



# Township Times

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August 2012



Second Ward Commissioner & Fire Committee Chairwoman Carol Graham was proud to present four Aston emergency responders (from l to r: Aston-Beechwood's John Moletteri, Green Ridge Fire Chief Bob Herre III, Green Ridge EMT Tom Morgan, Jr., and Aston-Beechwood EMT John Young) with township proclamations to recognize their recent individual awards.  
*(see story on page 2)*

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Commissioners President Jim Stigale holds the framed certificate of appreciation that was recently given to township officials by the Aston Township Historical Society. ATHS President Karen Micka and past President/Founder Paul Dougherty noted that the township's recent exterior restoration and air-conditioning of the historic Village Green One-Room Schoolhouse (c.1850) - an effort led by Township Secretary/Manager Dick Lehr - was critical to preservation of the structure.

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## Camp Rainbow Rocks!



Camp Rainbow attendees (from left to right) Daniel Tanner, Aidan Barlow, Grace Stefankiewicz, and Parth Awasthi enjoy a game of Topple on the gymnasium floor...



...while Darren Panusky (left) and Noah Migatz made colorful wreaths during a Camp Rainbow arts & crafts session...



...and a rousing game of dodge ball was interrupted to pose for this group shot.



Annie Favinger of the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. got a much-deserved thank you hug from Green Ridge Volunteer Firefighter Mark Calvecchio, when he stopped by to pick up his Nelson's BBQ dinners on July 8.

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(Above) Al Lobb, of Bridgewater Estates, needed both hands to carry away his family's BBQ chicken and rib dinners; (Below) while Holly and Laurie Paige of Weir Road picked up their family's advance order.



Episcopal Academy student Austin Morgan, of Red Hill Road, was recently given a plaque and congratulated by Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri for the quick thinking that lead to the recent arrest of two career criminals.  
*(see story on page 2)*

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## Aston Women's Soccer Team Now Forming

Aston Soccer has decided to expand and is now forming a Women's Soccer Club that would play this Fall on Sunday afternoons in the Tri-County Women's Soccer League. If you are an experienced soccer player interested in joining this team, contact Kate Sanitate at **484-723-9098** or **ERKAt17@gmail.com**.

### Emergency Responders Feted

Four Aston Township emergency responders were recognized at the Board of Commissioners' July 18 meeting for the annual awards each man had recently received.

Robert Herre III, who had served as the Green Ridge Fire Co.'s fire chief for the past three and a half years, was honored as the recipient of the 2011 John Sauter Firefighter of the Year.

Thomas Morgan, Jr., who has served with Green Ridge Fire Co. for the past 10 years and has been an EMT for the last six years, was last year's top runner for QRS calls and named the 2011 EMS Person of the Year.

John Moletteri, who has recently been serving as a fire captain with the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. and is the company treasurer as well, was recognized as the 2011 Rocky Eusden Firefighter of the Year.

John Young was the top Aston-Beechwood runner in fire and EMS calls last year, and as such he garnered the 2011 Colleen Betzal EMS Person of the Year, the 2011 Ed Cordell Award (aka the President's Award), and the George Baldwin Engineer's Award For 2011.

A special fire company appreciation event is being planned for October, according to Commissioners President Jim Stigale, who urges all residents to support their hometown firefighters.

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### Tips To Help Control Stormwater Runoff

\*Redirect roof runoff; install pervious surfaces.

\*Consider landscape modifications to help your yard retain excess rainwater and prevent runoff.

\*Redirect all downspouts which drain onto paved surfaces and storm sewers to flow into a rain barrel, rain garden, mulched bed or grassy area, located downgrade from your house.

\*Attend a rain barrel workshop hosted by your municipality, Master Gardeners, or local watershed association.

\*Minimize impervious surfaces such as asphalt and concrete on walks, patios, and driveways on your property. Replace them with gravel or pervious blocks or pavers that allow rain and excess water runoff to soak into the soil.

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### Aston Teen Thwarts Robbers

When 15-year-old Austin Morgan realized someone was breaking into his family's home around noon on May 30, he did not panic, but left the residence immediately and used his cell phone to call police to the scene.

