



Township Times

Volume 8; Issue 4
April 2012



The Piccadilly Circus came to Ice Works on March 20 and 21, offering a petting zoo with llamas, goats, and a zebra.

*



The Easter Bunny helped Commissioners President Jim Stigale host the Sixth Ward Egg Hunt on March 24.

*



Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins (left) and Aston Police Chief Daniel Ruggieri (right) had nothing but praise for Captain John McKenna of Aston, who is retiring after a 58-year career with the Delco CID and PA State Police.
(see story on page 2)



Question: When was the last time you saw five people riding an elephant in Aston?
Answer: March 21 at Ice Works.

Good Friday Holiday

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on **Friday, April 6,** in observance of Good Friday.

Friday's route will be collected along with Thursday's regular route on **April 5.**



Despite the need to dodge a few raindrops, Sixth Ward residents managed to carry away quite a haul from the Easter Egg Hunt.



Read an expanded version of each month's newsletter at the new and improved

www.astontownship.net



Fourth Ward Commissioner Gary Robinson (far left) congratulates (l to r) Aston Valley Baseball League VP Roy Dempsey, Treasurer Fran Miles, and President Mike Komorowski on the occasion of the organization's 50th anniversary season in 2012.



Second Ward Commissioner/Fire Committee Chairperson Carol Graham was proud to hand township recognition certificates to the Aston firefighters who recently earned Delaware County Fireman's Association awards for their volunteer service. These exceptional firefighters include (l to r) Lt. Chris Repine (Theodore F. Epright Valor Award), James Brees (Junior Firefighter of the Year) and Fire Chief John Lloyd (Firefighter of the Year).
(see story on page 2)

Public Meeting Room Audio System Repaired

Just minutes before the March 21 Commissioners' meeting was about to begin, the amplifier blew in the room's sound system, leading speakers to shout their way through the microphone-less session, and leaving many residents at home wondering why there was no sound to go along with the live video broadcast on public access cable channels 10 and 45.

The day after the board meeting, a technician arrived at the municipal building to replace the burned-out amplifier.

Since the March 21 meeting was taped on a video camera that recorded sound, the replay of the session on cable television will come complete with audio, unlike the live broadcast.

Captain McKenna Hangs Up Badge

John McKenna retired from the post of Chief of Detectives with Delaware County's Criminal Investigation Division in February, after spending the last 30 years with CID. He had previously logged 28 years with the Pennsylvania State Police, attaining the rank of captain. To this day, he is still addressed by many friends and colleagues as Captain McKenna.

"Honor, integrity, professionalism, loyalty, and dedication are just a few words to describe Captain McKenna," stated Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri on March 21, when McKenna was honored by the Aston Board of Commissioners.

"Delaware County has always recognized the Aston PD as second to none, and it's certainly been kept that way under the tutorship of Chief Dan Ruggieri," McKenna noted, returning the compliment.

McKenna has been an Aston resident for the last 49 years, and plans to continue living here.

"My wife and I love Aston Township, and call it the 'Garden Spot of Delaware County,' said McKenna. "I refused promotions 14 times in my career, so that I wouldn't have to move out of Delaware County, and specifically Aston."

Firefighters Earn Awards

At a recent Delaware County Fireman's Association banquet, four Aston firefighters were honored with prestigious awards.

Aston-Beechwood Fire Chief John Lloyd received the coveted Robert F. Baxter Jr. Award as 2012 Firefighter of the Year, and Green Ridge Fireman-in-Training James Brees received the Christopher Kangas Junior Firefighter of the Year Award. Both Green Ridge Lt. Chris Repine and Green Ridge Firefighter Andrew Plotts received the Theodore F. Epright Valor Award for displaying courage in the face of danger.

"We are fortunate here in Aston Township to have such qualified people serving our residents," stated Commissioners President Jim Stigale. "We can never say thank you enough. Thanks to all who volunteer their time to come out and protect lives."

Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham echoed the appreciation, noting that Aston volunteers had brought home many of the county's most prestigious firefighting awards.

