



ASTON TOWNSHIP
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TOWNSHIP TIMES

Pride in our Community

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James Talbot Recognized for Longtime Service to Township

James Talbot retired after serving 17 years as Township Deputy Health Officer, a position he has held since 1996. Talbot and his wife, Eleanor, have lived in Aston Township for 62 years where they raised three sons, Jim, Ron and Kevin.

Talbot has done an outstanding job with all responsibilities and duties as a Deputy Health Officer especially in dealing with difficult and very delicate situations. He has been inducted into the Aston Township Sports Hall of Fame and is dedicated to his faith and the Church of St. Joseph. He also loves a good game of golf with friends. Talbot received an engraved gold watch to commemorate his retirement.

"I'd like to thank the Aston Police Department, the best police department in the world, for helping me in my job immensely. I'd also like to thank my family and wonderful friends," said Talbot.



Commissioner McGinn presents James Talbot with a proclamation recognizing his many years of service to the Township.

Kathleen Keegan Honored on her 96th Birthday

Aston resident Kathleen Keegan celebrated her 96th birthday on Sunday, December 21. She was born in Chester and graduated from Chester Hospital School of Nursing in 1938, starting her career at Chester Hospital. Keegan was one of the first nurses in the area to mix penicillin for patient use and was a dedicated nurse during the polio epidemic. She married James A. Keegan in 1947, and took a break from nursing to raise her seven daughters. Throughout her career she worked at Taylor Hospital, Pennsylvania Military College, community nursing, and landed at the Assisi House when it opened, serving as the first lay nurse caring for the elder sisters. Kathleen retired at 80.



Commissioner Firlein presents Kathleen Keegan, her daughter and grandson watching, with a proclamation celebrating her 96th Birthday

Two Aston Residents Achieve Eagle Scout Rank

Andrew Higgins and Kyle Andreoli-Brown were each recognized for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Higgins is the son of Drew and Dawn Higgins and a 2014 graduate of Sun Valley High School. He currently attends Millersville University, majoring in communications/broadcasting. He served the troop in a number of leadership positions, including Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. His Eagle project included making 12 birdhouses. This included designing and building the birdhouses, planning, organizing and leading a crew of adult leaders, fellow scouts, friends and family members to install the birdhouses in parks in Aston.

Andreoli-Brown is the son of Dawn Andreoli and Karen Brown. He is currently a senior at Sun Valley High School. He has worked at the Boy Scout Camp, Resica Falls in 2013 and served in a number of leadership positions including Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Quartermaster. For his Eagle project, Andreoli-Brown painted the exterior of the Green Ridge Fire House. He was responsible for planning, organizing and leading a crew of adult leaders, fellow scouts, friends, and family members. This service project required more than 333 service hours.



President Stigale presents Andrew Higgins, top, and Kyle Andreoli-Brown, bottom, with proclamations recognizing each for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.



Aston Township Offices and Public Works Department will be closed on Thursday, January 1. Regular trash collection will resume on Friday, January 2.

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.

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

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.

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.

Pothole Patrol

Thank you for being a concerned citizen! Help us help you by reporting a roadway maintenance request at 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.

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.

Aston Seniors January Meeting

The January meeting of the Aston Seniors will take place on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 10:45 a.m. in the Aston Community Center. Tickets can be purchased no later than Friday, January 16. Cost of ticket is \$10. Call Stan Wileczek at 610-494-5434 for

information. Bingo will be played.

Seniors in the Penn Delco School District, which include Aston, Brookhaven and Parkside, who are age 55 and older are welcome to join the Aston Seniors anytime throughout the year.

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 to Meet Jan. 26

The first meeting of 2015 for the Aston Chichester AARP Chapter will be held at the Resurrection Episcopal Church of Rockdale, on Mount Road on Monday, January 26 at 10:45 a.m.

New members welcome. For membership info call Michael Scott, at 267-259-2836,

Aston Township Fire Company Official January 1

The local fire and EMS departments will officially become the Aston Township Fire Department on January 1.

Aston Township Fire Department is a full service fire protection and emergency medical service public safety agency servicing the citizens of Aston. They are dedicated to the protection of the lives and property of the residents and community, and strive to deliver excellence in our commitment to quick and efficient Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Service response.

There will be no effect on how emergency fire and EMS services are currently being delivered. There will be NO disruption to the residents, business and commuters in Aston Township.

To submit an item to the newsletter, e-mail newsletter@astontownship.net.