After dialing 911, Morgan provided an accurate description of the burglars to the police dispatcher. As a result of Morgan's calm thinking, no one was hurt and two professional thieves were taken off the street. Once the perpetrators were in custody, a laundry list of unsolved Delco robbery cases were resolved with the evidence found at the suspects' homes.

Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri congratulated Morgan at the July 18 commissioners' meeting, where the young crimefighter received a standing ovation from the crowd.

"As a result of Austin's prompt and courageous actions, these two career criminals will no longer pose a threat to the residents of Aston Township," Ruggieri noted.

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**Read an expanded version of each month's newsletter at the [new and improved](http://www.astontownship.net) [www.astontownship.net](http://www.astontownship.net)**

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### Pennell Educator Named "Best Teacher Under the Sun"

Physical Education teacher John Clark recently received a plaque and \$500 from the Sun East Federal Credit Union, after the Pennell Elementary School educator was named "Best Teacher Under the Sun" for the 2011-12 school year.

Clark is known for his 'Random Acts of Fitness,' popping up in other classrooms during his free periods to engage students in 5-minute exercise sessions. The Phys Ed teacher has also made his classes more inclusive for special needs students, adding a Wii fitness station and bike riding classes. Pennell Elementary also received a \$500 gift from Sun East, while Clark also received the Making A Difference Award from the Delaware County Task Force on the Right To Education.

"Mr. Clark goes well above the traditional; well above the ordinary; and well above what is assumed or even expected," noted Pennell Principal Shawn Dutkiewicz.

### Aston Needs to Address Sewer Line Infiltration

Aston Township and most of Delaware County is now facing the dilemma of how to eliminate the infiltration of stormwater into the septic treatment system. The seepage of millions of gallons of rainwater into the sanitary sewer system costs sewer customers thousands of dollars for unnecessary treatment every year, and must be brought under control.

Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins read a statement at the board's July 18 meeting, to let all Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority customers know that township and sewer authority officials are determined to address the stormwater infiltration problem.

Treating peak flows during rain events puts "severe stress on the treatment process and capacity," Higgins noted. "Treating rainwater, which is essentially clean water, imposes heavy cost burdens and process capacity overloads at the treatment plant."

Reducing stormwater infiltration into the system is therefore seen as a crucial step in reducing sewage treatment costs.

Infiltration occurs through several avenues, including defective sewer laterals that connect each customer to the sewer main beneath the street, through vent pipes located at or below ground level, or through a sump pump or gutter system being directly connected to a sanitary waste system (which is illegal), Higgins explained.

As SWDCMA customers prepare to move to a new treatment system through DelCoRA at the end of 2014, getting the stormwater infiltration problem under control now will help reduce future treatment costs, which are calculated exclusively through the metered flow of total gallons treated at DelCoRA's Chester plant.

Higgins said that methods of addressing the infiltration issue will include changes to township ordinances and educating rate-payers as to their responsibilities and ways each home can contribute to a solution with corrective actions.

\*\*\*Quarterly SWDCMA sewer bills were mailed out at the end of July, with return envelopes now included by popular request. Payment is due by Aug. 31.

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## 11th Annual Community Day Slated For Oct. 7

Mark down the date on your calendar now: **Community Day 2012 will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7.**

The Aston Business Association will host the 11th Annual Community Day and Business Expo from 11am-4pm on Saturday, or from 1-6pm, if the rain date of Sunday, Oct. 8 is needed.

The fun-filled day begins with a parade that will march down Concord Road from Neumann University to the Community Center. The Business Expo is open to all local businesses and organizations that wish to display their products and services.

Outdoor festivities will include rides and amusements from Bette's Fun Center, children's games, contests, and a wide variety of foods to sample from local eateries.

Wristbands that grant the wearer unlimited access will be available in advance for a donation of \$2 each, and on Community Day for a \$3 donation. For parade information and sign-ups, contact Nancy Bowden at **610-494-5490** or **nbowden@webtv.net**; for general Community Day information, contact Maryann Bullen at **610-494-2337** or **mimibull@comcast.net**.

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### Commissioners Amend

#### Flood Plain, Parking, Storage Regs

Several ordinances were recently amended to reflect changes to flood plain, parking, and storage regulations. Chapter 1286 of the Floodplain Ordinance was updated to re-instate former language and include new definitions required by FEMA.

