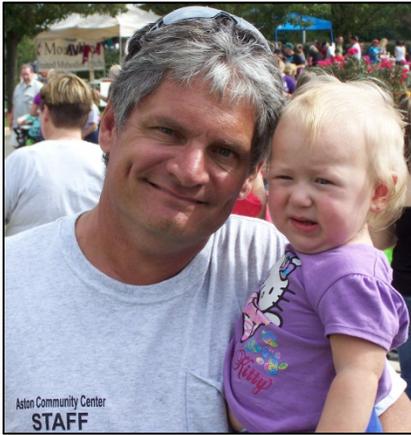


Township Times

Pride In Our Community

Volume 8; Issue 11

November 2012



Community Center Head Custodian Jim Persing had a busy day on Oct. 6, but not too busy for a hug from granddaughter Jaylee.

*



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.

*

Please Support ABA's "Night Out"

Aston Business Association members will be holding a "Night Out in Aston" fundraiser on **Thursday, Nov. 15** to support the Neighbors Helping Neighbors holiday meals program. A portion of the proceeds from meals served at participating Aston eateries on this date will help provide Thanksgiving turkey dinners for needy families in our township.

The following establishments are among the "Night Out" participants:

- Cocco's Pizza, Casa Prego, Capriotti's, Hennessey's, Pretzel Boys, Ice Works Cafe, Ice Works Pub & Grill, Barnaby's, and Zac's Hamburgers
- Check public access channels 10 or 45 for hours and a full list of participants.

ABA Offers Holiday Help

If you know of an Aston family that needs assistance from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food bank this holiday season, the Aston Business Association is offering 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.

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"

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.

Weekly Recycling Pick-ups Underway

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.

"Please recycle as much as possible to make this program a success," urges Commissioner Gary Robinson, speaking on behalf of all township officials.

Commissioners were waiting until the volume of recycling collections had grown to justify the expense of moving from bi-weekly to weekly collections. Collection of co-mingled recyclables will now be 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.

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.

'Smiles in the Playground' Lifts Off

Commissioner/Parks & Recreation Committee Chairwoman Carol Graham recently accepted a \$7,500 PECO Green Region Grant and a \$400 check from the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Aston to help jump start the Smiles in the Playground initiative that Graham is heading up.

The 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**.

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

Mixing Science and Art

Residents are cordially invited to attend a free educational presentation on the environment from 7:30-8pm on **Wednesday, Nov. 7** at the Ridley Creek State Park Mansion Ballroom in Edgmont. Co-sponsored by the CRC Watersheds Association and entitled 'Watershed Science with the Arts,' the slide show will be presented by Vivian Williams, who is the education programs manager at Stroud Water Research, and two hands-on family art projects will be offered as well.

Lionesses Host Craft Show

The Aston Lioness Club will be holding its annual Craft Show from 10am-3pm on **Sunday, Nov. 11** at the Aston Community Center. Admission is free, so come out and look over a wide variety of hand-crafted items and unique gifts for shoppers of all ages. Attendees will also enjoy refreshments, homemade baked goods, mini massages, and more.

To participate as a vendor call Debbie Moloko at **610-494-1188**.

Craft Vendors Sought; New Officers Seated

The American Legion Auxiliary of Post 926 is seeking additional vendors for its Craft Show (9am-3pm) on **Sunday, Nov. 25** at the ALA's 3220 Concord Road home. Table space is \$20. Interested parties can call Maryanne Bradley at **610-235-6320**.

ALA 926 recently announced their newly-seated officers for 2012-13, including President Lorie Smith, Vice President Janet Yost, Secretary Diane Garrity, Treasurer Maryann Carpinelli, Chaplain Judy Sexton, Historian Maryanne Bradley, and Sergeants at Arms Bea Burrell and Ruth Muraska. Two junior members are department officers, including President Julie Carpinelli and Eastern Vice President Laura Kane.

The next meeting of ALA 926 will be held at 7pm on **Tuesday, Nov. 13**. Call Judy Sexton at **610-494-0990** for membership information.

Seniors Plan Meetings

The Aston Senior Citizens will hold their next meeting at the Community Center at 10:30am on **Thursday, Nov. 15**. The catered luncheon will feature a Thanksgiving menu and Magician Bill Bowersox.

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

*

The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will hold their next monthly meeting at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road, starting at 10:45am on **Monday, Nov. 26**. New members are welcome.

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

AARP is hosting a bus trip to Atlantic City to see "Christmas in the White Mountains with Don Ho" at Resorts

Casino on **Nov. 7**. The cost is \$24 per person, which includes show, transportation, and a \$10 voucher. Bus leaves Furey Road at 10am. For more info, call Margo at **610-358-0704**.

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

Public Meetings and Special Events

October 29, 2012 (Monday)
Bagged Leaf Collections Begin

November 5-9, 2012 (Mon-Fri)
Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

November 6, 2012 (Tuesday)
Election Day
PLEASE VOTE!

