

Property Maintenance Ordinances Being Updated

At their Nov. 21 meeting, Aston Commissioners amended the property maintenance ordinance to increase the frequency at which undeveloped land is mowed, moving the grass-cutting requirement up to once per month from March through November. The new mowing requirement applies to undeveloped land exceeding normal lot size that is devoid of trees, and includes keeping roadside grass to a height of no more than six inches.

A new ordinance has been proposed that will address groundwater infiltration into the public sewer system by requiring the inspection of all private sanitary sewer lateral connections at the time of sale of all residential or commercial buildings. Commissioners have expressed their intent to adopt a sewer line inspection ordinance at their Dec. 19 meeting.

Weekly Recycling Pick-ups Show Positive Returns

The township's Public Works Department started making weekly recycling collections on Oct. 1. This pilot program will continue until year end, when a cost-benefit analysis will be done to determine future viability.

On Nov. 21, Commissioners noted that early returns from the pilot program are encouraging, with overall recycling tonnage and the associated township revenue on the rise.

"We're not where we'd like to be yet, but it's very favorable," said Public Works Committee Chairman Gary Robinson. "I just want to complement those residents who are making a more conscious effort to recycle."

To keep the trend going, township officials want residents to change their mindset to thinking about how much of their recycling must be weeded out as trash, as opposed to how much of the trash can be recycled.

Collection of co-mingled recyclables is now being done on regular trash days. Please place recyclables in blue recycling cans or another clearly marked can with a lid.

If you are not sure if an item is recyclable, do not hesitate to call the township office for assistance.

Aston residents are reminded that separating recyclables from the regular trash is mandatory.

Township Sells Used Vehicles

On Nov. 21, Commissioners accepted the high bids received for a collection of out-of-service police and public works vehicles.

Chicago Motors Inc. won the bidding for two vehicles, getting a 2001 Ford Crown Victoria for \$607 and a 2004 Crown Vic for \$1,007.

KNF Auto Wholesalers bid \$277 for a 1969 Ford tractor, and Mike Veneziano submitted the best offer for a 1996 International trash truck at \$3,601.

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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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Green Ridge Benefits From Breakfast with Santa

The Green Ridge Fire Co. will get a portion of the proceeds when Applebee's restaurant (on Pennell Rd.) hosts Breakfast With Santa from 8-10am on **Sunday, Dec. 9**. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

Seniors Plan Christmas Parties

The Aston Senior Citizens will hold their Christmas luncheon in the Boothwyn Ballroom at 12:00 noon on **Thursday, Dec. 13**. Please do not arrive before 11:30am.

For info about upcoming ASC trips, call Alice Buschman at **610-494-3534**.

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The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will hold their Christmas Party at Lima Estates at 12:00 noon on **Monday, Dec. 17**. To make a reservation, call Josephine Schatzman at **610-497-2884** by Dec. 10.

Blood Drive Slated For Sandy Relief

On **Dec. 22**, a joint effort by the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co., Green Ridge Fire Co., and the Moose Lodge will host a blood drive for Hurricane Sandy Relief, from 9am to 2pm at the Aston-Beechwood Hall (off Mount Road, at bottom of Aston Mills Road). For more information, send email to **kspayd@astonbeechwood72.com**.

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

Public Meetings and Special Events

December 3-7, 2012 (Mon-Fri)

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

December 4, 2012 (Tuesday)

7 pm in municipal building
Board of Health Meeting

December 6, 2012 (Thursday)

7 pm in municipal building
Parks & Rec Committee Meeting

December 10, 2012 (Monday)

3 pm in municipal building
Police Committee Meeting

December 11, 2012 (Tuesday)

6:30 pm in municipal building
Public Works Committee Meeting

December 11, 2012 (Tuesday)
7:30 pm in municipal building
New Construction Committee Meeting

December 12, 2012 (Wednesday)

7 pm in municipal building
Executive Committee Meeting

December 18, 2012 (Tuesday)

6 pm at 67 Hidden Valley Road
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

December 19, 2012 (Wednesday)

7 pm in municipal building
Board of Commissioners Meeting

December 26, 2012 (Wednesday)

7 pm in municipal building
Planning Commission Meeting

'Smiles in the Playground' Announces Slogan Contest

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairwoman Carol Graham is looking for ways to jump start the Smiles in the Playground initiative that she is heading up. But first, a clever and catchy slogan is needed to launch a fundraising campaign, and the children of Aston's two elementary schools are being enlisted to help.