The Floodplain Ordinance changes were needed for Aston Township to remain current with ever-changing state and federal regulations, and to ensure that Aston residents have access to flood insurance and flood recovery funds.

According to Township Solicitor Elizabeth Naughton-Beck, the changes made to the township code include a mandate for the township to appoint a floodplain administrator; revisions to the official floodplain map; new elevation limits for structures built in a floodplain; an option for residents to seek variances through the township's zoning hearing board; and some new language, such as replacing the familiar term "100-year flood" with the term "base flood."

Chapter 1284.03 of the township code was modified to provide parking ratios for off-street parking for industrial and other related uses. The parking requirements are based on square footage of floor space and number of employees on the most active shift. Changes to Chapter 1276.08D of the code include a ban on all types of outdoor storage facilities in a Commercial District and restrictions on merchandise displays beyond the front line of a building.

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### Nelson's BBQ Is Back-to-Back!

Fresh off a successful outing in July, Nelson's BBQ ribs and chicken dinners will once again be served - rain or shine - as a fundraiser for the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. from 11am-5pm on **Sunday, Aug. 12** in the Aston Elementary School lot.

Full racks of ribs cost \$21. Rib meals are \$12 and chicken meals are \$7. Each meal comes with a side dish of either macaroni salad, potato salad or cole slaw, a roll, and a can of soda.

Pre-ordering is recommended, as these tasty meals usually sell out. To pre-order, contact Annie at **610-733-9609**; **afavinger@astonbeechwood72.com**.

\*

Karaoke Night is also back by popular demand at the Aston-Beechwood Firehouse (located on Mount Road, at the foot of Aston Mills Road) from 6pm to 12am on **Saturday, Aug. 18**. Tickets for dinner, drinks, dancing and singing are \$35 per couple/\$20 each.

\*

The Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. is selling \$10 lottery tickets to raise operating funds. Based on the PA Lottery's nightly Daily Number drawings during the month of November, straight winners will receive a \$50 check from the firehouse, or the \$500 grand prize, if your number hits Thanksgiving Day.

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### Fire Co. Needs Your Support

Please support the Green Ridge Fire Co.'s 2012 Fund Drive. Recently, only about half of all Aston residents and a quarter of all Aston businesses have made annual donations to support the all-volunteer fire company.

\*\*\*To receive a **free smoke detector** from Green Ridge Fire Co., call **610-494-6771** to make an appointment at the firehouse on West Dutton Mill Rd.

\*\*\*

### Scholarship Fund Gets Boost

The Pamela Stouch Scholarship Fund for Sun Valley High School students will be the beneficiary of all proceeds generated by a **Sept. 15** golf outing/dinner at Barnaby's in Havertown, located on West Chester Pike. Dinner starts at 5pm. The cost is \$25 per person. A \$200 sponsorship gets your name on a sign at a tee box. Event organizers are now accepting prize donations. Call Tricia Stouch at **484-433-9137** for more information.

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### Nice National Anthem

Commissioners wish to thank Aston resident Rick Choate for his beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner at the July Fourth fireworks display.

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### Public Meetings and Special Events

**August 2, 2012 (Thursday)**  
**7pm in municipal building**  
Recreation Committee Meeting

**August 3, 2012 (Friday)**  
**11am at Community Center**  
Camp Rainbow Closing Day Pizza Party

**August 6-10, 2012 (Mon-Fri)**  
Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

**August 23, 2012 (Thursday)**  
**6pm in municipal building**  
Technology Committee Meeting

**August 28, 2012 (Tuesday)**  
**7pm in municipal building**  
Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

**August 29, 2012 (Wednesday)**  
**7pm in municipal building**  
Planning Commission Meeting

**Aston Board of Commissioners**  
**will not meet in August**  
(next board meeting: Sept. 19)

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### Labor Day Trash Schedule

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on Labor Day, **Monday, Sept. 3**

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\*\*\*Monday's trash and recycling route will be picked up **Tuesday, Sept. 4**, along with Tuesday's regular route.

\*\*\*There will be no second trash pickups made during the first week of September for residents who have Monday or Tuesday as a second day.



You may not have noticed, but the Purple Martin breeding house located next to the municipal building is a busy place these days.