November 12, 2012 (Monday)
6:30 pm in municipal building
Public Works Committee Meeting

November 12, 2012 (Monday)
7 pm in municipal building
New Construction Committee Meeting

November 13, 2012 (Tuesday)
3 pm in municipal building
Police Committee Meeting

November 13, 2012 (Tuesday)
7 pm in municipal building
Executive Committee Meeting

November 20, 2012 (Tuesday)
7 pm at Aston Public Library
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

November 21, 2012 (Wednesday)
7 pm in municipal building
Board of Commissioners Meeting

November 22 & 23, 2012 (Thurs. & Fri)
Township offices closed;
No trash or recycling collected
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27, 2012 (Tuesday)
6:30 pm in municipal building
Ordinance Committee Meeting

November 27, 2012 (Tuesday)
7 pm in municipal building
Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

November 28, 2012 (Wednesday)
7 pm in municipal building
Planning Commission Meeting

November 29, 2012 (Thursday)

1 pm in municipal building
Finance Committee Meeting

November 29, 2012 (Thursday)

4 pm in municipal building
Technology Committee Meeting

Commissioners Eye New Property Maintenance Laws

At their Nov. 21 meeting, Aston Commissioners will consider adopting a new law that will address groundwater infiltration into the public sewer system by requiring the video inspection of all private sanitary sewer lateral connections at the time of sale of all residential or commercial buildings.

Another proposed ordinance will increase the frequency at which undeveloped land is mowed, moving the grass-cutting requirement up to once per month, from April through October.

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.

**Congratulations to Aston's own
Maryann Bullen
on her recent appointment as
a member of the
Delaware County Library Board.**



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



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.



...and bragging rights were earned by the outcome of a joust.

Storytimes Offered At Library

Infant Storytime is returning to Aston Public Library! "Lapsit" Storytime, for babies up to 2, will be held at **10am on Mondays in November**.

Kids Storytimes, for ages 2-6, are still being offered every week at **10:30am on Tuesdays**, and spaces are currently available.

Sign up for either of these popular Storytimes at the library desk or online at www.astonlibrary.org.

*Chair Yoga classes will be held at 6:30pm for six Wednesdays, starting **Nov. 7**. Pre-register at the library or online today.

Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga, practiced with the support of a chair, and is appropriate for all shapes, sizes, ages, and genders.

Continuation of this popular program has been made possible by the support of the Friends of the Aston Public Library.

*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 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.

*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 for first place winners, and publication in a book for all first, second, and third-place winners. Students in grades K-12 may enter. Get complete rules online or at the library desk.

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



Danielle and Khloe Speigner can't get enough of the Aston Public Library: "My daughter and I love to read books, so when we are at the library, we read about 10 books, then pick three to take home. She loves to pick books out, and I love watching her do it, so I hope we can come to the library for many years to come," says Mrs. Speigner.



This group was among the vendors and volunteers who helped the Friends of the Library raise \$800 at the inaugural Friends' Harvest Fest on Oct. 20, held to help offset state funding cuts for library programs. Through the Friends' support, the library has a new cash register and vacuum cleaner.



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. On Oct. 22, the group enjoyed a presentation by Friends of the Caleb Pusey House President Ray Peden on the 330-year lifetime of the historic English cottage, located on Race Street in Upland.

Thanksgiving Weekend Trash Schedule

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on **Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23**

Monday's and Tuesday's regular trash and recycling routes will be picked up on **Monday, Nov. 19**; Wednesday's and Thursday's regular routes will be picked up on **Tuesday, Nov. 20**; and Friday's regular route will be picked up on **Wednesday, Nov. 21**.

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," as the owners (Slowdown, Inc.) describe it, 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.

Township Seeks Bids For Used Vehicles

The township is now taking bids for the sale of a 1996 International trash truck, which was replaced earlier this year by a new vehicle. **The deadline for bid submissions is Nov. 12.**

Other used township vehicles that may also be destined for the auction block include high-mileage Ford Crown Victorias.

All bids should be sent to the township office at 5021 Pennell Road, Aston, PA, 19014, attention Township Manager/Secretary Dick Lehr.

Feed Your Lawn This Fall

To improve your lawn next year, start a compost pile with fallen leaves this year. Mix in non-meat kitchen scraps or other "green" organic matter. Compost can be used next year to condition your soil so that it can absorb more rain water. Purchase a compost bin and attend a composting workshop hosted by your County Solid Waste Authority, Master Gardeners, or Pennsylvania Resources Council.

Mow fallen leaves with a mulching mower and leave the fragments in the lawn as mulch for grass plants.

Fertilize in late fall with a slow-release, organic fertilizer to encourage root development, which will help create a healthier, more resilient lawn next year.

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.

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.



School crossing guard Joan Gusler (center) was recently presented with a clock as a token of appreciation from Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri, recognizing 25 years of service to the community. Joan's good friend, Sister Stephanie Unger OSF, was asked to join her in the photo.

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 you can help the Lions fill the needs of others, please call **610-368-3435** or **610-517-9362** or send a note to Aston Lions C. F. Inc., P.O. Box 2052, Aston, PA 19014-0052.

