



ASTON TOWNSHIP
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FREE!

TOWNSHIP TIMES

Pride in our Community

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Holiday Decorating Contest for Businesses and Residents

The Aston Township Parks and Recreation Committee along with the Aston Township Board of Commissioners, are happy to announce the First Annual Aston Township Holiday Decorating Contest! The contest will be open to all residences and businesses within Aston Township. We are asking participants to join in the fun throughout the month of December with final judging completed by December 20.

Two residences in each of the seven voting wards within Aston Township that are decorated by December 19 will be considered for a prize of First Place or Honorable Mention. Prizes will be awarded by a small team of non-partisan judges to be appointed in each ward by the ward commissioner. ALL residences will be judged on "overall aesthetics and curb appeal" as defined by the judging team. Residences are NOT required to register to be eligible for a prize! One residence in each ward will be awarded First Prize which includes a \$100 gift certificate to Giant Food Stores and one residence in each ward will be awarded an Honorable Mention which will include a \$50 gift card to Wawa.



All Aston Township Businesses are eligible to participate, however business participants will be required to submit notification of participation to the Aston Township Parks and Recreation Committee by completing a participation application by December 17. The business participation form can be downloaded or submitted at astontownship.net or by visiting the Aston Township Administration Building at 5021 Pennell Road, Second Floor. Application is FREE.

Businesses within Aston Township that have submitted notification and are decorated by December 19 will be considered for a First Place or Honorable Mention. Businesses will be judged in three categories, industrial, large and small. Each business will be assigned to a category as deemed appropriate by the judging committee.

Prizes will be awarded by the Parks and Recreation Committee. ALL businesses will be judged on "overall aesthetics and curb appeal" as defined by the judging committee. All judging will be completed by December 20. One business in each of the three categories will be awarded First



Prize which includes a business advertisement in the January 2016 Aston Township Times (print and online), a business advertisement on the official Aston Township website, astontownship.net and Aston TV cable channel for the month of January and a 1 year paid Aston Business Association membership. Additionally, one business in each of the three categories will be awarded an Honorable Mention which will include a 1 year paid Aston Business Association membership.

All winners will be recognized at the January 2016 Aston Township Board of Commissioner's Meeting. For further information or questions contact Commissioner Carol Graham at 610-459-8557.

Winter Fun Festival Dec. 4

The annual Winter Fun Festival and Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held on Friday, December 4 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Aston Township Community Center.

The Aston Township Parks and Recreation Committee will host the fun-filled evening that will feature complimentary pictures with Santa, a magician, puppet show, crafts, refreshments and carolers.

This event is free and open to the public. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Greendrop will be on hand to accept donations.

Aston Township Offices and Public Works Department will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25. Monday and Tuesday's trash and recycling will be picked up Monday, December 21; Wednesday and Thursday's trash and recycling will be picked up Tuesday, December 22; Friday's trash and recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, December 23.

Aston Lioness Donate to Police



Pictured are, row one: Judy Persing, Florence Fisher, Antoinette Bonacquisti, Harriet Reynolds, Carolyn Ondo and Freda Barnes. Back row: Carol Bodimer, Marionette Shahad, Chief Dan Ruggieri and Commissioner Jim McGinn .

The Aston Lioness Club donated a check for \$900 to go towards the purchase of a bullet proof vest for the Aston Police Department. Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri was on hand to accept the donation and present the ladies with a plaque recognizing their efforts.

“We are deeply touched by the generosity of the Lions Club,” he said. “I know first hand how hard these ladies work to raise funds for their organization and for our community. I take great comfort in knowing that our police department is supported by such a fine organization and that these

ladies have genuine concern for our officers.”

Galbraiths Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage



Commissioner McGinn presents Nora and Bill Galbraith with a proclamation celebrating their 65th anniversary.

Bill and Nora Galbraith celebrated 65 years of marriage on November 13. The couple were married in 1950 when they eloped to Annadale, Virginia. Bill was 18 and Nora was 15 and both were raised in Aston. Bill graduated from St. Francis DeSales School and St. James Catholic High School For Boys. Nora attended the one room schoolhouse in Village Green and attended Media High School, but her education was interrupted in 1950 when she accepted Bill's proposal of marriage.

Bill and Nora currently live on Knowlton Road where they have for many years. They raised their

six children, two boys and four girls, in their lovely home. Their home was also known for its Christmas decorations for more than 20 years. People from all over the area would come to view and admire the display. They have 15 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Aston Man Receives Wall of Honor Award from St. James High School



D. J. Maloney, St. James 2015 Wall Of Honor recipient

Aston resident D. J. Maloney received the 2015 St. James High School Alumni Association “Wall of Honor” Award from the Alumni Association's 11th annual alumni inductee recognition dinner on October 2. The award is presented to outstanding alumni who, through professional development, community service, and humanitarianism, exemplify the values of the spirit of its alumni.

