



Aston Township
Established 1688

FREE!

TOWNSHIP TIMES

Pride in our Community

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Winter Fun Festival and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 6

Come out and celebrate the holidays at the Christmas Tree Lighting and Winter Fun Festival on Friday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Aston Community Center.

This year's theme is an Old Fashioned Christmas. Santa will be available for pictures and there will be refreshments, Christmas carolers, crafts and letters to Santa.

Canned goods and non-perishables will be collected to benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors. All children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is presented by the Aston Township Parks and Recreation Committee.

2014 Operating Budget Reflects no Increase in Millage or Service Fees

Good news residents! The proposed 2014 operating budget will not increase millage or the service fee for Aston Township residents.

Bagged Leaf Collection Ends Dec. 20

Just a reminder to Township residents that bagged leaf collection ends on Friday, December 20. All leaves must be placed at curbside in a container, biodegradable bag or in a trash container.

The Township is closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25. Tuesday and Wednesday's trash and recycling will be picked up on Thursday, December 26. Thursday and Friday's trash and recycling will be picked up on Friday, December 27.

Aston Celebrates Local Soldier's Homecoming



SFC James Natiello celebrates his homecoming at the Aston American Legion with his mother Jackie, wife Kristy, and father Jock.



Donald P. Jenkins Jr., 8th District Deputy Commander and Membership Chairman, presents SFC Natiello with his certificate and membership card.

Sergeant First Class James Natiello was recently welcomed home with a reception at the Aston American Legion 926. More than 40 friends and family members were on hand to welcome Natiello and his wife Kristy back from Germany, where they have been stationed the past six years. Natiello has been in the Army for 16 years and has done several tours of duty, including three in Afghanistan and one each in Iraq, Kosovo, and Korea.

Natiello and his family arrived by limo at the American Legion with a police escort, as well as a 20 motorcycle procession including riders from Hogs for Heros, the Freedom Riders and PCOM. The Aston American Legion presented Natiello with a certificate of recognition, as well as a paid membership to American Legions worldwide. Natiello thanked his wife,

his mother as well as the other side of his family for their support. "I do appreciate it. I earned this because of the people I served with, those that did not make it back. They deserve this recognition as well. Thank you to those that have served before me," said SFC Natiello.

Local businesses including Giant, Pretzel Boys, Dunkin Donuts, Cocco's Pizza, Wawa, Blair's Florist, Unique Limousine Concepts, E&S Auto Parts, Legion Riders, Patriot Guard, the Aston Police Department and the Green Ridge Fire Department all donated services for the celebration.

Aston Business Association Sponsors Neighbors Helping Neighbors

With the holidays fast approaching it is time for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program to step up its efforts once again. This program offers you many different ways to give back to the community. During the month of November any and all monetary, gift card, or food donations would be greatly appreciated. After Thanksgiving we get busy.

We are looking for people interested in adopting families, people donating gift cards, food, unopened toys, and finally people who are available to wrap gifts. If you are interested in this program and would be willing to donate or volunteer in any way please contact James Stigale at stigale@comcast.net.

December's Tip for Community Stormwater Management

WINTERIZE RAIN BARREL; RELAX

Take a well-earned break from yard work. Disconnect hoses from your rain barrel and store hoses to avoid damage from freezing. As the wintry mix of snow and rain events come along, monitor the melt runoff and see where more improvements might be made next year to keep the water on the property. Your neighbors will thank you and your community will benefit from reduced flooding, safer water, cleaner streams and a healthier environment.

Learn more from downloading CRC's rain garden brochure: www.crcwatersheds.org/resources/view/96

Check out Swarthmore College's Sustainability web site: www.scottarboretum.org/Sustainability/ourpractices.html

Aston Seniors Meeting

The Aston Seniors meet the fourth Thursday of every month at 10:45 a.m. in the Aston Community Center on Concord Road. Seniors in the Penn-Delco School District age 55 or older are welcome to join at any time throughout the year beginning this month.

Aston seniors have several trips throughout the year and welcome non-members to join and bring their friends.

Aston Township Lions in Need of Gently Used Wheelchair Donations

The Aston Township Lions Club has been loaning hospital equipment to those in Aston and surrounding communities for many years.