Township Reduces Debt

Commissioners recently approved the refinancing of \$1.8 million of existing debt to save township taxpayers money in the long run.

Working through the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority, Aston Township will be able to lower its monthly debt payments by issuing a new series (2012) of general obligation notes.

"In English, this simply means we're retiring a current bond issue, and re-issuing a bond to take advantage of interest rates, without extending the term," explained Third Ward Commissioner/Finance Committee Chairman Mark Osborn. "This is very good for us," he summarized.

Green Ridge To Host Carnival

The Green Ridge Volunteer Fire Co. will be holding its annual fundraising Carnival from **Wednesday, April 4 through Friday, April 13** on the firehouse grounds on West Duttons Mill Road.

Ticket specials for rides include Family Nights; \$20 Unlimited Rides on April 9, 10, and 11; and a \$40 Mega Pass that covers all rides for the entire nine-day Carnival.

Bring the entire family and come out and have some fun, while supporting the men and women volunteers your local fire company.

Aston Valley Opens 50th Season

The Aston Valley Baseball League will hold their 50th Opening Day on **Saturday, April 14!**

The Opening Day Parade will begin at 8:30AM from Neumann University and travel down Concord Rd., to Rt. 452, up Weir Road and ending at Weir Park. This year's AVBL baseball players will be riding in pick-up trucks, fire trucks will carry the 2011 season champions, and classic cars will be inducted into the Walk of Fame.

Immediately after the parade, AVBL will host an Opening Day ceremony at Weir Park. The ceremony will include induction of the first AVBL Walk of Fame class members, who will throw out the first pitch. Aston's own Rick Choate will sing the National Anthem and American Legion Post 926 will present the colors. All Opening Day games will follow the ceremony.

Also on **Saturday April 14**, from 7-11pm, AVBL will be hosting a 50th Anniversary Meet and Greet (beef and beer) at Green Ridge Fire Co. on Concord Rd. Tickets are \$20 per person and \$30 per couple, which includes dinner, dessert, beer and soda. There will be door prizes, 50/50's, and some special items to be raffled off. This is a BYOB event. Volt DJs will keep the tunes coming all night long.

On **Sunday April 15**, AVBL will be hosting softball games at Weir Park, starting at 12pm. If you are an AVBL alum or a current AVBL parent we welcome you to come out and join us for a day of fun to relive the 'Glory Days.'

Anyone interested in attending the beef & beer can contact Jim McKenna at avbl50@yahoo.com; Roy Dempsey at majors@avbl.org; or Ken Cage at ken.cage@irggroup.com for tickets.

If any AVBL alumni is interested in being a part of the parade, throwing out first pitches during one of the Opening Day games, guest coaching on Opening Day, attending the Meet and Greet, or playing in the softball games, please email McKenna or Cage.

Aston Valley Baseball would love to see many of its friends and family come out to support and celebrate 50 years of baseball with them. Go to www.avbl.org for more information.

Aston Rethinking Sex Offender Residency Restrictions

In the wake of a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling, the township solicitor is advising the board to repeal the residency restrictions established for convicted sex offenders in 2006.

The Megan's Law provisions that Aston Township adopted under Ordinance No. 834 to keep registered sexual predators away from children were also enacted in municipalities across the state, but the earlier wave of approval has now been replaced by a wave of repeal. The Supreme Court decision that struck down the residency restrictions has set a precedent that will become the legal tool used to overturn similar restrictions anywhere in the state.

"Unfortunately, some of these ordinances were too restrictive and came under challenge by interest groups representing these individuals," noted Aston Solicitor Elizabeth Naughton-Beck.

Commissioners will consider the repeal of Ordinance No. 834 at their April 18 public meeting.

Free Fishing Derby Returns

The Lenni AC will be sponsoring its 3rd Annual Fishing Derby for children (12 and under) on the banks of the West Branch of Chester Creek (at Lewis Fisher Memorial Park) on **Saturday, April 28**. Registration starts at 8:30am (rain or shine), while the fishing tournament runs from 9:15am until noon.

