



ASTON TOWNSHIP  
Established 1688

FREE!

# TOWNSHIP TIMES

Pride in our Community

Volume 9 Issue 1 • January 2014

## More than 400 Come out for Winter Fun Festival and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The weather outside may have been frightful, but that didn't stop more than 400 Township residents from coming out for the third annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Winter Fun Festival at the Aston Community Center.

The Aston Township Parks and Recreation Committee planned the event. This year's theme was an Old Fashioned Christmas. Santa was available for pictures and there were refreshments, Christmas carolers, crafts and letters to Santa. Mr. Malcom read Christmas stories to the children including *The Polar Express*, *Rudolph* and the *Grinch*.

Many local businesses donated refreshments and canned goods and non-perishables were collected to benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

## Aston Business Association Donates to Local Organizations

The Aston Business Association recently donated proceeds from Community Day to several local organizations. Those receiving donations include Northley Honor Student Volunteers, Sun Valley Vanguard Volunteers, Neumann University Volunteers, Neumann University Nursing Program (Bike Rodeo for Community Day), Aston Historical Society, Aston Free Library, ABA Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Oil for Needy Families. Other donations are made throughout the year as families or organizations are in need.

## A Message from Road Foreman Russ Palmore

As we get deeper into the winter months the removal of snow from our sidewalks and streets become more and more of a priority. Aston Township has prided itself for many years in having a top notch dedicated Public Works Department that go out no matter what conditions are thrown in front of them. They are out working hard while most of us are sleeping. It is during those waking hours, however, that we must do our part. It is imperative that individuals remove the snow and create a safe walkway on all sidewalks. For best results individuals should shovel often and not let the snow pile up too high. If you live in a cul-de-sac please make sure your vehicles are not blocking the ability of the plow trucks to turn around. During a storm it is also important that you stay off of the road unless necessary. Unnecessary road traffic creates a hazard for our drivers and you. Finally we ask that you please work together with your neighbors to assist the elderly and individuals who are not capable of shoveling.



Ayah, Samara, Roxanne, Ayden and Nathan tell Santa what they want for Christmas.



Shannon McCarty, Emily Egan, Erin Egan, and Katelyn McCarty design some Christmas crafts.

## Snow Removal Reminder

Residents are asked to remove vehicles off the street and park your car in your driveway during any snow fall. This allows the Township to plow back to the curb.

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.

## January's Tip for Community Stormwater Management

USE SAFE DE-ICERS; AVOID

LAWN COMPACTION

Avoid or minimize using rock salt as a de-icer on walks and driveways to prevent polluted runoff from snow and ice melt. Shovel snow and spread sand. Substitute or mix in calcium magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride, or non-chloride de-icing products, which are less harmful to streams and lawns. When possible, stay off your lawn when it is covered with ice or snow to avoid compaction of grass plants.

Learn more from downloading CRC's rain garden brochure: [www.crc-water-sheds.org/resources/view/96](http://www.crc-water-sheds.org/resources/view/96).

Check out Swarthmore College's sustainability web site: [www.scot-tarboretum.org/Sustainability/our-practices.html](http://www.scot-tarboretum.org/Sustainability/our-practices.html).

### Delco Phantoms Place Third in Lake Placid

Delco Phantoms Peeewe B-1 placed third at the Can/Am Challenge Cup, November 29-December 1. The boys were thrilled to compete at Olympic Center, Lake Placid, NY, in particular at the Herb Brooks Rink, site of 1980 "Miracle on Ice."

Team members Aidan Gally, Brett Miller, Ryan Seibert, and John Smith were honored to carry the US flag into the opening ceremonies.

With a 2-2-0 record, the Phantoms played three round-robin games against teams from New York, Vermont, and Canada, finally beating the Essex Sting (VT) 2-1 in the Oslo Bronze Medal Game on Sunday, December 1. Top scorers, Brett Barber and Ronnie Higgins scored two goals each during the tournament. Goaltenders Anthony Cuba and Jerry Karalis each recorded a victory that weekend.