The Lions will be hosting their semi-annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at the Community Center on **Nov. 4**, and an outdoor BBQ fundraiser is 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.**

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 September 2012 alone, a total of 72 tons of co-mingled recyclables were collected curbside by township crews; 8.3 tons of newspaper were dropped off at the container behind the municipal building; and 1,580 lbs. of scrap metal and 680 gallons of used motor oil were collected. Recycling collections generated a total township revenue of \$1,933, while saving the township thousands of dollars in trash processing surcharges.

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 AHS through a link on the township's website.

For information on upcoming public AHS 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.

Residents should report any suspicious persons or vehicles by dialing 911.

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.

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**.

Lions Offer Medical Equipment

The Aston Lions Club loans medical equipment like 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.



After Commissioner Mark Osborn presented a township proclamation on Sept. 19, members of the Venuti family, including (right to left) brothers John Jr. and Bill and their Aunt Carrie, received a standing ovation from the room in recognition of 53 years of community service. Venuti's Hardware Store - a Five Points Intersection fixture since 1959 - closed on Sept. 3.

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**.

**Visit the Aston Township
Lions Club's new website at
www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/astont/**

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.

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.

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. Teach Anti-Bullying and the Glen Riddle Rotary will be co-hosting this year's Delaware County Disabilities Fair at the Granite Run Mall from **Sept. 12-16**.

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.

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 at

www.facebook.com/astonlibrary

Township Appreciates Cooperation

Aston Township officials and the members of the Public Works and Code Enforcement Departments would like to thank those residents who responded to township notices about overgrown weeds and grass along the curbline by taking the time to remove the unsightly overgrowth.

Keeping the curb area neat is just as important as mowing lawns, as it

keeps our residential neighborhoods looking clean and inviting.

Keeping the curb free of weeds and overgrowth is required by ordinance. Your continued cooperation will be greatly appreciated.



At Commissioners' Sept. 19 meeting, SWDCMA Board Member Bob Naef showed residents how to fix the problem of stormwater infiltrating into the sewer system through vent covers that sit below grade.

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.



(Above) Kit Spayd, of Maple Lane, flanked here by her mother, Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham and Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn, and joined by her father Jim Graham and husband Nick Spayd, was recently named 2012 Aston Township Outstanding Citizen of the Year; (Below) Kit enjoys a group hug from her daughters Evelyn (left) and Olivia.



Spayd Named Citizen of the Year

Mrs. Katherine (Kit) Spayd was recently named the 2012 Aston Township Outstanding Citizen of the Year, earning the title through an endless succession of volunteer efforts to benefit others.

The Maple Lane resident has lived in the Aston Mills section of the township all her life, and volunteering on behalf of the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. has always been a focal point of the Spayd and Graham households.

Kit has served as trustee and vice president of the A-BFC, and is currently serving her second term as president. She has received the President's Award three straight years, and has helped plan and host countless fire company events and fundraisers.

But Spayd's community service is not limited to a fire company, as she has also served on the Aston Township Veterans Memorial Committee, the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Parks & Recreation Committee, and the Smiles in the Playground Subcommittee.

Spayd gives freely of her time to support Autism Speaks and the Girl Scouts of America; has participated in local park clean-up days; and has officiated both the Aston Community Easter Egg Hunt and the Second Ward Egg Hunt for several years.



(Above) Police Officers Kevin Hall (left) and Joshua Micun were recently commended by Chief Dan Ruggieri for their actions in saving a man's life; (Below) Meanwhile, Officers David Gasiorowski (center), Michael Castagliuolo, and Dennis Killian (not pictured) received commendations and medals for their role in disarming and assisting a suicidal resident.



Police Feted For Actions

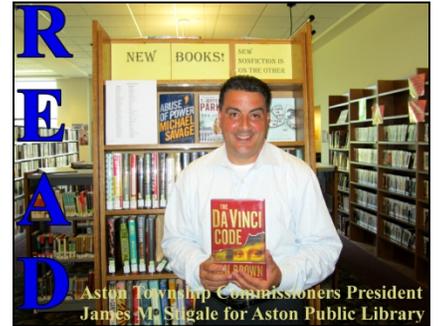
The Sept. 19 Commissioners' meeting was a very good day for five Aston Township police officers.

Two officers - Joshua Micun and Kevin Hall - received commendations of merit for their May 26 response to a call that found a 74-year-old man unconscious in his car. Though the subject had no pulse, the administering of CPR revived him.

Without the immediate medical attention rendered by the first responders, the unresponsive man probably would have died, said Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri.

Three Aston patrolmen, including Officers Dennis Killian, Michael Castagliuolo, and David Gasiorowski, earned framed commendations and medals for a May 28 incident that required both courage and compassion, when an agitated and suicidal subject was confronted in his basement, with a loaded shotgun lying in his lap.

All five commended officers also received American flags that had been flown over the state capitol. The gift was presented on behalf of PA State Representative Stephen Barrar.



Commissioners President Jim Stigale is the latest Aston official to lend his support to the library's READ program.