While those with hook, line & sinker (no lures allowed) will take up positions along 300 yards of the creek's embankment, looking for that perfect fishing hole, food and beverages will be available to other family members at the registration table off Mount Road.

Prizes and trophies will be handed out to first, second, and third place finishers in three age groups for the largest and smallest trout landed. There will be no shortage of fish, as the Lenni AC will have stocked the stream with about 900 trout.

The first two years, this free event drew over 100 fisherkids. So long as the community continues to support the Fishing Derby like that, the Lenni AC is dedicated to continuing the tradition, according to Derby Organizer Frank Wingender.

Register Now For Great American Cleanup of PA

In conjunction with the Keep America Beautiful program, the 2012 Great American Cleanup of PA will be held from **March 1 through May 31**. During this period, registered clean-up events can get free bags, gloves, and safety vests from PennDOT district offices.

Two weeks (April 21-May 7) will feature the Let's Pick It Up PA-Everyday event, which focuses on April 21, aka Earth Day.

In 2011, a total of 4,222 events were held by 159,922 Great American Cleanup of PA volunteers. Those volunteers collected 354,267 bags or over 3,500 tons of trash, while sprucing up 13,140 miles of highway, railroad tracks, and shorelines and 5,887 acres of parks and/or wetlands. For additional information, go to **www.gacofpa.org** or call Michelle Dunn at **1-877-772-3673, ext. 113**.

Public Meetings and Special Events

April 6, 2012 (Good Friday)

Township offices closed;
No trash collected

April 9-13, 2012 (Mon-Fri) Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

April 9, 2012 (Monday) **3pm in municipal building** Police Committee Meeting

April 9, 2012 (Monday) **6:30pm in municipal building** Public Works Committee Meeting

April 9, 2012 (Monday) **7:30pm in municipal building** New Construction Committee Meeting

April 10, 2012 (Tuesday) **6:30pm in municipal building** Executive Committee Meeting

April 17, 2012 (Tuesday) **7pm at Aston Public Library** Library Board of Trustees Meeting

April 18, 2012 (Wednesday) **7pm in municipal building** Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 21, 2012 (Saturday) **9am to 1pm at Community Center** Electronic Recycling Event

April 24, 2012 (Tuesday) **Pennsylvania Primary Election Day**

** Polls are open from 7am to 8pm **

April 24, 2012 (Tuesday) **7pm in municipal building** Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

April 24, 2012 (Tuesday) **7pm in municipal building** Ordinance Committee Meeting

April 25, 2012 (Wednesday) **7pm in municipal building** Planning Commission Meeting

April 30, 2012 (Monday) Second Weekly Trash Pickups Begin ***

Seniors Get Together

The next meeting of the Aston Senior Citizens will be held on Thursday, **April 26**, at 10:45am at the Aston Community Center.

The menu includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, peas & onions, tossed salad, and rice pudding. Entertainment will be provided by Guitarist/Vocalist Tom Boyd (aka Mr. Slim).

For more Aston Seniors information, call Gloria Brazunas at **610-859-9085**.

*

The next general meeting of the Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will be held at 10:45am on Monday, **April 23** at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!
For more information, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.

Family Easter Events Expanded

On Saturday, March 31, Aston Township held its annual Community Easter Egg Hunt for all Aston children under age 12 on the athletic field behind the Aston Community Center, where thousands of plastic eggs were scattered on the grass, and some were redeemable for special prizes.

In addition to the free annual Egg Hunt, something new for Aston families this year was a special Brunch with the Easter Bunny, which started 90 minutes prior to the Egg Hunt. The Brunch featured continental breakfast; a chance for parents to photograph their kids with the Easter Bunny; and other children's activities.

Look for photos from these family fun events in the May 2012 edition of *Township Times*.

On March 15, the Aston Township Lions Club inducted the youngest man ever to join the charitable organization, since it was chartered in 1948. David E. Fisher - the grandson of the late-Lewis Fisher, a former Second Ward commissioner, and Florence Fisher, a longtime member of the Aston Lioness Club - was a member of the Aston Leo Club through his four years at Sun Valley High School, and is now a freshman at Neumann University.