Maloney attended St. Joseph's Elementary then St. James and holds a Master of Fine Arts in theatre

direction. While at St. James, Maloney won the “Most Active Senior” and perfect attendance awards. Later, Maloney joined the Alumni Association, was a contributing editor to its newsletter, and became a “Knight” in the Alumni. Maloney was a NYC theatre professional, musical director/pianist, along with several years of university professorships in Theatre. From 2006 to 2014, Maloney put a career on hold to return home to Aston and served as [his] Mother's 24/7 caregiver until her passing in 2014.

Maloney's parents moved to Aston in 1957 (his boyhood home) and now his residence.

Benjamin Franklin Historical Lecture December 14

The Delaware County Institute of Science will host a free lecture from 7:30-8:30 p.m., on Monday, December 14. Jessica Linker, MA, U. Connecticut Doctoral Candidate, will present “The Institute of Science's Hidden Treasure: Benjamin Franklin's Printing Blocks.”

This lecture will reveal, based on newly found printing blocks at the Institute, how Franklin, in a process believed secret, used botanical impressions to print currency resistant to counterfeiting by colonial-era criminals.

2016 Preliminary Budget Approved

The 2016 preliminary budget holds the line on taxes and sanitation fees with no tax increase and no sanitation fee increases.

The preliminary budget provides for an expansion of the storm sewer maintenance program and twice a week trash pick up in the summer. Funding is also provided for two replacement police vehicles and a replacement for the Public Works backhoe and a truck.

Other improvements include a second automatic opening door at the Community Center and replacement roof for the school house.

Carbon Monoxide Reminder

The Aston Township Fire Department reminds you, as the colder months approach, please have your heaters and fire places cleaned and serviced. Chimney fires and carbon monoxide incidents increase during this time of year.

Aston Lions Christmas Party

For the past 65 years the Aston Township Lions Club has been providing a Christmas Party for selected children from the community. The children select toys at Toys R Us and they are then

To submit an item to the newsletter, e-mail newsletter@astontownship.net. Deadline for next issue is December 21.

invited to Pennell Elementary School for refreshments and a visit from Santa.

As with everyone, times are difficult and there is only a limited amount in our budget. If anyone would like to contribute to this worthy cause, they may send their donation to the Aston Township Lions C. F., Inc., P.O. Box 2052, Aston, PA 19014-0052.

The Lions thank the community for their support throughout the years. We wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2016.

Greccio Festival at Neumann

Neumann University will host its annual Greccio Live Nativity Celebration on Sunday, December 6. The program, which is free and open to the public, begins at 6:15 p.m. in front of the Miranda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development on Convent Road.

Neumann students, faculty and staff will re-enact the Franciscan tradition of the crib, first celebrated in Greccio, Italy, performing the Live Nativity scene and the scripture narration. In addition, the program will also feature the sounds of sacred Christmas music, performed by the Holy Family Regional School Children's Choir.

All are welcome to visit campus earlier, to attend Mass at 4:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Chapel of Bachmann Main Building and to see (and pet) the manger animals as they arrive at 5:30 p.m. Children will receive free glow sticks before the program begins. After the Live Nativity, the community is invited to enjoy traditional Christmas music and refreshments, and to meet Santa Claus in the Devine Hospitality Suite of the Miranda Center. The animals that participate in the re-en-

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

actment will remain on campus until 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Office of Mission and Ministry at 610-558-5539.

Rockdale Art Center Now Open In Aston

Rockdale Art Center in Aston is now open for classes. They will offer a variety of youth, adult and BYOB classes. For more information visit: www.rockdaleartcenter.com/.

Aston residents get a 10% discount on classes with the code ASTON10 when they register online.

Meals on Wheels Looking for Volunteers

Aston Meals on Wheels serves Aston, Brookhaven, and Parkside five days a week. Meals on Wheels needs your help for just 1-2 hours a month or a week to assist with delivery of meals to our home bound seniors.

If you are interested in this worthy cause, please call Joan Hanlon at 610-485-2729.

Favorite Christmas Songs: Live Concert

The Neumann University Concert Chorale will present a concert of favorite Christmas songs on Friday, December 4, at 8 p.m. in the Bruder Life Center. The 70-member chorus will sing classical selections such as *Hallelujah Chorus* and *Silent Night* as well as contemporary tunes like *Heaven and Nature Sing* and *Do You Hear What I Hear*.