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The Science in the Summer program at the Aston Public Library included experiments with static electricity using balloons...



...and a hair-raising experience for this intrepid young man...



...while everyone in the gym got a little steamed.

\*\*\*

### Library Offers Summer Fun

A series of special performances and presentations geared for children of all ages are planned at the library at 1pm every Wednesday through Aug. 15.

The upcoming presentations (held in the Community Center gym) include:

**Aug. 1** - Piccirillo Scienctelling will present a science-related storytime.

**Aug. 8** - Mrs. Moni will teach the kids Zumbatonics.

**Aug. 15** - Amy from Jitterbugs will get the kids involved in some Music and Movement.

\*The rewards program for Summer Reading allows kids to earn prizes just for reading. Print out the log of books read and bring it to the library each week to get a prize and be eligible for the grand prize at the end of summer.

\*If your child has a required summer reading list for school, the library can help you get those books for free. There is a special section for Penn-Delco summer reading books, found near the Young Adult area.

\*Free Chair Yoga classes return in September, sponsored by Friends of the Library. Registration starts in early August at [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org). Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga, practiced sitting in a chair or standing, using a chair for support.

\*The Friends of the Library are holding a 50/50 raffle as a library fundraiser. Tickets are available at the library's front desk for \$2 each; 3 for \$5; or 7 for \$10.

\*



The Pals For Life dog wants to remind parents that the Aston Public Library will be offering the opportunity for young children to read to trained therapy dogs - a process that can help build a child's self-esteem - on Tuesday evenings in August. Register now at [www.tinyurl.com/AstonPals2012](http://www.tinyurl.com/AstonPals2012).

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To learn more about Aston businesses, visit [www.astonba.com](http://www.astonba.com)

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## Commerce Corner



Feeling the heat? Then stop by Rita's Water Ice, where friendly Aston residents Ana Guenther (left) and Arielle Thomas are waiting to serve you; or perhaps you'd prefer to cool off like Avery Penna (below) does, with a tasty treat from Dairy Queen.



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### Bring On Business Banners

In an effort to help Aston Township businesses succeed, Commissioners have announced a three-month moratorium on advertising banner restrictions. During the months of July, August, and September 2012, Aston businesses may advertise via temporary flags or banners for a period of one week, with the chosen week being up to the business owner. Advertising banners must be kept in good repair while on display. Business operators can call the township's Code Enforcement Department at **610-494-0384** for more information.

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### Service Resignations Accepted

Commissioners recently accepted with regrets the resignations of Stephanie MacQueen from the Aston Township Planning Commission and John Holefelder from a part-time position of township code enforcement officer. Both tendered resignations were effective immediately. Both citizens were thanked for their public service.

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Submit newsletter information by the 22nd of the month to [newsletter@astontownship.net](mailto:newsletter@astontownship.net) or [castarkis@comcast.net](mailto:castarkis@comcast.net)

### **Leaf Bagging Will Continue, As Will Debate**

An ongoing dialogue is whether to resume curbside leaf collections by township crews armed with rakes and leaf vacuums or to continue the method used last Fall, when residents purchased bio-degradable leaf bags, then manually filled them and placed them curbside for collection by a township truck.

After reviewing a cost analysis from last year's trial run for leaf bagging, the Board of Commissioners recently decided by a 5-2 vote to continue the leaf-bagging program in 2012.

The township wants to get out of the leaf vacuuming business due to the ever-rising costs, which could ultimately lead to a tax hike for all residents, and the savings that can be realized by letting tree owners do most of the work in collecting their own leaves.

According to Commissioners President Jim Stigale, about \$25,000 was saved by the township during last Fall's trial run for leaf bagging, and an estimated \$40,000 will be saved by an encore this year. The big savings kick in around year five, when the cost of equipment replacement is avoided, saving the township (and taxpayers) a projected \$250,000, Stigale noted.

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### **2012 Road Paving Program**

The 2012 Road Resurfacing Program will soon be underway, with fresh asphalt planned for select streets in every ward.