The new inductee poses here with Membership Chairman C. Robert Hoyt (left) and President Robert Willoughby.



*



Members of Girl Scout Troop 57075 out of St. Joseph's Church recently collected used pairs of eyeglasses and donated them to the Aston Township Lions Club, whose members will make sure the spectacles are recycled for use by an appreciative person, who otherwise could not afford the benefits of wearing eyeglasses.

The Girl Scouts involved include (l to r) Nicole Papa, Christa Mumley, and Cindy McClentock, flanked here by Aston Lions President Bob Willoughby (left) and Eyeglass Committee Chairman Paul Maletsky.



Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn recently presented Keystone-Mercy Health System Nurse Navigator Patti Hollenback with a township proclamation recognizing the month of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. In 2012 alone, 51,690 people are expected to die of colorectal cancers, but with early detection, 90% of colorectal cancer cases can be cured.

SWDCMA Sees Rate Hikes; Laments Middletown Contract

Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority Board Member Thomas Cozza presented a report to township commissioners on March 21, and the news was both good and bad.

On the positive side, Cozza noted that a two-year campaign to collect delinquent sewer bills has yielded results, bringing in an additional \$1.2 million in outstanding revenue.

Although a slight increase in sewer rates can be expected this year, Cozza said that the projected numbers are not as drastic as some people are claiming. To cover the rising cost of treating 4.7 million gallons of sewage on a daily basis, the residential rate will increase by \$15 per quarter, while commercial customers' flat rate will go up \$20 per quarter, according to Cozza.

"These increases are needed to complete capital improvements to the plant to keep it operating and safe," Cozza stated.

Cozza lamented the budgetary impact of the 50-year contract that allows Middletown customers to pay a small fraction of the rate paid by Aston customers. Until the "sweetheart contract" expires in 2018, there is little that the SWDCMA can do, but endure starting each fiscal year with a deficit.

"When we try to negotiate with Middletown to do the right and fair thing by sharing the expense of maintaining the plant, they hide behind the contract. We subsidize Middletown to the tune of \$2.2 million a year," said Cozza. "With some contribution from them, we might be able to avoid these (rate) increases."

"We believe, based on our analysis, that our move to Delcora is the best move for everyone, and in the long run will save money for our rate-payers," Cozza added.

Library Challenges Artists With Book Cover Contest

Answer the question: "When you read a book, what do you see?" by drawing, collaging, photographing, or creating a new cover for your favorite book or the book that you may write yourself.

Pick up entry forms (with complete rules) at the Aston Public Library service desk. **The Book Cover Design/Re-Design Contest runs until May 19.** All ages may enter. Winning entries will be displayed at the library.

*

Registration is now open for a free six-week Chair Yoga class, which starts **April 14**. This gentle form of yoga is appropriate for men and women of all ages, shapes, and sizes. Go to tinyurl.com/astonadultevents to pre-register for this program.

*

Kids of all ages (especially 3-7) will enjoy the Surprise Program in store for them on **Wednesday, April 25**, starting at 6:30pm in the library.

Go to tinyurl.com/astonkidsevents to uncover the mystery and register.



Second Ward Commissioner/Library Liaison Carol Graham recently presented Aston Public Library Director Stephen Sarazin with a township proclamation to celebrate National Library Week (April 8-14). Under Sarazin's leadership, the library has set a new circulation record every month of the past year.

**Submit newsletter information
by the 22nd of the month to
newsletter@astontownship.net
or
castarkis@comcast.net**

COMMERCE CORNER



Formerly a Rite-Aid Pharmacy, the new Dollar Tree Store at Five Points Intersection held its official Grand Opening on March 24. Aston Township welcomes Dollar Tree, where "Everything is \$1!"

*

To learn more about
Aston businesses, visit
www.astonba.com

Pawn Shop Lease Creates Concern

In late February, township officials learned that a pawn shop/check-cashing business had expressed interest in a vacant store in the Broadway Plaza Shopping Center on the east side of Pennell Road. No formal application has yet been received by the township.

