



Aston Township  
established 1688

**FREE!**

# Township Times

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January 2012



Aston Commissioners President Jim Stigale greeted Santa and Mrs. Claus outside the Community Center to kick off the township's 1st annual Winter Fun Festival on Dec. 2.



Kids of all ages sat on Santa's lap for a photo, including Second Ward Commissioner and Parks & Recreation Committee Chairperson Carol Graham and Community Center Head Custodian Jim Persing, both of whom played a crucial role in preparing for the evening.



The theme of the Winter Fun Festival was *The Polar Express*, which was brought to life by scenery donated by the Penn-Delco Post Prom Committee (above), while Library Storyteller Mr. Malcolm (below) captivated a room full of kids with a lively oral presentation of the tale.



Children's games were a big hit at the Winter Fun Festival, including the Antler Ring Toss (offered by volunteer Anthony Soscia above) and the Snowman Beanbag Toss (below).



Craft tables were popular with the children, as exhibited by wreath-making sisters Lia and Lawren Whitesell (above) and budding Crayola artist Charlee Smith (below).



Many parents took advantage of the holiday scenery to pose their children for pictures.



At the end of the night, Commissioner Graham was joined by Mr. & Mrs. Claus for a group photo with the entire Recreation Committee, including Kit Spayd, Dina Liss, Maureen Dillon, Jacque Willoughby, Gina Ruggieri, Cindy Lopchinsky, Michelle Dormer, Maggie Berry, and Nancy Bowden.

## Winter Fun Festival Draws Huge Turnout

This year's Aston Township annual Christmas Tree Lighting and visit from Santa was revamped to include the first annual Winter Fun Festival. The free event drew an enthusiastic crowd of hundreds of parents and their kids to the Community Center and Aston Public Library on the evening of Dec. 2.

The fun-packed event included craft-making tables, kids' games, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a special performance of *The Polar Express* by Library Storyteller Mr. Malcolm. Refreshments were served to all and included soft pretzels, cookies, juice, and hot chocolate.

Speaking on behalf of all township officials, Second Ward Commissioner and Parks & Recreation Chairperson Carol Graham expressed her gratitude to the small army of volunteers who helped make the evening a wonderful family event.

Graham thanked Township Manager Dick Lehr and all her fellow commissioners; Library Director Stephen Sarazin and Mr. Malcolm; Miss Talley and Mrs. O'Kane, who led a chorus of carol-singing students from Pennell and Aston Elementary Schools prior to the tree lighting; Joe Ward for donating his time and music equipment; the Community Center staff, including Jim, Bill, and John; Police Chief Dan Ruggieri and his officers for providing security; Aston's two fire companies, and especially Green Ridge Co. 63 for once again transporting Santa to the annual event; and several organizations that donated goods or services, including Rick's Sheds (Rick and Terry Yannuzzi), the Media Children's House, the Aston Business Association, Pretzel Boys, the Aston Lioness Club, Viso's Family Bakery, the Penn-Delco Post Prom Committee, Holfelder Brothers, and Giant Food Store.

The members of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee, including Kit Spayd, Dina Liss, Maureen Dillon, Jacque Willoughby, Gina Ruggieri, Cindy Lopchinsky, Michelle Dormer, Maggie Berry, and Nancy Bowden were described as a "Dream Committee" and praised for their tireless efforts.

A special thank you is extended to John Whitig of Iron Workers Bank, who made sure that Santa Claus arrived safely at the Community Center again this year.

"This night was fantastic, and certainly surpassed my expectations in attendance," said Graham. "Looking around at the crowd, it just seemed that everyone was having such a great time and it gave off such a feeling of community togetherness. I want to thank everyone who helped to make this evening so wonderful!"

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## Aston Avoids Tax Hike

A month after projecting a modest 0.18-mill tax increase to balance the township's 2012 budget, township officials found a way to juggle revenue and expenses to produce a zero-increase \$10.9 million budget for the coming fiscal year.

The final outcome was the result of a combination of trimming expenditures wherever possible, while conceding to necessary increases in other line items. Commissioners VP Michael Higgins outlined the pluses and minuses in an overview of the final budget. Comparing 2011 spending to the 2012 budget, the areas that saw allotments reduced included township administration (-0.65%), public safety department & code enforcement (-16.8%), board of health (-0.72%), public works sanitation department (-15.2%), recreation department (-8.4%), and Community Center expenses (-13.4%).