During the first few months of promoting the Smiles in the Playground initiative, "Every Child Deserves a Place to Play" has been the banner catchphrase, but Kit Spayd thinks that the students of Pennell and Aston Elementary Schools can come up with something even better.

Starting in January, suggestions for a new campaign slogan can be sent to the township administrative building (5021 Pennell Rd. Aston, PA 19014) c/o Parks & Recreation Committee Slogan Contest. The winner will be selected by members of the Smiles in the Playground Committee and will be publicly recognized at an upcoming commissioners' meeting and feted in a future edition of *Township Times*.

The ultimate goal is to create an Aston playground that features special equipment for handicapped children. The cost to purchase and install the equipment for this inclusive playground is estimated at \$150,000.

Contributions to support Smiles in the Playground can be sent directly to an account at Iron Workers Bank (3333 Concord Road), c/o Mort Smitham.

To learn more about Smiles in the Playground, contact Kit Spayd at **484-995-3274** or kspayd@comcast.net.



“Count” Matt-Daniel Wenceslao and his mom Diabelle recently enjoyed using some of the new PreSchool Connections toys that were obtained through a state library grant and are now in the Aston Public Library’s picture book area.

*

Storytimes Open At Library

Kids Storytimes, for ages 2-6, are still being offered every week at **10:30am on Tuesdays**, and spaces are currently available. Sign up at the library desk or online at www.astonlibrary.org.

*The library still needs volunteer help to do many important jobs, such as calling patrons, putting books in order, and delivering flyers and posters. Pick up an application at the library's front desk or submit a volunteer application online at tinyurl.com/APLVolApp.

*The Friends of the Aston Public Library are raffling off a Christmas basket filled with all the comforts for pleasure reading. Tickets are \$2 each, or 3 for \$5, or 7 for \$10. Check out this loaded gift basket at the library.

*The library is now collecting entries for the Young Poets of Delaware county Poetry Competition. The deadline for submissions is **Dec. 7**.

Prizes will include savings bonds and publication in a book of winning entries. Students in grades K-12 may enter. Get complete rules online or at the library desk.

*The library is holding an Art Contest for students in grades K-12. Entries in a wide variety of formats will be accepted at the library until **Dec. 31**. Please include the title of the artwork, the artist’s name, age, address, phone number, school and grade on the back of each piece. Go to the library’s website for more information.

*Thanks to a grant from the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Foundation and Glen Riddle Rotary, library staff now have cordless phones and the library’s new phone system allows patrons to access information and leave a message when the library is closed.



Brandon Blankenship holds the jar filled with Tootsie Rolls and Dum Dums that he won in the library’s Candy-Counting Contest.

Lions Seek Donations To Help Maintain Holiday Tradition

The Aston Township Lions Club will be holding their 60th annual Christmas Party for local needy children this month. Donations are needed to keep this compassionate tradition alive.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to support this specific program, make checks payable to Aston Lions Charitable Foundation and send to Aston Lions Childrens Party, P.O. Box 2052, Aston PA 19014-0052.

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The Aston Township Lions Club’s semi-annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Nov. 4 was another rousing success, serving over 400 hungry patrons, including the two young diners pictured below.



To order an engraved Memorial Garden brick as a Christmas gift call Maryann Bullen at 610-494-2337.

Scouts Hold Food Drives

Food drives recently held by two scouting groups in Aston Township will help fill the cupboards of local families over the holiday season.

Boy Scout Troop 225 (out of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church) collected a total of 3,354 canned goods that were donated to the Sisters of Charity in Chester to help make food baskets for local needy families, AIDS patients, and battered women.

Meanwhile, Cub Scout Pack 77 and Boy Scout Troop 292 (out of Mount Hope United Methodist Church) collected 2,915 canned goods to help stock Mount Hope’s own food bank.

“We are so thankful for the generosity of our local community in helping make this food drive a huge success,” said Scout Leader Barry Pinkowicz.

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The efforts of the group above helped produce the impressive results you see below.



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Concord Road Cleaned

...and in other Scouting news, members of Troop 225 completed another highway cleanup of Concord Road on Oct. 27, when 14 scouts and 11 adults collected 15 bags of trash from the roadside.

The next clean-up day will be in March 2013 – Please slow down when you drive by these volunteer workers.

Read an expanded version of each month's newsletter at the new and improved www.astontownship.net



Smiles in the Playground had a successful fundraising kickoff at Zac's Hamburgers on Sept. 25. Chairwoman Kit Spayd expressed her gratitude, saying: "The generosity of the community and the dedication to our mission has been overwhelming."