The roadways slated to receive a new layer of blacktop are:

**FIRST WARD** - Mount Road and Red Hill Road

**SECOND WARD** - Hillcrest Lane, Ford Avenue and Ashbrooke Lane

**THIRD WARD** - Arbor Lane, Gettysburg Drive, Clearview Lane and Crestview Lane

**FOURTH WARD** - Hearthside Road, Blackthorne Lane and Williams Drive

**FIFTH WARD** - Bunting Lane, Ridge Road, North Manor Drive and Green Lane

**SIXTH WARD** - Park Lane and South Bent Lane

**SEVENTH WARD** - Gerald Drive, Raymond Avenue and Richard Road

\*\*\*Residents are reminded to obey the temporary no parking signs that will be posted during paving this summer.

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### **Service Contracts Extended**

A total of 11 service contracts were unanimously awarded to various vendors at Commissioners' July 18 meeting, with all but one award being contract renewals.

The new one-year contract, in the amount of \$2,988, went to **CM3** (a Pennsylvania Co-Stars provider) for maintenance on the Community Center/Library's new HVAC system.

Two-year contract renewals, covering 2012-2013, included:

**A-1 Traffic Control Products**, in the amount of \$8,855, for restriping of intersections.

**Kelly's Landscaping**, in an amount not to exceed \$3,315, for basin landscaping.

**Superior Plus Energy Services, Inc.**, in the amount of \$120,739, for gas and diesel fuel supplies.

**R. T. Opdenaker & Sons, Inc.**, in the amount of \$13,570, for bulk trash removal.

**Republic I.T.S.**, in the amount of \$26,438, for street light maintenance.

**Charles A. Higgins & Sons, Inc.**, in the amount of \$8,206, for traffic signal maintenance.

**Oceanport LLC**, in the amount of \$64,625, for rock salt.

**A. F. Damon, Inc.**, for ordinary street maintenance.

**Pyramid Materials**, for road materials.

**Rick's Sheds LLC and Tree Tops LLC**, both for snow removal.

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### **Speed Mats Vandalized**

Portable rubber speed humps that were affixed to First and Second Ward roads to slow down traffic were recently pulled up and damaged. Commissioner Gary Robinson noted that a police investigation is underway to identify the vandals, who will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Anyone with information pertaining to this crime is urged to contact the Aston Police Department.

"These speed mats are down for public safety...and we will seek restitution for the damage to these mats," Robinson stated.

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**Did You Know?:** *The most historic building in Aston - the 200-year-old Seven Stars Hotel, which used to sit at Five Points Intersection - was torn down as an eyesore in the 1940s.*

### **Please Clean-up Clippings**

Aston residents are reminded that two ordinances require property owners to cut and remove all grass and weeds from the sidewalk/curb area, and prohibit the blowing of grass clippings into storm drainage areas.

Under these laws, the height of grass must be kept no higher than 6 inches.

Exercising proper maintenance of your property is good for the community and is encouraged and monitored by our Code Department.

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### **Recycling Is Mandatory**

Aston officials wish to remind residents that separating recyclables from the regular trash is the law.

Trash crews have been leaving notices warning of the cessation of collections at homes where recyclables are not removed from the trash.

Separating recyclables benefits the township (and every taxpayer) in two ways: by reducing the overall tonnage of trash and the associated processing surcharge, and by increasing the township revenue received from recycling companies.

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### **Recycling Reduces Trash Fees**

The amount Aston residents pay for trash processing depends on the total tonnage collected *and* how much trash tonnage is reduced through recycling.

\*\*\*Newspapers should be bundled or bagged and placed next to the can.

Recycling collections for the month of June 2012 totaled 70.3 tons of comingled items collected curbside, 9.1 tons of newspaper dropped off at the municipal building container, 121 lbs. of aluminum cans collected by the Aston Lions Club, just under one ton of scrap metal, and 375 gallons of used motor oil, all of which generated a total township revenue of \$2,430.

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**School crossing guards Maureen Peacock and Tom Lord were recently presented with clocks as tokens of appreciation from Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri, recognizing 25 years of service to the community.**

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### **Sewer Authority Offers Emergency Relief**

Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority customers are reminded that emergency service is available 24/7 for sewer back-ups by calling the hotline at **610-494-1335**.

Aston residents are urged to visit the SWDCMA website to learn more about the ongoing effort to reduce stormwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer system - a growing problem that costs every resident with a public sewer connection extra money for unnecessary processing.