2015 Budget Adopted

At the December 17, 2014 Aston Township Commissioner's Meeting the board approved the 2015 Aston Township 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.

New Code Enforcement Fee Schedule

On December 17, 2014 the Township Board of Commissioners adopted a new Code Enforcement Fee Schedule for 2015.

All permits are the responsibility of the owner of the property. Permits MUST be posted prior to the start of the work. A list of the fees is available for download at www.astontownship.net.

Statement Regarding Cell Towers

Questions arose at the November 19th commissioners meeting with respect to

the proposed amendment to the lease with American Tower for the cell tower located on Gamble Lane. This tower is one of the two (2) cell towers that are located on Township property. The second tower is at the municipal building property located on Pennell Road. Aston receives monthly rentals for each cell tower.

The proposed lease amendment will restructure the lease with a forty-nine (49) year term. In exchange for this longer term, Aston Township will receive a lump sum payment.

The Board of Commissioners have stated that this payment will be used to match future grant applications. There is the potential that the proceeds that Aston receives from the restructured lease will bring in more than four (4) million dollars in local grants for infrastructure improvements to Aston's streets, parks and storm water management facilities. These improvements will be at no cost to Aston residents, assuming approval of the grants.

The Board of Commissioners has directed the administration to reduce expenses to match the potential reduction in annual income resulting from the restructured lease.

The Board of Commissioners has decided that it is in the best interests of Aston to restructure this lease agreement and to retain the monthly payments from the second cell tower lease, at the Municipal Building.

More than 600 Residents Attend Winter Fun Festival

Aston residents braved the rain to give a big turn out for the annual tree lighting and Winter Fun Festival. There were crafts for children, including making *Frozen*-themed ornaments and writing letters to Santa. There were also vintage carolers, storyteller Granny Annie, and a surprise visit by Elsa and Anna from *Frozen* and the Chik-Fil-A cow. Santa Claus was also on hand to hear Christmas wishes and take pic-

January Public Meetings and Special Events

Strategic Plan Meeting

2 p.m. Wednesday, January 7

Parks and Rec Committee Meeting

7 p.m. Thursday, January 8

New Construction Meeting

3 p.m. Monday, January 12

Work Session Meeting

3 p.m. Wednesday, January 14

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

7 p.m., Tuesday, January 20

Board of Commissioners Meeting

7 p.m., Wednesday, January 21

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

7 p.m., Tuesday, January 27

Planning Commission Meeting

7 p.m., Wednesday, January 28

tures with the children.

Green Drop was on hand collecting gently used items and Aston's Neighbors Helping Neighbors collected canned goods for families in need.

Children received a goody bag including coloring books and crayons. Refreshments including candy cane shaped pretzels, hot chocolate, cookies and other beverages were also available for the festivities.

The Parks and Recreation organized this wonderful holiday event and many local businesses donated food or supplies to make it possible.

Smoke Detectors Available

The Aston Township Fire Department has smoke detectors available, just call the station. Fire Department members will come out and ensure proper installation of the smoke detector.

Aston Library Celebrates Busy 2014

The Library had a very busy year in 2014, with over 100,000 books checked out on the year.

Kids in grades K to 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. Entries must be turned in to the library service desk by February 16.

The Senior Community Services book club will be discussing *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson on Wednesday January 21 at 11 a.m. at the Library. Please read the book before the discussion. The program is free, for more information, contact Farah Esfahani at 484-496-2143.

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 Wednesdays (new day starting this month) 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 the new Friends of the Library raffle. The prize is a football signed by LeSean McCoy. You can get one ticket for \$2, three for \$5, or seven for \$10. Come see the prize in our display case and pick up a ticket at the service desk!

Free Chair Yoga is returning to the library on Saturdays starting January 17. Go to the Calendar at 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 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 the Tuesday, January 20.

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.



Township Recognizes Santa

The Aston Township Board of Commissioners took some time to thank Santa's very special helper for all of his hard work and taking time out of his busy schedule to come to the Township building.

Jim Whitig has played a very special part in the Christmas season with all the children and residents of Aston Township starting with the first Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at the Community Center in 1997. The Board knows it takes a very special person to perform the duties he does and give so generously of his time at this special time of year.



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



"Elsa" (Frozen) storytime last month with Makin' Music



Catherine Taylor and Erin Egan start on their letters to Santa at the Winter Fun Festival.

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.