Commissioners VP Michael Higgins, in whose ward (7th) the shopping center is located, recently made a public statement to assure his constituents and neighbors that he is watching the situation closely.

Pawn shops and check-cashing businesses are a permitted use under shopping district zoning, but not necessarily a desirable use.

"The township's hands are tied, and we cannot prohibit this establishment from doing business in a shopping center district," Higgins noted. "Nevertheless, as a commissioner and as a resident, I am not happy at all about the prospect of having this type of business in the Seventh Ward, or in Aston Township, for that matter."

Higgins said on March 21 that the shopping center owner expected at least another month to pass before his new leasee had all licensing and permit issues resolved.

"Please know that I understand and share your concerns regarding the effect this business may have in the township," Higgins said to the residents and business owners that have already expressed concern.

The Library Has Good Friends

The Friends of the Aston Public Library will be holding its next meeting at the Community Center at 7pm on **April 26**. There is no membership fee, and new members are always welcome.

During 2011, the Friends organization raised over \$4,000 for the library through Dine-To-Donate events at local eateries. Another Dine-To-Donate event will be held at Applebees in Aston on Wednesday, **April 25**. Show your server the flyer you picked up at the library and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the library.

The Friends are now holding a 50/50 raffle to raise library funds. Raffle tickets are available at the service desk for \$2 each, 3 for \$5, or 7 for \$10.

*



Storyteller Ms. Joanne of the Aston Public Library knows how to hold a child's attention, as demonstrated at a recent Thomas the Tank Engine Storytime session (above) and a Dr. Seuss Storytime (below).



Does Your Creek Have "Mussel Power"?

Did you know that freshwater mussels are the most imperiled group of animals in the United States? This is even of greater concern given all of the benefits they bring to our streams. Mussel beds strengthen streambeds against erosion and filter large quantities of water, removing nutrients and toxins (one mussel can filter up to 10 gallons a day!).

For example, PDE Science Director Danielle Kreeger has located one older bed of approximately 500,000 mussels in the Lower Brandywine River which she estimates is removing 25 tons of pollutants each year, about 7% of the total load. Unfortunately, none of the mussel beds discovered so far have been found to be reproducing.

Freshwater mussels can live up to 100 years, but if they are unable to reproduce, their valuable benefits to water quality will slowly disappear as the beds die off.

This past fall, Kreeger installed several trial mussel beds in Ridley

Creek in Upper Providence to see if they will survive, and most importantly, if conditions are suitable for them to reproduce.

On **Saturday, May 12, 2012**, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and CRC will hold a lecture and **training for volunteers interested in helping with the mussels project** at Pavilion 8 at Ridley Creek State Park from 9 to 11am.

Participants will first hear Ms. Kreeger speak, and then can follow staff biologist Angela Padeletti to a stretch of Ridley Creek in the Park to learn how to identify mussel beds in their local creeks. Volunteers will receive sufficient training to be able to correctly survey designated sections of their local creeks for the presence and non-presence of mussels and report back to CRC and the Partnership to be included in their survey.

One or two group "Flex Your Mussels" survey days will be held in June and July to cover specific reaches of Ridley, Chester, and Crum Creeks, and volunteers can also sign up to survey tributaries and additional sections on their own, sometime this summer. Two likely meeting places will be Okehocking Preserve with CRC and Supplee Valley Preserve with the East Goshen Conservancy Board.

Pre-register for free CRC training at crc@nni.com or call **610-892-8731**.

Aston Adopts Hazard Prep Plan

At the Board's March 21 meeting, Commissioners unanimously adopted the 2011 Delaware County Hazard Mitigation Plan to protect Aston residents.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines the proactive steps that municipalities should take to prepare for natural disasters to reduce or mitigate the impact on residents.

Municipalities across the county are lining up to sign on to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, as being a signatory is a prerequisite to getting federal and state disaster relief funds.

*

In a related matter, Commissioners have announced their intent to amend the township's flood plain ordinance, to remain current with changing state regulations, and to ensure that Aston residents have access to flood insurance and flood recovery funds.