Ryan Seibert was awarded a one week hockey camp scholarship for the essay competition. The award is for players who exemplify academic and athletic leader-



### Recycling Benefits Everyone

Remember! Recycling is single stream, you can include clear glass, aluminum cans, plastic #1, #2, #4, #5, and #7, green glass, bi-metal cans, newspaper (placed next to recycling can), brown glass, cardboard boxes, cardboard containers.

The more you recycle the more we can work together to keep trash fees lower in Aston!

ship on and off the ice.

Delco Phantoms head coach, Ken Reagan, is assisted by Tony Barber and Bob Lonz. Iceworks in Aston is home ice for the Phantoms.

For additional information contact, Nick Karalis, Team Manager, at [nkaralis@comcast.net](mailto:nkaralis@comcast.net) or 610-357-0478.

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

### AARP Moved to a New Location

AARP has moved!! The January 27, 2014 meeting of the local Aston Chichester Chapter 3614 of AARP will meet at The Cavalry Episcopal Church located on Mount Road, in Aston at 10:45 a.m.

This is our new and future meeting location! For more info, call President Ruth Brusstar on 610-566-2632.

### 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](http://www.recommunity.com/education).

### Sun Valley to Host Gently Used Prom Dress Sale January 25

The Sun Valley High School Post Prom Committee will be hosting a gently-used prom dress sale on Saturday, January 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Aston Community Center.

The Sun Valley Post Prom Committee has scheduled a "Gently Used Prom Dress" sale. You can sell your gowns and receive half of the selling price and at the same time, help benefit this year's Post Prom. If you are interested in selling your "closet gowns" or "special dresses" please contact Patty Fasbinder (484-832-2504) or Kirsten Connolly (484-467-1096) or [andrea.griffith@comcast.net](mailto:andrea.griffith@comcast.net).

Please be sure to tag your items with your name, address and phone number in order for payment to be received. We are also accepting donations of dresses/gowns as well.

No gown will be priced over \$100. 50% of the proceeds will benefit Class

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

of 2014 Post Prom. You'll be helping add to an evening of safe fun!

### **CRC to Host Pest Management Consultant February 23**

On Sunday, February 23, the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association and Penn State Brandywine will jointly host with the CRC MS4 Education and Outreach Program municipalities Integrated Pest Management Consultant Mike Leventry.

"Protecting Our Water Resources and Our Environment through Reduced Chemical Use," will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Tomezsko Building Auditorium at the PSU Brandywine Campus in Middletown.

The program is free and open to the public but advance registration is recommended since space is limited. To register go to <http://crcwatersheds.org/resources/view/295>.

Mike Leventry has a degree in Biology- Integrated Pest Management from the University of Delaware and has worked as an IPM professional for ten years at Longwood Gardens, University of Delaware, and the Kennett Collection. Mike's talk will cover how homeowners can reduce the need for chemical pesticides by utilizing integrated pest management (IPM). His talk will cover physical controls, cultural practices, and conservation of natural predators. Pests to be addressed include weeds, insects, algae and some troublesome mammals.

### **Winter Safety Tips**

Winter is a wonderful time of year. Spending time with your family, the many holidays, the New Year, snow and the warmth from a fireplace all remind us of the upcoming season. But, as with any time of the year, there are specific things we need to be aware of to keep our family safe and injury-free.

Home fires are more prevalent in the winter months than any other season. Cooking is the leading cause of all

winter residential building fires. Other winter fire hazards include space heaters, fireplaces and candles.

The cold weather increases your chances of getting frostbite or hypothermia. Between the years of 1999-2004, an average of 647 people died each year from hypothermia.

In 2009, over 16,000 Americans were treated for head injuries in emergency rooms because of playing winter sports (skiing, sledding, snowboarding, snowmobiling).

Fatal crashes were 14% more likely to happen on the first snowy day of the season than on days following. It takes drivers a few days to regain their sense of driving in this weather.