ABA "Night Out" A Success

Aston Business Association members held another "Night Out in Aston" fundraiser on Nov. 15 to support the Neighbors Helping Neighbors holiday meals program, and the effort was deemed an unqualified success. A portion of the proceeds from meals served at participating Aston eateries on this date helped provide Thanksgiving turkey dinners for needy families in our township.

These establishments were thanked as "Night Out" participants: Cocco's Pizza, Casa Prego, Capriotti's, Hennessey's, Pretzel Boys, Ice Works Pub & Grill, Ice Works Café, Barnaby's, and Zac's Hamburgers.

*

If you know of an Aston family that needs assistance from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food bank this holiday season, the Aston Business Association wants to help fill the void. Persons or organizations that might want to donate to support this cause, and residents who know of a needy family in Aston Township, are asked to call Eileen Nelson at **610-840-2506**.

The ABA has been helping to brighten the holidays of Aston families in need for the past several years, and is committed to continuing the tradition. "No Aston resident should ever go hungry, especially during the holidays," notes Commissioners President Jim Stigale.

Leaf Bagging Will Continue

The Board of Commissioners has agreed to continue with the curbside collection of bagged leaves during the annual **Leaf Collection season**, which **runs from Oct. 29 to Dec. 21**.

Biodegradable paper leaf bags are available at local hardware stores.

No plastic bags will be collected.

In 2011, the Board of Commissioners decided to test out this form of collections, after many years of allowing residents to rake leaves into the street, and then picking them up with a vacuum truck. Some residents have expressed their dislike for the new collection method, while others have praised bagged leaf pick-ups.

The decision to continue with bagged leaf collections was not an easy one. The two main factors that drove this decision were cost and efficiency.

Commissioners took many calls on both sides of the issue and spent countless hours with Public Works Department employees and township administrators, weighing the costs and benefits of the program, but the cost savings through reduced expenses was undeniable.

The Public Works crew needed to pick up bagged leaves is much smaller than the crew needed to operate the leaf vacuum. As a result, Public Works employees can now be used for other jobs that used to be contracted out.

Roughly \$36,500 was saved in 2011 through leaf bagging.

Commissioners President Jim Stigale empathized that this form of collection puts a burden on some residents. He believes, however, that the township will benefit overall from bagged leaf pick-ups.

If you, or an Aston resident you know, is physically unable to bag leaves, please call the township office at **610-494-1636**. The Administrative Department will gladly assist any resident in finding a community organization to help.

Commissioners Weigh Change To Age-Restricted Plan

The Board of Commissioners recently heard testimony to support a requested land development plan change from an approved mix of senior housing types to one generic type.

The Residences at Star Hill is a planned 10-acre development off Old

Pennell Road that was approved in 2010 for 284 housing units (199 condos, 45 assisted living, 40 skilled nursing). Property Owner Joe Grace now wants to build the exact same four-building layout as earlier proposed, but with only 235 "age-restricted" units that could be sold to anyone over age 55.

Even with fewer units, the proposed housing facility would still offer a common 9,000-square foot indoor recreational area that would feature a computer room, workout rooms, and a theater room, according to Grace.

The mix of one- and two-bedroom units at the Residences at Star Hill is yet to be determined, as is the addition of an outdoor pool, said Grace.

Liquor License Transfer Approved

The inter-municipal transfer of a liquor license from Sweeney's Pub in Marcus Hook to a new restaurant in the Shoppes at Broadway Plaza on Pennell Road was unanimously approved by Aston Commissioners at their Oct. 17 meeting. The "casual, but upscale grill/pub," will be located in what was most recently a Chinese restaurant, next to the Aston Post Office.

The new restaurant will be open from 11am-2am, providing a relaxing, non-smoking environment without a dance floor or loud live bands.

The restaurant operators have a 10-year lease for their new Aston eatery, and expect to hire about two dozen full-time and part-time employees.

Recycling Saves Taxpayer \$\$\$

The amount that Aston residents pay for trash disposal depends on how much trash is collected AND how much weight is removed from the trash through recycling.

For the month of October 2012 alone, a total of 91 tons of co-mingled recyclables were collected curbside by township crews; 7.1 tons of newspaper were dropped off at the container behind the municipal building; 97 lbs. of aluminum cans were collected by the Aston Lions Club; and 1,460 lbs. of scrap metal and 200 gallons of used motor oil were collected.