Areas where spending will increase in 2012 include police protection (+3.5%), fire protection (+2.9%), public works highway department (+8.3%), and debt service (+20.4%).

The annual trash service fee will also hold steady at \$220 per household for the third consecutive year. Payment of the trash fee is due on or before March 31 through May 31. Non-payment by June 1 will result in collections being suspended until the fee, plus a 10% penalty, is paid in full.

"In short, there will be no tax or trash fee increase in 2012. Merry Christmas!" Higgins summarized at the board's Dec. 21 session.

Higgins acknowledged Township Manager Dick Lehr and Finance Manager Maureen Schmitt, "who did 98% of the work, and listened to our prodding to cut here and cut there.

They're the ones who deserve all the credit."

Maintaining the 4.0-mill property tax rate means that a homeowner assessed at \$175,000 will still pay \$700 in township tax in 2012.

The millage rate breaks down to 3.39 mills for general purposes; 0.47 mills for debt payment; 0.10 mills for fire protection; and 0.04 mills for library funding.

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

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## Website Upgrades Coming Soon

Township officials are pleased to announce that Aston Township's official website will be vastly improved and up and running by the Board of Commissioners' Jan. 18 meeting.

Pending 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 pertinent information), and photo galleries of recent community events.

The township's cable access channel will also see changes in coming months, as the township has disconnected from Telvue and hopes to soon give Verizon customers the same service that Comcast users now receive. Once a Verizon connection is set up in the municipal building in early 2012, all Aston residents with cable service will be able to view commissioners' meetings live and on video tape, as well as the power point presentations and community updates that can currently be seen by Comcast customers on channel 10.

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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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#### **Aston Ratifies**

##### **Animal-Control Agreement**

Joining a growing list of Delco municipalities, Aston Commissioners have unanimously approved a three-year contract with the Animal Protection Board of Delaware County for the handling of strays.

Delco towns have relied on the Delaware County SPCA for stray services since 1937, but that facility's plan to convert to a no-kill shelter as of Jan. 1 meant that another course of action had to be pursued.

Under the agreement, which needs at least 40 municipalities onboard to make it financially viable, stray dogs and cats will be collected by Delco animal control officers and taken to the Chester County SPCA, until a new \$1.2 million facility can be built in Darby Township.

Each Delco municipality that signs on will be required to pay an annual fee for the ability to use the services of the Animal Protection Board. That fee was set at \$1,250 for the first three

years. The charge per stray animal will be \$250 during the first two years and \$275 for the third year. The charge for an animal that is dead on arrival was set at \$40. The APB will refund each municipality \$250 per stray animal, up to five strays per calendar year.

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#### **Free Microchip Clinic Offered**

The Delaware County Kennel Club, in conjunction with the Aston Police Department, is offering Aston Township dog owners a chance to have their pet microchipped free of charge. Microchipped dogs can be easily identified by any veterinarian.

The clinic will be held from 9-11am on Saturday, **Jan. 14** at the Public Works Garage, located behind the municipal building on Pennell Road. There are 70 microchips available, so this offer is first come, first serve to Aston residents only.

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#### **Public Invited To Free Lecture On Native Flora & Fauna**

The general public is invited to attend a free environmental seminar in the Tomezsko Building Auditorium at the Penn State Brandywine campus (off Route 352 in Middletown) from 2-3:30pm on Sunday, **Feb. 12**. In cooperation with the CRC Watersheds Association, Mark Gormel, a plant horticulturist and nature photographer, will present "Native Plants, Birds, Bees, and Butterflies and Healthy Watersheds - What's the Connection?" Attendees will learn how to create eco-friendly gardens where wildlife, birds, and butterflies will thrive. As space is limited, please contact CRC at **610-892-8731** or visit [cre@nni.com](mailto:cre@nni.com) to pre-register.