The members of American Legion Auxiliary, Post 926, in Aston held a special program on March 18 to honor the winners of the organization's annual Americanism Contest.

Americanism Winners Feted

The annual Americanism essay contest sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 926 recently produced a patriotic boatload of winners. The participants all came from local schools in grades 3-8, with three winners named from each grade. The winners were:

3rd Grade: Gianna Miles (first place), Alexis Haughey (second), Kendall Bard (third).

4th Grade: Sean Guinan (first), Jacob Strehle (second), Kaitlyn Dechant (third).

5th Grade: Tommy Christaldi (first), Lindsey Misci (second), Cassidy McClintock (third).

6th Grade: Stefan Borcky (first), Catherine Possenti (second), Conor Culloty (third).

7th Grade: Emile Campese (first), Catherine Zwiercan (second), Meghan Patterson (third).

8th Grade: Mary Clare (first), Corey Boornazian (second), Joseph Bakey (third).

First place winners Sean Guinan, Stefan Borcky, and Mary Clare have all advanced to the next level in the contest, which is a review by the ALA Delaware County Council.

Township Waives Mechanical Device Fees For Non-Profits

On March 21, Commissioners unanimously approved an amendment to the township code that will allow Aston Township's annual licensing fees for mechanical or electronic amusement devices, pool tables, or similar machines to be waived for registered non-profit organizations. The waiver does not relieve the establishment from registering with Aston's Code Enforcement Office and obtaining an annual license.



Members of the Aston Lions Club (above) cooked and served up their semi-annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on March 25 at the Aston Community Center, with able assistance from the youthful members of the Aston Leo Club (below)...



...while the ladies of the Aston Lioness Club (below) set up tables to raise funds through the sale of craft items and baked goods.



New Gym Floor Approved

At the Feb. 15 board meeting, Commissioners approved a contract for replacement of the Aston Community Center gymnasium floor. Conditioned on an agreement with the Aston Athletic Association, Mastercraft Hardwood Flooring has been chosen to install a new \$95,000 floor in the Rick Owsley Fieldhouse. If the contract is ultimately approved by all parties, the flooring upgrade would see the gym go from its original multi-purpose surface to hardwood boards.

"This is just us saying that we like the bid that we have received, but the financing and payments have yet to be finalized, and that will be worked out so the taxpayers of the township will not be paying for this floor," noted First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti.

Township Website Upgraded

Aston Township's official website has been vastly improved.

Website upgrades include video clip capabilities, an annual township calendar, the ability for residents to view and sign up for new editions of *Township Times*, permit information and forms for residents and contractors, archives (such as past newsletters), and photo galleries of community events.

The township's cable access channels have also been upgraded with a new Verizon/Fios connection to the municipal building, which will allow the township to give Verizon customers the same community information service that Comcast users have always received. With Comcast customers continuing to use public access channel 10 and Verizon customers now using access channel 45, all Aston residents with cable service can now see commissioners' meetings live and on video tape, as well as scrolling power point presentations and community updates.

Appeal Board Adopted For Code Grievances

In 2004, the Delaware County Uniform Construction Code Appeal Board was established to provide a venue for resolving potential grievances between municipal code enforcement officials and residents. That same year, Aston Township adopted the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code as the foundation of the township's own building code. As of 2012, Aston Township has joined the Delco municipalities that will utilize the county's appeal board to resolve code grievances.

Eagle Scouts Need Projects

Boy Scout Troop 225 Scoutmaster Glenn Clark is asking Aston residents to come up with worthwhile community, church, or school improvements that might serve as senior projects for future Eagle Scouts. Call Clark at **610-494-3573**.

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.

**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.

Please Pick Up Pet Waste

Pet waste is the responsibility of the animal's owner or owners. The cleaning up and disposal of pet waste should be done properly and promptly. Pet waste left lying on the ground is a source of many harmful microorganisms, including E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Brucellosis, and Giardia, as well as roundworm and hookworm parasites. Many of these microorganisms can survive for months in the soil, and some for up to four years, if not cleaned up.