October's recycling collections generated a total township revenue of \$1,092, while saving the township thousands of dollars in trash processing surcharges.

Aston Onboard With Stray Proposal

The Delaware County Animal Protection Board (DCAPB) is seeking the financial support that is needed to handle the county's stray animals.

Delaware County has not had a central facility for handling all strays since the Delco SPCA converted to a no-kill shelter on Jan. 1. Throughout 2012, Delco towns have been receiving stray services through an interim agreement with the Chester County SPCA.

A Delco stray facility was to be built off Calcon Hook Road and was to open this past spring, but the estimated cost of construction led county council to pull the plug on the proposed facility.

The DCAPB is now seeking financial commitments from all Delco municipalities to continue interim services from Chester County, and is asking for those commitments to be firmed up with formal resolutions.

Aston Commissioners addressed the DCAPB's renewed request for fiscal support at their Oct. 17 meeting, voting unanimously to formally enter into the proposed agreement.

The conditions that the DCAPB is proposing for member municipalities include membership from Jan. 1, 2013 through 2017, and payment of an annual fee of \$1,250. The annual membership fee will rise over the five-year term of the commitment, with increases being tied to the consumer price index.

With payment of annual dues, each municipality will be given credit for the handling of five stray dogs over the next year. Once the credit is expended, each additional dog will cost \$250 in 2013 and \$275 in 2014.

Rails-to-Trails Project Eyes Construction Start

According to Rails-to-Trails advocate Mike Fusco, the long-awaited project will begin construction next year.

Aiming to convert sections of abandoned creekside railroad beds into public walking trails in Aston and Middletown Townships, Rails-to-Trails organizers will advertise for bids in March, then begin the first of three construction phases in July 2013. The first phase of the walking trail will be completed in about 14 months, Fusco estimates.

Lions Need Your Help To Make A Difference

The many good works of the Aston Township Lions Club are only possible with the support of the community that they serve.

Lions provide free wheelchairs to persons in need, and currently have a waiting list, but **the club is in short supply of gently-used lightweight wheelchairs.** All donors will get a valuation letter for IRS use.

If anyone has a late model wheelchair 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 Lions will be hosting an outdoor BBQ fundraiser at the Community Center this Spring, tentatively slated for April 13, 2013.

Retired Police Captain Fills Civil Service Post

Captain John McKenna, of Donnelly Avenue, who retired from 58 years of police work earlier this year, has been named by Aston Commissioners to complete the unexpired term of Otto Zittarelli on the Civil Service Commission. McKenna's interim term will expire on Jan. 1, 2017.

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.**

Historical Society Seeks New Members

The Aston Township Historical Society is looking for a few good preservation-minded men and women to swell their ranks. The non-profit organization meets quarterly at the municipal building, and strives to provide a wide variety of history-related speakers for their audiences.

Interested parties can learn more about the ATHS through a link on the township's website.

For information on upcoming public ATHS meetings and presentations, contact Karen Micka at **610-358-3511.**

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.

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, targeting unlocked cars/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.

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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The newly-seated officers of the General Federation of Women's Club of Aston include (left to right) Treasurer Melissa Powell, President Norma Locke, Vice President Marionette Shahadi, and Secretary Betty Boyd.

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Eagle Scouts Need Projects

Boy Scout Troop 225 Scoutmaster Glenn Clark is seeking community, church, or school improvements that might serve as senior projects for future Eagle Scouts. Call Clark at **610-494-3573**.

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 bring waste to the municipal building, and DO NOT PLACE IN TRASH CANS WITH REGULAR TRASH.** Direct questions to Aston Township Deputy Health Officer James Talbot at **610-494-0384**.

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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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.

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You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/astonlibrary

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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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Sewer Authority Steps Up Delinquent Collections

The Board of Commissioners fully supports and applauds the recent efforts of the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority to collect delinquent sewer service fees. In the past two years, more aggressive collections have reduced the amount owed to the sewer authority from \$2.92 million down to just \$1.56 million, according to Commissioners VP Michael Higgins, who serves as Sewer Authority Committee Chairman. Delinquent accounts have been reduced from 2,920 down to 1,566, since the third quarter of 2010.

"I commend the sewer authority for the tremendous collection efforts they've put forth," Higgins stated. "That's a lot of money."

The additional revenue has helped the sewer board reduce an anticipated 11% rate increase down to a 4.5% hike this year, and put some money back into capital improvements.

Higgins noted that the recent launch of a new SWDCMA billing system, which sends out sewer bills to certified addresses, will help eliminate the popular non-payment excuse of "I never received a bill."