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### **Historical Society Seeks New Members**

The Aston Township Historical Society is looking for a few good preservation-minded men and women to swell their ranks. The non-profit organization meets quarterly at the municipal building, and strives to provide a wide variety of history-related speakers for their audiences.

Interested parties can learn more about the ATHS through a link on the township's website.

For information on upcoming public meetings and presentations, contact Karen Micka at **610-358-3511**.

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### **Aston Gets Playground Grant**

Commissioner/Parks & Recreation Committee Chairwoman Carol Graham recently accepted a \$7,500 PECO Green Region Grant on behalf of Aston Township. As part of PECO's open space program, the grant is provided in partnership with Natural Lands Trust, the region's leading land conservationist.

The grant will be utilized to help jump start the Smiles in the Playground initiative that Graham is heading up. The goal is to install playground equipment for handicapped children in every public park in Aston.

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*If any resident knows of an Aston veteran who is returning home from overseas duty, please notify the township office of the expected date and time of arrival, so that a red carpet welcome can be organized.*

\* \* \*

### **Let There Be (More) Light**

Commissioners have approved a proposal by Stouch Lighting to install new LED street lights, at a cost of \$14,919.

This pilot program will see the replacement of the oldest streetlight fixtures in the township. The upgrade will not only reduce the township's electric bill, but will also make repairs easier and generate more illumination.

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### **Venue For Code Grievances**

At their June 27 meeting, Aston Commissioners unanimously approved entering into a multi-municipal agreement that would allow Aston residents to use the Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals that was established by Delaware County pursuant to Act 45 of 1999. The newly adopted process for resolving UCC grievances in Aston Township is effective immediately.

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### **Police Urge Safety Precautions**

Due to recent thefts from vehicles and homes, Aston police are advising residents to avoid keeping valuables in parked vehicles or to lock valuables in the trunk. The most common items stolen from vehicles are purses, wallets, and electronic equipment, like laptop computers and GPS units.

Break-ins have occurred both day and night, often targeting unlocked cars or homes.

As a precaution, residents should keep vehicle windows closed and doors locked, while the doors and windows of the house should be locked, as well. Whenever possible, park vehicles in a well-lit area, and keep the outside of your home illuminated.

Residents should immediately report any suspicious persons and/or vehicles in their neighborhood by dialing 911.

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### **Lions Offer Medical Equipment**

The Aston Lions Club loans medical equipment such as hospital beds, shower chairs, portable commodes, and mobility aides (including wheelchairs, motorized scooters, and walkers) to local residents who need them. If anyone has a late model wheelchair or any of the equipment listed above and would like to donate it for use, or if a disabled person is in need of such equipment, please call Anthony at **610-368-3435** or send mail to P.O. Box 2052, Aston PA 19014.



**Just Ice Cream, on Pennell Road - an Aston institution for 29 years - will carry on its tradition of delectable dairy treats under the new name Just Homemade Ice Cream and the hands-on guidance of new co-owners Al Busch of Brookhaven (below left) and Ed Finn of Aston (below right).**



### **New Owners Continue Homemade Tradition**

Al Busch and Ed Finn recently teamed up as the new co-owners of Just Homemade Ice Cream, located on Pennell Road in the strip mall that includes the Aston post office.

The ice cream parlor has been at this location for 29 years, earning previous owner Bob Diluzio a reputation (and countless "Best of Delco" awards) for the best ice cream in the region.

The sweet secret to success is using recipes for homemade ice cream that are in some cases over 100 years old and passed down through Diluzio's family. The new ownership will not be changing those time-honored recipes either, with up to 35 different flavors being made on the premises and between 15-20 flavors available on any given day. And take heart, all you regular devotees, as the new owners have already promised to bring back pumpkin pie ice cream this Fall.

Busch and Finn plan to add water ice to their current selection of shakes, cones, sundaes, and decorated ice cream cakes, but otherwise, little about the establishment (including the staff) will actually change.

To learn more about this new enterprise maintaining old traditions, visit [JustHomemadeIceCream.com](http://JustHomemadeIceCream.com) or call the store directly at **610-497-5550**.