The Club needs gently used wheel chairs as our supply has been exhausted. If you have a wheel chair that you are willing to donate, call Anthony at 610-485-6310 or mail the Aston Twp. Lions Club, P. O. Box 2052, Aston, PA 19014-0052. If you are in need of hospital equipment including walkers, potty



Keep Recycling Strong During the Holidays

Please continue recycling everything you can. Making the community a more sustainable and environment-friendly place is so beneficial to the township as a whole, but especially the Aston youth, who will go on to follow our example and also make recycling a priority. Through our recycling partner, ReCommunity, we can help uphold the high environmental standard that Aston has put into place.

chairs, shower chairs, or crutches, please call Anthony at the number above or contact any Lions Club member.

General Federation of Women's Club to Meet

General Federation of Women's Club Aston invites all women to join the GFWC.

We are a volunteer organization serving our community and many charities throughout the county. The club meets the 4th Monday of every month from September-June at the Aston Community Center. Come to one meeting and see what we are all about.

AARP Holiday Meeting Dec. 16

Your local Aston Chichester AARP Chapter will celebrate its Christmas Party at Lima Estates on Monday, December 16 at noon.

Also, a reminder that our January 27, 2014 meeting will be held at a new location, the Cavalry Episcopal Church on Mount Road in Aston.

For more info on both events, please call President Ruth Brusstar, at 610-566-2632. New members are welcome.

Lions Celebrate 65th Anniversary

On October 17 the Aston Township Lions celebrated their 65th Charter Night. The Lions Club has been serving Aston and surrounding communities since 1948 and was sponsored by the Marcus Hook Lions.

The club has held a Children's Christ-

mas Party for invited children for over 60 of those years. This year more than 100 children will be invited to the party. If anyone would like to assist the Lions financially, please send a check to: Aston Lions C. F., Inc. P. O. Box 2052, Aston, PA 19014-0052. This is a tax deductible donation.

The Aston Lions wish to thank our community for their support over our many years of service.

Brandywine Harp Orchestra at Neumann December 12

Janet Whitman and the Brandywine Harp Orchestra return to Neumann University's stage as part of the 2013 Cultural Arts Forum program on Thursday, December 12, at 1:30 p.m.

America's premier harp orchestra brings out its Celtic Connections, a concert filled with Irish and Scottish traditional and contemporary holiday music. Performer/director Janet Whitman, a National Scottish Harp Champion, will delight the audience with this talented and unique ensemble of 15 harpers and singers with extensive musical backgrounds from the Brandywine Valley.

General admission is \$7. The program is free for Cultural Arts Forum members and Neumann University students with ID. Performance will be held in the Fred P. Meagher Theatre in the campus Life Center. For more information please call 610-558-5626.

Engraved Memorial Garden bricks make great birthday or remembrance gifts. Call Maryann Bullen at 610-494-2337.

To submit an item to the newsletter, email newsletter@astontownship.net

ReCommunity Launches New Recycling Education Video

In honor of America Recycles Day, ReCommunity, the largest “pure-play” recycling company in the United States, released a guided video journey through a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). The new virtual MRF tour helps promote recycling education in the community.

To check out the video, visit www.recommunity.com/education.

Food Collection and Santa Day Dec. 14

On December 14 at 9 a.m., Aston-Beechwood Fire Company is partnering with the Neighbor’s helping Neighbor’s group in a canned goods and non-perishables collection (non expired). If you will not be home and would like to participate please leave your donation in a bag on your doorstep.

Collections will start at the Aston-Beechwood station, 793 Mount Road, on December 1 and run through December 20.

Holiday Safety Tips

With the holidays approaching, it’s important to keep the safety of you and your family in mind. Follow these tips to have a safe and happy holiday!

- Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.
- When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully. These sprays can irritate your lungs if you inhale them.
- Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat, but many plants may be poisonous or can cause severe stomach problems.
- Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis.
- Keep all of these plants out of children’s reach.
- When displaying a tree, cut off about

two inches off the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand.

- Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.
- Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.
- Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them.
- If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.
- Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights only outdoors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets.
- Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs, around furniture legs or across doorways.
- Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Unplug extension cords when not in use.
- If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered to avoid dry branches from catching fire from the heat of light bulbs.
- When displaying outdoor lights, fasten them firmly to a secure support with insulated staples or hooks to avoid wind damage. Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.
- When putting up holiday decorations, always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places. Don’t stand on chairs, desks or other furniture.
- When preparing a holiday meal for friends and family be sure to wash hands, utensils, sink, and anything

December Public Meetings and Special Events

Recreation Committee Meeting

7 p.m. Thursday, December 5

Police Committee Meeting

3 p.m. Monday, December 9

Public Works Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. Monday, December 9

New Construction Committee Meeting

7:30 p.m. Monday, December 9

Executive Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 10

Planning Committee Meeting

7 p.m. Wednesday, December 11

Library Board Meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday, December 17
Aston Township Community Center

Board of Commissioners Meeting

7 p.m. Wednesday, December 18

else that has come in contact with raw poultry.

- Never defrost food at room temperature. Thaw it in the refrigerator, in cold water or in the microwave.
- Use a clean food thermometer to cook foods to a safe internal temperature before serving.
- Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks. More than half of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

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.

Ryan Pinkowicz Recognized as Eagle Scout



Commissioner Higgins presents Ryan Pinkowicz with his Eagle Scout Proclamation. Ryan is joined by his parents Barry and Janilyn.

Ryan Pinkowicz was recognized for his service and accomplishments as an Eagle Scout at the November commissioner's meeting. He passed his Eagle Board of Review on June 26 and was recognized at the Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, November 17 at the Church of Saint Joseph.

Pinkowicz began as a Tiger Cub Scout where he eagerly participated in all activities and earned both Orthodox religious emblems, the St. George Award, and the Chi Rho Award. He also received the Valley Forge Historic Trail Award and progressed through the Cub Scout ranks and as a Webelo II, he earned the Arrow of Light, the highest Cub Scout Award. Once Pinkowicz crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 225 in 2006, he learned many skills and was awarded 55 merit badges. He also earned the Ben Franklin Historic Trail Award, the International Awareness Recognition Award, and

the Jimmy Stewart Good Citizenship Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Pinkowicz helped build a handicapped accessible ramp for the Elks Club Lodge 853 for a little girl who has cerebral palsy in Pheonixville. He planned, organized, and lead all phases of the project including raising more than \$3,200 from Elks Club members. The project required 563 services hours and was completed with the help of a tireless crew of Adult Scout Leaders, Scouts, Elks Club Members and others.

Friends of the Library Needed

The Friends of the Library are looking for members who can attend monthly meetings and participate in fundraising activities. People who love the library and are ready to work hard for it are needed. To join, visit www.astonlibrary.org and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your info!

The Library will be part of the Christmas event on Friday, December 6, including a visit from Santa, the lighting of the Christmas tree, and a special kids program from Mr. Malcolm. The festivities begin at 6:30 that evening and the Library will be open specially until 8 p.m. that night.

The Friends of the Library are holding a silent auction of a framed winter scene art print by Joseph Lopchinsky. The highest bid registered by January 23 will get the print. The print may be viewed at the library.



Kids work on a mural for the Read for the Record storytime

Free chair yoga classes are returning to the library Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings. Find out more and sign up at www.astonlibrary.org today (under the Calendar) if you would like to attend. Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting in a chair or standing, using a chair for support. It is appropriate for adults of all shapes, sizes, ages and genders.

There is still time to donate to the Library's Annual Fund Drive and have the contribution be tax-deductible for 2013. Just pick up a donation form at the Library. You can also donate to the Library through United Way using our donor choice number 6534.

The Library is holding an Art Contest for youth in grades K-12. Entries in a wide variety of formats will be accepted at the Library until December 31. Please include the title of the piece of artwork, and the artist's name, age, address, phone number, school and grade on the back of the piece. Check www.astonlibrary.org for more information and full rules. Join the Friends of the Library! Go to www.astonlibrary.org and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your info!

The library is still looking for volunteers to help with work like calling patrons, putting books in order, and delivering flyers and posters. Pick up an application at the library or go to: <http://tinyurl.com/APLVolApp> to submit one online.

The Aston Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at the Library at 7 p.m. on December 17. You can access books for your Kindle, Nook, or other e-book reader with your library card! Go to <http://digitallibrary.delcolibraries.org/> to see what is available.



Win the Friends of the Library holiday basket!

Are you on Facebook? Follow the Aston Library there! Go to <http://www.facebook.com/astonlibrary> to become a "fan."