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.

Anti-Bullying Initiative Helps Students and Families

Teach Anti-Bullying, Inc. is a non-profit organization that is trumpeting the message that bullying is not acceptable behavior in schools or the community at large.

The founder of Teach Anti-Bullying is Dr. Claudio Cerullo, who also serves as VP of the Glen Riddle Rotary. Delco District Attorney Jack Whalen recently threw his support behind the all-volunteer Teach Anti-Bullying initiative.

Go to www.teachantibullying.com to learn more.

Tips Offered To Combat Sewer Line Infiltration

The seepage of millions of gallons of rainwater into the sanitary sewer system costs sewer customers thousands of dollars for unnecessary treatment every year.

Commissioners VP Michael Higgins recently let all Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority customers know that township and sewer authority officials are determined to address this problem.

Reducing stormwater infiltration into the system is seen as a critical step in reducing sewage treatment costs.

Infiltration occurs through defective sewer laterals that connect each customer to the sewer main beneath the street; through vent pipes located at or below ground level; or through a sump pump or gutter system being directly connected to a sanitary waste system, Higgins explained.

Focusing on vent covers that sit below grade, SWDCMA Board Member Bob Naef recently gave a demonstration of how to easily correct this problem by

inserting a 4-inch plastic sleeve to raise the cover. The slotted metal vent covers are crucial to the performance of gravity-fed sewer lines, but should not be a source of infiltration.

Community Day

Draws Record Crowd

The Aston Business Association hosted the 11th Annual Community Day and Business Expo at the Community Center on Oct. 6, with an estimated record crowd of over 5,000 Aston residents turning out to enjoy the festivities.

The fun-filled day began with a parade that marched down Concord Road from Neumann University to the Community Center. Thanks to Nancy Bowden and Maureen Dillon, 65 groups participated in the procession, including the Decorated Bike Brigade, who were also treated to a Bike Rodeo (organized by Karen May and her nursing students) at Neumann this year, then rode alongside members of the Aston PD's Bike Patrol.

John and Bill Venuti were this year's parade grand marshals, while special recognition was given to Outstanding Citizen of the Year Kit Spayd.

Inside the Rick Owsley Fieldhouse, the Aston Business Expo offered an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to display their products and services.

The opening festivities included Rick Choate singing the national anthem and performances by the Neumann University Chorale, led by Dr. Yuki, and the Sun Valley Chorus, while SVROTC members handled the flag-raising duties.

Outdoor offerings included a dozen rides and amusements from Bette's Fun Center, children's games, contests, a DJ and live music, dancing, karate demonstrations, and a wide variety of foods to sample from 14 local eateries. And speaking of free food, 2,000 hot dogs and 1,500 hamburgers donated by Giant Foods were lovingly cooked up and served by a team of volunteer chefs like Police Chief Dan Ruggieri, Township Manager Dick Lehr, and ABA President Eileen Nelson.

A total of 32 non-profit organizations participated by setting up information tables, all of which were organized by Joe DuVouno.

Community Day Coordinator Maryann Bullen publicly thanked all

those who had a helping hand in making this event a record breaker.

"More than ever, the combined effort of all shows the true strength of this Aston Township community," said Bullen.



The 11th Annual Aston Township Community Day & Business Expo started with a parade...



...including a record number of participating organizations, marchers, and floats.



The Decorated Bike Brigade had many entries...



...while some groups carried important messages.



On Community Day 2012, face painters displayed their artistic talents on the faces of Kamryn Sarmento (left) and Madison Ward.



...while the Schweikert family was just plain stylin' at the photo booth.

Tree Topps Thanked For Live Donation

Mark Filbert, the owner of Tree Topps of Aston, has jumped in again to render assistance when the township needed it. Filbert's tree-trimming firm had the heavy equipment needed to help local fire companies remove a large fallen tree off Pennell Road earlier this year, but this time it was the timely creation of a green screen at the Community Center.

The recent outdoor installation of a large red emergency generator had given rise to the need for a green buffer. Thanks to Tree Topps, 15 saplings, 3 mature pines, and several bushes and shrubs were donated and planted to create a visual shield, all in time for Aston's annual showcase on Community Day, Oct. 6.

On Oct. 17, Filbert was publicly thanked for his helpful efforts by Commissioner and Public Works Committee Chairman Gary Robinson. "Mark, we want to again acknowledge your very generous donations and thank you for all you do for our township throughout the year," Robinson stated.