Children and landscape workers are at the greatest risk for exposure, but studies have shown that dog waste is a significant source of bacterial and nutrient contamination to streams. Rain storms can carry these pollutants to streams by washing the waste off lawns and hard surfaces.

To protect your family and neighbors, please place the waste into a plastic bag and dispose of it in your trash can, then remember to wash your hands. (Composting or burying pet waste does not destroy harmful organisms.) Never go barefoot or wear open shoes in dog parks or areas where pets frequently deposit waste, and don't allow children to play in these areas.



Commissioners President Jim Stigale (left) welcomed Pennsylvania State Representative Stephen Barrar (R-160) and his grandson Ethan Toth to the Opening Day ceremonies at the 2012 Curling Nationals on Feb. 11.

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.

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.

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** to express your interest.

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 any suspicious activity.

**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.**

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.

*****Please note: All recyclables must be separated from regular trash.** Different types of recyclable items can be co-mingled in a recycling can, but newspapers should be bundled or bagged and placed next to the can.

Recycling collections for the month of February 2012 totaled 58.2 tons of comingled items collected curbside, 10.5 tons of newspaper dropped off at the municipal building container, 120 lbs. of aluminum cans collected by the Aston Lions Club, 1,120 lbs. of scrap metal, and 275 gallons of used motor oil, all of which generated a total township revenue of \$2,760.

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.

More Bucks For the Bang

Commissioners recently approved the expenditure of \$17,000 to continue Aston's longstanding practice of sponsoring a public fireworks display on July Fourth. This year's expense is a \$500 cost increase over last year.

Provided by Starfire Corporation, the annual fireworks display will commence at dusk on **Wednesday, July 4**, at Sun Valley High School.

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**.

To become a Friend of the Aston Public Library

go to www.astonlibrary.org and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your information. Click the "Donate" button to make a contribution.

*

You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook by visiting

www.facebook.com/astonlibrary.

Commissioners Thank Ice Works

It's not everyday that Aston Township is mentioned on ESPN and in news reports around the world, but that was the case during February's National Curling Championships at Ice Works.

"It took us a lot of time to get this plan together, but it has given us a lot of national publicity, not only with the curling, but also with the Olympic skaters who practice here, so I just want to say thank you to Ice Works for coming to Aston Township," stated Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn, who was a driving force in the negotiations that brought the skating facility to town.

Commissioners President Jim Stigale agreed with McGinn, noting that Ice Works' prominence is good for the entire business community. Aston Township Day (Feb. 12) during the Curling Nationals was a particularly important day for the ABA.

"There were a lot of people behind the scenes that were able to get in there and promote a lot of Aston businesses," Stigale acknowledged. "People from out of town were able to

come in and get a taste of what we can offer. It was a great day and a great turnout, and a shot in the arm for our township."



Members of Boy Scout Troop 225 and Cub Scout Pack 225 who recently earned recognition from the National Catholic Committee include (left to right, front row) Logan Gailey, Ryan Brooks, Trevor Gaskill, and Matthew Schmucker; and (back row) Casey Berardi, Kyle DeAngelis, and Zachary Middleton, Senior Patrol Leader holding Troop 225's Pope Paul VI unit award.

*

Aston Scouts Get National Attention

Several members of Boy Scout Troop 225 and Cub Scout Pack 225, both out of St. Joseph's Church in Aston, were recently recognized by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

The Pope Pius XII Emblem was bestowed on Boy Scouts Casey Berardi and Kyle DeAngelis, while DeAngelis also received special recognition for having achieved all four of the national level religious emblems available through the Boy Scouts of America.

The Light of Christ Emblem was recently earned by four Pack 225 Cub Scouts, including Ryan Brooks, Logan Gailey, Trevor Gaskill, and Matthew Schmucker.

Additionally, for the ninth time, Troop 225 (as a unit) has been awarded the Pope Paul VI Quality Unit Award by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, applauding the members and leaders of Troop 225 for their superior program of youth ministry.

Congratulations to one and all!

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.
