



ASTON TOWNSHIP  
*Established 1688*

**FREE!**

# TOWNSHIP TIMES

Pride in our Community

Volume 9 Issue 12 • December 2014

## **Aston Police Officer Joshua Micun Honored**

Officer Joshua Micun was honored at the November Commissioners meeting for his heroic actions that helped save the lives of Aston Township residents. On October 4, Micun was off-duty and heading home on Dutton Mill Road around 4 a.m. when he noticed smoke. He turned around to investigate the smoke and saw a house fire. After notifying police dispatch of the fire, he knocked on the door, and when he didn't receive an answer, he entered the residence. Micun managed to get all of the occupants out of the house safely before the fire personnel arrived. Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri presented him with a Commendation of Heroism for outstanding police service for his actions.



Aston Police Chief Ruggieri presents Officer Micun with a Commendation of Heroism.

## **Nicholas Middleton Recognized for Achieving Eagle Scout Rank**

Nicholas Tyler Middleton was recognized for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout at the November Commissioner's meeting. Middleton was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in Media Courthouse on June 25.

Middleton's Eagle project benefited the Delco Anglers and Conservationists, located in Ridley Creek State Park, and included clearing the banks and waterway of Dismal Run, a waterway whose health is vital to the DAC's fish hatchery, which provides trout to local fishing streams. His project involved planning, organizing and leading the cleaning project, which required more than 275 service hours.

A 2014 Sun Valley High School graduate, Middleton is currently attending Penn State University, University Park campus, where he is majoring in biology.

**Aston Township Offices and Public Works Department will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas Holiday: Monday and Tuesdays trash will be picked up on Monday, December 22 and Wednesday and Thursdays trash will be picked up on Tuesday, December 23. All Fridays trash will be picked up on Wednesday, December 24.**

**Township Offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1. Thursday and Friday's trash and recycling will be collected on Friday, January 2.**

## **Winter Fun Festival and Tree Lighting December 5**



Come out and celebrate at the Winter Fun Festival and Tree Lighting on Friday, December 5 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Aston Community Center. There will be pictures with Santa, story telling by Grannie Annie, light refreshments, carolers and music.

Our event's major contributor, GreenDrop, will be collecting gently used clothing, household items

and Neighbors Helping Neighbors will be collecting canned goods. This event is presented by the Parks and Recreation Committee and is free and open to the public. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Aston photos are on the web! Visit our [www.astontownship.net](http://www.astontownship.net) to check out our photostream!

## **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](http://www.crcwatersheds.org/resources/view/96).

Check out Swarthmore College's sustainability web site: [www.scottarboretum.org/sustainability/ourpractices.html](http://www.scottarboretum.org/sustainability/ourpractices.html)

### **Low or No Cost Vaccinations Available**

If you are uninsured or underinsured the Department of Health can help you receive all of your vaccinations.

The Department of Health offers LOW or NO COST vaccines. (\$5 cost for those above WIC income guidelines – payable by check or money order).

Vaccinations will be given:

Dec. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Vaccinations will be given at Anna's Place, 248 Long Lane, Upper Darby, PA 19082.

Please call the Pa. Dept. of Health at 610-447-3250 if you have questions or to schedule an appointment.

### **Bagged Leaf Collection Program**

The Public Works Department will be picking up bagged leaves in October and through December 19.

Pick up will be on normal trash days and leaves must be placed in biodegradable bags or in cans and placed at the curb. The Township will provide seniors with five biodegradable bags at no cost. Bags will be available for purchase in the Township building from 8

a.m.-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$1.50 for five bags.

### **Aston Seniors Christmas Luncheon**

The Christmas luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 11 at noon at Lia's Catering, Naaman's Ballroom, Boothwyn, PA. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the November meeting. Tickets must be purchased no later than 12/4/2014.

For additional information call Joan Hanlon at 610-485-2729.

### **Join the Aston Seniors!**

Seniors in the Penn Delco School District, which includes Aston, Brookhaven and Parkside, who are age 55 and older are welcome to join the Aston Seniors anytime throughout the year. Present membership dues are now due.

New members must submit an application, which can be obtained by calling Stan Wileczek at 610-494-5434. Membership dues are \$10 a year.

### **AARP looking for New Members**

If you're looking for a way to use your experience, expertise, talent, and creativity to make your local community a better place to live, and meet some new friends along the way, join your local AARP Chapter.