General admission is \$8 (seniors and students \$5). This performance regularly sells out. Please call 610-558-5626 to reserve tickets.

Public Works.. Around Aston

The Public Works department picked up 450 tons of refuse and 128 tons of recycled material in October. It created and constructed a "brine maker" for the winter. It dredged Weir Park creek

December Public Meetings and Special Events

Strategic Plan Meeting

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 2

New Construction Committee

7 p.m. Monday, December 7

Board of Health Meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday, December 8

Work Session Meeting

2 p.m. Wednesday, December 9

Commissioners Meeting

7 p.m. Wednesday, December 16

Zoning Hearing Board

7 p.m. Tuesday, December 22

Planning Commission Meeting

7 p.m. Wednesday, December 23

and graded and seeded a new patch area there as well. A light was installed at the new "Welcome to Aston" sign in the Township.

Leaf Collection Program Begins

Bagged leaf collection runs through December 18. Leaf bags are available for purchase for \$1.50 for a bundle of five in the municipal building. Seniors get their first five bags free.

Wine and Cheese at St. Joseph's Parish

You're invited this Advent: Shine with the Love of the Trinity at St. Joseph's Parish on Thursday, December 3 from 7-8:15 p.m. at Donnelly Hall.

The wine & cheese event will feature speaker Dr. Mary Beth Yount. We are all created in the image of a loving God, therefore, we can and should be loving human beings. The Catholic Church teaches us that true self-giving love is revealed to us by the one, triune

Continued..

Frozen Raffle ends Dec. 18; Star Wars at the Library Dec. 12

The Friends of the Library “Frozen” Raffle is going on through December 18. The prize is a wide variety of items related to the movie “Frozen.” You can get one ticket for \$2, three for \$5, or seven for \$10. Have a look at the basket at the library.

Tuesday, December 8 at 1 p.m. you can meet Mary Todd Lincoln at the Aston Public Library. “*Mary Todd Lincoln: the Woman You Thought You Knew*” is a one-woman show that will be followed by talk-back with the performer. Find out more about one of American history’s most controversial characters in person.

Is your child excited about the new Star Wars movie? Stop by the library Saturday, December 12 from 12-2 p.m. and meet a Storm Trooper and enjoy activities and crafts related to the movie.

Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a St. Lucia kids’ program presented by the American Swedish Historical Museum. Learn about the Lucia procession and other interesting facts about holiday traditions in Sweden.

Wednesdays at 4 p.m. your child can learn about science, technology, engineering and math (and maybe some art) using Legos. Children ages 6-10 will experiment with Legos to complete assigned activities during the hour. Children will be working in groups, but will have their own Legos to use to complete the projects. All Legos are property of the library, so no need to bring your own.

Have you gotten a new eBook reader, laptop or tablet, and are having trouble learning to use it? You can get assistance at one of the Aston Public Library’s help times on Fridays for the rest of the year. At 10 a.m. there is assistance with eBooks. At 11 a.m. there is assistance with laptops and tablets.

We will host a children’s bingo night on Monday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Children of all ages are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. A perfect outing for the whole family, bingo night awards children prizes like free library DVD rentals and small toys. The program is recommended for second to fifth graders.



The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe program last month at the Library

We are offering two crochet groups for folks learning the craft at any level. One is running Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. Stop by this month to join the group. More information and registration for all our programs is available via the Calendar at www.astonlibrary.org.

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 and click on “Join Our Friends” to send in your info. The Aston Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. at 67 Hidden Valley Road on December 15.

Wine and Cheese...

God. What could that resemble among us? What can the nature of God teach us human beings about ourselves?

Join us as we discover ways to utilize what we already know about the nature of God and how we can help our families better mirror the Trinity. We will share practical strategies to enrich family life so we can all grow more loving because in reality, none of us can do anything without Him. For more information, contact St. Joseph’s Parish.

ATFD Brings Santa to Your Street December 5 & 6



With the holiday season fast approaching, Aston Township Fire Department is pleased to announce that we have again received confirmation from the North Pole that Santa will be able to spend a weekend riding on our apparatus and visiting the children of Aston.

Santa will be riding through town during the day on Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6.

Listen for the sirens beginning in the morning and continuing throughout the day. Any adjustments due to weather and or emergency calls will be posted on the Aston Township Fire Department Facebook page.



Local Boy Scout and Cub Pack Troops Collect more than 7,000 Cans of Food

Saint Joseph’s Troop 225 and Cub Pack 225 collected 3,700 cans of food and Mount Hope Troop 292 and Pack 77 collected 4,100 cans of food. Total cans collected in Aston 7,800

On behalf of the Scouts, we would like to thank all the residence of Aston for helping us with our annual food drive.

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.