

ASTON QUARTERLY

2 New Road, Aston, PA 19014 610-494-1636

A Newsletter for the Residents of Aston Township, Delaware County

Volume 2023-1

Happy New Year

Winter 2023

ASTON TOWNSHIP
Established 1688



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Township Manager

William J. DeFeo III
wdefeo@astontwp.net

**Assistant Township
Manager/Secretary**

Kelly A. Pippin

Township Engineer

Joseph J. Viscuso

Township Solicitor

Elizabeth Naughton-Beck

2 New Road, Suite 123

Aston, PA 19014-1896

(610) 494-1636

Fax (610) 494-8853

Social Media Sites:

www.astontownship.net

facebook.com/astontownship

Message from Aston Township Commissioners

Now that winter is on its way, it is time to think about safety and especially winter driving safety. This edition of the newsletter includes important information related to driving safety and Holiday Safety Tips.

We hope you enjoyed our annual Aston Community Day and Business Expo in October. Our Aston Quarterly newsletter is the talk of the town and we plan to continue this quarterly information newsletter to keep everyone informed on the happenings of Aston Township. You can easily find this on our website, Facebook, Community Center, Library, and local businesses in the Township.

There are many projects underway in Aston Township. Here is the most recent update: The Aston Township Public Works Department is moving to their new location at 1 Catania Way in Aston. It is a state of the art building and we will keep you posted for an Open House and Ribbon cutting ceremony. Also, we are in the final stages of the New Aston Township Fire Station. Please also be on the lookout for an Open House and Ribbon Cutting. In addition, we are hoping for grants to be awarded to assist in funding the Phase 2 of our Amphitheater located behind the Community Center and the purchase of 43 acres of ground to preserve for Open Space. ARPA funds have been received and we have successfully completed stormwater management projects at Concord Square and Newsome Pond. Enjoy this edition of the Aston Quarterly.

Aston Township, Board of Commissioners

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



More than **half** of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles



More than **1/3** of home decoration fires are started by candles.



The top 3 days for home candle fires are **Christmas Day, New Year's Day** and **New Year's Eve**.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.

On average, **1 of every 45** reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

ARE YOU STARTING A PROJECT?

All property owners should call or stop by the Code Office before beginning any new construction or renovation project. Most projects other than painting and flooring require permits. The Code staff is happy to answer any questions you may have and will gladly help you through the permitting process.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT SNOWS?

Owner or occupants should promptly remove snow and ice from sidewalks and crosswalks within 24 hours from the time the snow ceases to fall. Home and business owners/occupants are liable for immediate fines should code officers find public walkways and crosswalks still snow covered once the 24-hour grace period has elapsed. If you employ a snow removal crew, please pass along this information to avoid fines.

DO YOU HAVE LEAVES OR DEBRIS AT YOUR CURB?

Please be reminded that you as a property owner or occupant are responsible for the sidewalk and curb area in front of your residence and/or business. You must keep the sidewalk and curb areas free of trash, debris, grass clippings, leaves, sticks or other hazards. Public Works does not clear the curb area of these items. Property owners and/or occupants must bag all natural debris in biodegradable, paper bags and place the bags on the curb for normal trash pickup. If you employ a landscaper, please pass along this information – your neighbors will thank you!

DO YOU OWN A RENTAL PROPERTY OR FAMILY HOME?

Township ordinance mandates owners of Aston residential properties in which they do not themselves live to register their dwelling as a rental property or a “family home.” Should the owner of such a dwellings receive rent payments, the property is a rental whether or not the occupant is a family member and must be licensed and inspected by Code officials annually. If the owner of a property permits family members to use the property free of charge, no rental license or inspection are required. However, the property owner must file a “non-rental affidavit” with the Code department. Property owners may obtain information and guidance on how to proceed with a rental license or family home registration by calling the Code office.

WHAT IF I SELL MY PROPERTY OR TRANSFER IT TO A FAMILY MEMBER?

All property transfers are subject to the Township resale certification process even when no money is exchanged, such as when a family member deeds a home to another family member. Contact the Code Department to be sure you are in compliance well before you near your closing date.

For all questions about building codes, Township ordinances, property maintenance violation notice or fines received, or any other matters pertaining to property within Aston Township, **contact the Code Department at 610-494-0384.**

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JANUARY

1/2 Township Holiday
1/3 Parks and Recreation Committee 7 pm
1/4 Police Committee 5 pm
1/5 Ordinance Committee 5:30 pm
1/9 to 1/13 Appliance and Metal Collection
1/9 New Construction 6:30 pm
1/11 Work Session 3:30 pm
1/16 Township Holiday
1/18 Board of Commissioners Meeting 7 pm
1/24 Zoning Hearing Board 7 pm
1/25 Planning Committee 7 pm

FEBRUARY

2/1 Police Committee 5 pm
2/2 Ordinance Committee 5:30 pm
2/6 New Construction 6:30 pm
2/6 to 2/10 Appliance and Metal Collection
2/7 Parks and Recreation Committee 7 pm
2/8 Work Session 3:30 pm
2/14 Library Board Meeting 7 pm
2/15 Board of Commissioners Meeting 7 pm
2/20 Township Holiday
2/21 Zoning Hearing Board 7 pm
2/22 Planning Committee 7 pm

MARCH

3/1 Police Committee Meeting 5pm
3/2 Ordinance Committee 5:30 pm
3/2 Board of Health Meeting 7 pm
3/6 New Construction 6:30 pm
3/6 to 3/10 Appliance & Metal Collection Week
3/7 Parks & Recreation Meeting 7pm
3/8 Work Session 3:30 pm
3/14 Library Board Meeting 7 pm
3/15 Board of Commissioners Meeting 7 pm
3/21 Zoning Hearing Board 7 pm
3/22 Planning Commission 7 pm
3/23 Finance Committee 5 pm
3/27 Public Works Meeting 3:30 pm

ASTON TOWNSHIP MEETING LOCATION

Aston Township Monthly Meeting is at the Aston Township Fire Station at 2900 Dutton Mill Road. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. Please look to the Aston Township website www.astontownship.net and our Facebook page for additional meeting information.

SNOW EMERGENCY RULE OF THUMB

A few basic common sense courtesies to remember on the next snowy day include:

- If possible, remove all vehicles from the street and park in driveways to expedite plowing during snow emergencies.
- When cleaning the entrance to a driveway, shovel snow into the yard to avoid having a plow push snow back across your driveway entrance.
- Do not plow or shovel snow onto a stormwater inlet, as this can lead directly to street flooding.
- Do not throw or shovel snow into a plowed street, as this creates a public hazard.
- Do not try to save cleared parking spaces on public streets with folding chairs, traffic cones, or trash cans. Such actions are intentional obstruction of a public thoroughfare, for which you can be fined.
- Sidewalks must be cleared for pedestrians within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall.
- Please slow down on the roads. Both starting and stopping take longer on snow-covered roads, so a little more travel time and a lot more patience is needed.

TAX COLLECTOR

All Aston Township tax bills will be forwarded to the property owners in February of 2023. By doing so, the Township allows the property owner to see the exact amount of taxes levied. Taxes can be paid at 2% discount if paid by March 31st. If taxes are paid by a mortgage company, to ensure that you get the proper discount, please forward the entire bill to the mortgage company. If you have any questions regarding your tax bill, please contact the Township Tax Office at 610-494-2401.

ASTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Aston Township Historical Society welcomes Robyn Young, aka The Marker Lady to its Thursday, February 9th, 2023 meeting at 7 pm. The meeting is held at the Aston Township Community Center, located at 3270 Concord Road, Aston.