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**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.**

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**To maintain a safe environment for children, all residents, and especially those living near schools, are urged to dial 911 or call the Aston PD at 610-497-2633 to report suspicious activity.**

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**Eagle Scouts Need Projects**

Boy Scout Troop 225 Scoutmaster Glenn Clark is seeking community, church, or school improvements that might serve as senior projects for future Eagle Scouts. Call Clark at 610-494-3573.

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**Keep Trash Cans Curbside On Trash Day Only**

Township officials are reminding residents that an Aston ordinance mandates that trash and recycling collection containers should not be placed curbside more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up time. Furthermore, empty trash containers must be removed from curbside the same day that collections are made.

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**Medical Waste Requires Special Disposal**

Residents who generate medical waste must take all biohazardous material to a disposal facility or return it to the place of purchase for proper disposal. Please do not try to drop off medical waste at either of the township's fire companies, and **DO NOT PLACE IN TRASH CANS WITH REGULAR TRASH**, as this represents a danger to public works department personnel.

Questions regarding medical waste disposal can be directed to Aston Township Deputy Health Officer James Talbot at 610-494-0384.

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**Consider Scouting For Youth**

Aston is blessed to have active Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Cub Scout programs within the township.

The Boy Scouts of America are accepting new registrations for local Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops. Boys ages 7 to 10 (first grade thru fifth grade) are eligible for Cub Scouts, while ages 11 to 17 can be Boy Scouts.

Call Barry Pinkowicz at 610-494-5294 or send email to [barrypnk@aol.com](mailto:barrypnk@aol.com) to express your interest.

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Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn, who is currently serving an unprecedented 33rd consecutive year as an Aston commissioner, recently received the 2011-2012 Pennsylvania Commissioner of the Year award from the PA State Association of Township Commissioners. This is the second time that McGinn has garnered this prestigious honor.

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**To become a Friend of the Aston Public Library**

go to [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org) and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your information. Click the "Donate" button to make a contribution.

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You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook by visiting [www.facebook.com/astonlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/astonlibrary)

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**Stop Sign Disregard Is Dangerous**  
Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins recently read a prepared statement warning residents of the dangers of speeding and running/rolling stop signs. The common illegal practices not only put a driver and his/her passengers at risk, but are very dangerous for pedestrians. "I'm especially concerned now that the school year is coming to an end, and children will be out playing during

daylight hours," Higgins said. "The speed limit is posted in residential areas and needs to be respected."

Higgins noted that violators are both men and women of all ages, from teens to senior citizens. He said he fully supports the efforts of the Aston Police Department to enforce stop signs and speed limits within the township to promote safety.

"Just slow down and stop. The safety of our residents is first and foremost," Higgins concluded.

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**Citizens Urged To Use Environmental Hotlines**

Any citizen can help report environmental violations or problems they notice in their neighborhood or in local streams, before the situation can cause more damage and pollution. You may be the first person to notice an illicit, non-permitted discharge, and could be the first person to report it to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection or a similar regulatory body.

-If an Aston resident witnesses sediment leaving a construction site during a heavy rain event, they should promptly call the Delaware County Conservation District at 810-892-9484 and send a photo, if possible.

-If pollutants are seen in a stream; clogged or leaking sanitary sewer lines are found; or inadequately treated discharge is observed from a sewage treatment plant, call the Aston Township office at 610-494-1636 during business hours or dial 911 after hours.

-If illegal dumping, spills, or other directed discharges (other than rainwater) into storm sewers or streams is observed, call the DEP 24-hour Water Quality Hotline at 484-250-5900 or the DEP Water Quality Complaints Department at 484-250-5991 (weekdays from 8:30am-4:30pm only).

-To report a fish kill in a stream or pond, call the PA Fish and Boat Commission at 717-626-0228 or the DEP 24-hour Water Quality Hotline at 484-250-5900.

-To report a water main break, call the Chester Water Authority at 610-876-8181 or Aqua PA at 610-525-1402 at any time of day or night.