The Aston Chichester AARP Chapter #3611 is the place. The group generally meets at 10:45 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at the Resurrection Episcopal Church at Rockdale located on Mount Rd. in Aston.

This month (December) we will have our Christmas Social at Lima Estates.

For more info, call Membership Chrm., Michael Scott at 267-259-2836.

### **St. Francis de Sales Girls Volleyball wins DII Championship**

St. Francis de Sales Girls Volleyball Varsity Gold won the Division II championship in Region 30 of the Archdiocese CYO program. They de-

feated St. Joseph's CYO team in three games on October 26.

The players, all seventh graders at St. Francis de Sales School, are as follows: Tabitha Ciocco, Corrine Farley, Julia Kasper, Jessica Kasper, Erin Kurcon, Katie Lee, Cailey McDermott, Grace Stefankiewicz, and Kirsten Zoellner. The coaches are Mike and Nikki Posiant.

### **Sister of St. Francis Open Doors to Public**

A sparkling gold cross atop an orange/red dome has attracted many people from near and far to Our Lady of Angels Convent (OLAC), the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia (609 South Convent Rd, Aston, PA 19014-1207).

We know that there are many more people who drive past the convent every day and wonder who and what exist behind those giant doors in the big castle-like structure. Here is your chance to find out. The Sisters of St. Francis invite you to tour the OLAC facility and chapel beginning with the New Year 2015, on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.

Join us for a short historical presentation and a tour of the first floor buildings and chapel, followed by light refreshments and time for questions and answers. Your hosts will be Sr. Kathleen Parisi, OSF, and several other sisters who live at the motherhouse.

In order to prepare for our guests, we ask that you call the receptionist at (610) 459-4125 to provide your name, phone number in case we have to cancel, and the number of family or friends who will attend. If this is not a good day for you, you can call Sr. Kathleen Parisi at (610) 558-7714 to select a date and time for a group tour for at least six people. Tours may be scheduled Monday through Friday.

To submit an item to the newsletter, e-mail [newsletter@astontownship.net](mailto:newsletter@astontownship.net).

### **Boy Scout Troop 225 Cleans up the Roads**

Congratulations to Boy Scout Troop 225 for another successful Adopt a Highway program. Fifteen Scouts and 12 adults participated and collected 15 bags of trash from Bridgewater Road to Venuti Drive and along Concord Road.

### **Substitute Crossing Guards Needed**

Aston Township is looking for substitute crossing guards. Guards must be willing and able to work in all types of weather and high traffic areas. This position requires a criminal background check and Child Abuse Clearances. Salary is \$12.83 per hour and applications can be picked up at Aston Township Police Department, 5021 Pennell Road, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Preliminary 2015 Budget Passed**

At the November 19, 2014 Aston Township Commissioner's Meeting the board approved the 2015 Aston Township Preliminary Budget.

The format of the proposed budget is a significant departure from prior years budgets in that it provides the 2015 budget in the framework of a multi-year budget. This multi-year framework provides the Board and public with information on the future impact of decisions that are proposed to be made in 2015. The budget is also structured with a number of different funds to provide the Board and public with easy to understand information.

The 2015 budget provides for a continuation of the existing services, infrastructure improvements, and equipment replacement while maintaining a significant reserve fund and maintaining the current real estate tax and sanitation fee level.

In summary, the 2015 budget provides for: no tax increase, no sanitation fee increase, reduction in building permit fees, twice a week trash collections

in the summer, expanded recreation programming, expanded road maintenance program, expanded storm sewer maintenance program, and vehicle replacement for Police and Public Works.

### **Neumann Hosts Live Nativity**

Neumann will host its annual Greccio Live Nativity Celebration on Sunday, December 7 at 6:15 p.m. in front of the Mirinda Center for Sport, Spirituality, and Character Development on Convent Road.

Neumann students and faculty will re-enact the Franciscan tradition of the crib, performing the Live Nativity scene and the scripture narration. The program will also feature Christmas music, performed by the Holy Family Regional School (Aston) Bell and Children's Choir.

There will be a Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Chapel of Bachmann Main Building and afterwards, guests may see (and pet) the animals as they arrive at 5:30 p.m.

After the Live Nativity, there will be more Christmas music, refreshments, and the opportunity to meet Santa in the Bayada Atrium in the Mirinda Center. This program is free and open to the public.