According to the CDC, most carbon monoxide poisonings happen in January; the second most in December. Carbon monoxide detectors save lives, but less than one-third of American homes have one installed.

### **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.

### **Keep Your Car Safe**

The Aston Police Department is always looking out for their residents, and with the recent spike in car theft, they would like to remind you to be careful. Police Chief Dan Ruggieri has some tips to make sure that you do not become a victim of an auto break-in:

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

## **January Public Meetings and Special Events**

### **Board of Commissioners Meeting**

7 p.m. Wednesday, January 15

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

7 p.m. Wednesday, January 21

### **Zoning Hearing Board Meeting**

7 p.m. Tuesday, January 28

### **Planning Commission Meeting**

7 p.m. Wednesday, January 29

-Make sure to always keep your car locked, no matter when or where you park.

-Keep everything in the car out of plain sight, especially anything valuable.

-Remove any valuable items you may have, if you can.

-If you must keep your valuable items in your car, keep them in a locked trunk.

### **Snow Shoveling Safety**

This winter it's important to keep yourself safe while shoveling snow this winter.

Don't be in a hurry to get outside. Stretch thoroughly using the same sorts of moves that runners, mountain bikers and other athletes use. Stretch your hamstrings, stretch your back, and stretch your shoulders. Then dress in removable layers, grab your shovel and resist the urge to fly at the white stuff just to get the job done. Pace yourself. Start slowly and ramp up to speed.

Clear cars first. Brush snow off cars then clear around the cars.

Maintain proper posture:

A. Use your leg muscles as much as possible - push snow when you can and use your legs to lift when you can't push it.

*Continued.*

## Aston Public Library Sets Book Check-out Record in 2013

The library had a record year in 2013, with more than 100,000 books checked out on the year. The library now has a tablet computer for the kids, loaded with educational software. The tablet is available in the children's area of the library and was provided through a Federal LSTA grant administered by the State Library.

The library is holding its annual Bookmark Design Contest for kids in grades K-8. An entry form can be picked up at the library and the deadline is February 10. Check [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org) for more information and full rules.

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. Go to [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org) and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your info!

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.

Free chair yoga classes are continuing at the library Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings. Find out more and sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/aston-adultevents> today 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.

The library is planning to host free Federal and State Income Tax preparation services again from PathwaysPA this year. To get on the list e-mail [director@astonlibrary.org](mailto:director@astonlibrary.org) or call 610-494-5877 and ask for Stephen. More details will be on [astonlibrary.org](http://astonlibrary.org) when we have them.

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 January 21.

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.



Mr. Malcolm tells the story of the Night Before Christmas with the help of Geno and Tori.



Jackie Persing and Stephen Sarazin at the Friends of the Library Harvestfest



Tyler Hihn's prize-winning coloring contest entry

B. Keep your back straight as you move from the squat position to the upright position.

C. Use your shoulder muscles as much as possible.

D. Hold the snow shovel as close to your upper body as possible.

E. Keep one hand close to the shovel blade for better leverage.

F. Don't twist your upper body as you throw snow.

Keep hydrated:

Take bottles of water out with you and keep them accessible, either in the car or on the front stoop or somewhere else convenient.

Rest frequently:

Clearing an area by hand means that you may lift and carry anywhere from hundreds of pounds to tons of snow.

Be thorough but not fussy:

The sun is relatively strong this time of year. Clear an area, spread de-icer if necessary and then let the sun do the rest. The fact is, any surface color that you expose in shoveling (gray, green, brown or black) will be far less reflective than a thick blanket of snow, and remaining snow will melt more easily from that darker surface.

Don't overdress:

You need to stay warm, but if you overdress you're going to be soaked in sweat in no time. Dress in loose-fitting layers that you can peel off as you heat up.

Whenever possible, team up:

Shoveling with a friend or neighbor is inherently more enjoyable than shoveling on your own. Plus, it's quicker to get the job done with two or three sets of hands.