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**Fifth Ward Commissioner/Police Committee Chairman Jim McGinn (far left) joins Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri (far right) in congratulating the co-winners of the 2011 Aston Township Police Officer of the Year: Officer David Gasiorowski (center left) and Officer Robert Simpson.**

### **Officers of the Year Named**

On May 3, the Aston Township Lions Club announced its selection for 2011 Aston Township Police Officers of the Year. The award was given to two veterans of the force - Officers David Gasiorowski and Robert Simpson. The Lions also donated \$200 to the police department in the two officers' names. The nominees for this annual award come from Aston officers themselves, so being selected as the winner(s) represents peer recognition. Simpson has served 16 years with the Aston PD and Gasiorowski has served 7 years. Fifth Ward Commissioner/Police Committee Chairman Jim McGinn handed each of the co-winners township proclamations at the May board meeting, and noted that the awards were given "not for one specific event, but for the many contributions and sacrifices these officers make on a daily basis." "We're very proud to have you both on the force. You're assets to Aston Township," Commissioners President Jim Stigale told the award winners. In other police matters, Sergeant John Dell retired from the force, effective June 1, after serving Aston Township for 18 years.

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### **Sewer Authority Steps Up Delinquent Collections**

The Board of Commissioners fully supports and applauds the recent efforts of the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority to collect delinquent sewer service fees. In the past two years, more aggressive collections have reduced the amount owed to the sewer authority from \$2.92 million down to just \$1.56 million, according to Commissioners VP Michael Higgins, who serves as

Sewer Authority Committee Chairman. Delinquent accounts have been reduced from 2,920 down to 1,566, since the third quarter of 2010.

"I commend the sewer authority for the tremendous collection efforts they've put forth," Higgins stated. "That's a lot of money."

The additional revenue has helped the sewer board reduce an anticipated 11% rate increase down to a 4.5% hike this year, and put some money back into capital improvements.

Higgins noted that the recent launch of a new SWDCMA billing system, which sends out sewer bills to certified addresses, will help eliminate the popular non-payment excuse of "I never received a bill."

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**Ed Cavacini was recently thanked by Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham for rendering assistance to an Aston homeowner whose garage was on fire in early June.**

### **Aston Honors**

#### **Neighborly Firefighter**

Ed Cavacini, of Hillcrest Lane, was about a block away from his house, walking down Highpoint Lane at 2pm on June 8, when a frantic bystander called his attention to a fire burning in a trashcan next to an attached garage. Without hesitation, Cavacini alerted the six people (including four children) who were inside the home of Grover Walters, and then set about putting out the fire with a fire extinguisher and a garden hose. By the time fire officials arrived on the scene 15 minutes later, the fire was out and Cavacini had already gone home, leaving the grateful Walters family with no one to thank.

Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham had a chance to express that gratitude to Cavacini on June 27, when the Good Samaritan was publicly recognized for his neighborly deed.

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**The players and coaches of the 2012 Girls District 1, Class AAA Champion Softball Team from Sun Valley High School were applauded at Aston Commissioners' June 27 meeting.**

### **Vanguard Softballers Win Crown**

The third time was indeed the charm. After losing the District 1, Class AAA championship game in 2005 and 2007, the Sun Valley Girls Softball team brought home the title this year for the first time in the school's history.

The accomplishments of the team under third-year varsity Coach Jerome Lewis and his assistant coaches Tony Calise, Craig Maloney, Brenda Smyregen, Sarah Church, and Tom Phillips, garnered a standing ovation at Commissioners' June meeting.

Township proclamations were given to each coach and player on the championship squad, including: Alie Alkins, Colleen Baksi, Lindsay Connolly, Madison Corrento, Marissa DiVirgilio, Kelly Dukes, Brooke Duplicki, Brooke Duncan, Kate Dwyer, Alexa Evans, Emily Fasbinder, Ashley Gindle, Jamie Lachall, Amanda Lewis, Karly Lewis, Amanda McFadden, Alyssa Luedtke, Katie Maloney, Crista Moreland, Sam Perrotta, Taylor Potter, Christina Prince, Danielle Steinmetz, Delori Savage, and Taylor Stigale.

**Congratulations to one and all!**

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### **West Nile Season Is Here**

This is the time of year to heighten awareness of factors that contribute to the spread of West Nile Virus, as May thru October is the active season for disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Please be mindful of clogged gutters, empty tires and pottery, bird baths, and any wet areas around your home where water can stagnate and provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

For more information on West Nile prevention, visit the township website and click on "Learn About West Nile Virus."