### **Pothole Patrol**

Thank you for being a concerned citizen! Help us help you by reporting a roadway maintenance request at [www.astontownship.net](http://www.astontownship.net).

The Aston Township Public Works Department is committed to providing a timely response to your request. Our goal is to remedy the situation within 24 to 48 hours then follow up with an email when the repair has been completed.

Please note that following certain weather events and extended periods of extreme temperature, reporting volume is likely to be very high. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## **December Public Meetings and Special Events**

### **Strategic Plan Meeting**

3 p.m. Wednesday, December 3

### **Parks and Rec Committee Meeting**

3 p.m. Thursday, December 4

### **Work Session Meeting**

3 p.m. Wednesday, December 10

### **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

7 p.m., Tuesday, December 16

### **Board of Commissioners Meeting**

7 p.m., Wednesday, December 17

Please complete the form online and enter as much detail as possible, especially for the location.

Just a reminder- PennDot is responsible for state roads including Aston Mills Road, Birney Highway, Bodley Road, Bridgewater Road, Concord Road, Dutton Mill Road, Knowlton Road, Lenni Road and Pennell Road.

### **Breakfast with Santa Dec. 6**

Neumann University's Knights for Education Club is hosting Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 6, from 8 a.m. to noon in Community Hall, located in the Mirinda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development. Admission is a children's gift – unwrapped – for any age.

The gifts are donated to the Sacred Heart of Camden parish for its Christmas shopping event. Parents in the parish can shop for gifts priced from \$.25 to \$5.00, making Christmas shopping possible for needy families.

A hot breakfast and pastries will be served as the children tell Santa Claus their Christmas wishes. Please RSVP by December 1 to [neumannsanta1@gmail.com](mailto:neumannsanta1@gmail.com).

## Special *Frozen* Storytime Featuring Elsa Monday, December 8

Makin' Music Rockin' Rhythms will be doing a special storytime featuring Elsa from the movie *Frozen* at the library. The program will be Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome, register through the calendar at [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org).

Kids in grades K-8 can enter our Annual Bookmark Design Contest. An entry form can be picked up at the library service desk. Winners in each grade get prizes and the honor of having their bookmarks displayed and distributed at the library.

Ms. Nancy, our new Children's Program Coordinator, is offering a variety of children's programs:

- Do you have a child who is too young for school? Come to Storytime for preschoolers and toddlers each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Each week is a different theme, books, activities, movement and music.

- Get your baby ready to read. Infant Storytime for babies up to 24 months old is on Mondays at 10 a.m. The program contains stories and other activities such as fingerplays, music, parachute play, and bubbles, followed by 15 minutes of play time.

Support the library and get a chance to win with our new raffle. The prize is a wide variety of items related to the movie *Frozen*. Proceeds of the raffle go to the Friends of the Library. Tickets are one for \$2, three for \$5, or seven for \$10. The drawing for the winner will be December 18.

Free Chair Yoga is continuing. Go to the calendar at [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org) for more information and a schedule. You can now purchase Friends of the Library T-shirts and bags to show your support of the library. These are available at the service desk at the library.

Join the Friends of the Library, go to [www.astonlibrary.org](http://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 67 Hidden Valley Road at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16.

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

## International Ballet Classique to Present *Nutcracker* Dec. 11-14

International Ballet Classique will present the *Nutcracker* at Neumann University Thursday, December 11-Sunday, December 14.

Performance Date and Times include:

Fri, Dec 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Sat, Dec 13, 2 p.m.  
Sat, Dec 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Sun, Dec 14, 2 p.m.

Ticket prices are: \$20 for adults and \$16 for children, students, and seniors.

There will be two Act II Children's Abridged Performances on Thursday, December 11 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$6 for individual sale and \$5 for group sales.

Tickets may be purchased at [www.ibcballet.com](http://www.ibcballet.com). If you need assistance, please e-mail us at [ibcballet1@gmail.com](mailto:ibcballet1@gmail.com) or call at 610-504-8613.



Donna Herre (left) and Gina Ruggieri (right), incoming co-presidents of the Friends of the Library



Win this Frozen gift basket in the Friends of the Library Raffle. Ends December 18.



The Friends of the Library are selling t-shirts! Stop by the Library so you can show your love of reading to everyone!

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

To stay informed during emergencies, residents should check cable TV's public access channels for updated postings on Comcast channel 5 and Verizon channel 45, as well as the township website.