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#### **Public Meetings and Special Events**

**January 2 (Monday)**

**New Year's Holiday**

Township offices closed;  
No trash or recycling collected

**January 3, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**

Commissioners' Reorganization Meeting

**January 9-13, 2012 (Mon-Fri)**

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

**January 9, 2012 (Monday)**

**6:30pm in municipal building**

Public Works Committee Meeting

**January 9, 2012 (Monday)**

**7:30pm in municipal building**

New Construction Committee Meeting

**January 10, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**3pm in municipal building**

Police Committee Meeting

**January 10, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**6:30pm in municipal building**

Executive Committee Meeting

**January 17, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**7pm at Aston Public Library**

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

**January 18, 2012 (Wednesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**

Board of Commissioners Meeting

**January 24, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

**January 24, 2012 (Tuesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**

Multi-Ordinance Committee Meeting

**January 25, 2012 (Wednesday)**

**7pm in municipal building**

Planning Commission Meeting

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#### **Seniors Plan Get-Togethers**

Aston Senior Citizens' next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, **Jan. 26**, starting at 10:30am in the Aston Community Center.

ASC membership is open to all Penn-Delco residents, ages 55 and over. For more ASC meeting information, call Liz Anderson at **610-565-5650**; for special trip information, call Alice at **610-494-3534**.

\*

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

**NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!**  
**Sinatra music lovers take note:** AARP will host a bus trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Wednesday, **Jan. 11**. The \$23 per person cost includes transportation, a ticket to see the Swing, Swing, Sinatra show performed by vocalist Brandon Tomasello, and a \$15 slots voucher. The bus leaves Furey Road in Boothwyn at 10:30am. To reserve a seat, call Margo at **610-358-0704**.

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Aston Business Association President Eileen Nelson (center) and ABA Golf Outing Committee Chairman Ron Temple (center right) were proud to recently hand over donation check facsimiles to support Aston's emergency services with funds raised at the Sept. 12 ABA Golf Outing. The grateful recipients included (left to right) Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri (\$2,000), Green Ridge Fire Chief Bob Herre and Aston-Beechwood Fire Chief John Lloyd (\$1,500 each).

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At December's annual ABA Christmas party, Aston Township Manager/Secretary Dick Lehr was honored for his outstanding service to the community in general and to Aston's business community in particular, being named the 2011 Business Person of the Year. Lehr received the award from ABA President Eileen Nelson (above), then posed with members of the township office staff (below), including (left to right) his daughter - Code Enforcement Secretary Janice Misci, Finance Manager Maureen Schmitt, and Administrative Secretary Carol Thompson.



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

**Library Holds Bookmark Contest**  
The library is holding another Bookmark Contest for students in grades K-8. Entry is free and prizes are awarded to the winners. Entry forms can be found at the library and online at [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org). **The deadline for submissions is Friday, Feb. 10.**

\*



Mickey, a beautiful female Husky, recently paid a visit to an Aston Public Library Dog Storytime session to give the kids a chance to see and touch a real-life snow dog.

\*

The library will be hosting special Storytimes for kids during the second week of January. Jitterbugs Music and Movement will involve children ages 2-5 in a musical program on Tuesday, **Jan. 10**, while Mr. Malcolm will entertain attendees with a dramatic storytelling program on Thursday, **Jan. 12**. Both programs start at 10:30am, and pre-registration is not required.

\*

Storyteller Ms. Joanne will present a special Chinese New Year event for children ages 2-7 and their parents on Saturday, **Jan. 21**, starting at 11am. Participants will read stories by Grace Lin; sing songs about dragons; do the Chinese New Year Dance; and make colorful dragon kites to take home. Go to [www.tinyurl.com/astonkidsevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/astonkidsevents) to pre-register for this program.

\*

Free Chair Yoga classes will be returning to the library in 2012. Classes will be held on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings. Visit the library's website for more details.

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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)

## Commerce Corner

### Giant Offers Incentives To Patronize New Store

The newly-opened Giant convenience store and gas station that sits across Concord Road from the Giant Food Store is the 92nd fuel station operated by Giant in the Mid-Atlantic region. The new store features 12 gas pumps and free air, and will be open seven days a week, from 6am to 11pm. The convenience store is "geared for motorists in a hurry," offering cold beverages, hot coffee, snack foods, ice, milk, bread, popular automotive products, a lottery machine, and ATM. Patrons who do their grocery shopping at a Giant Food Store can take advantage of a rewards program that gives discounts on gas purchases that escalate with the amount spent at the supermarket. Ask for Gas Extra Rewards program details at either Giant location in Aston.

"The opening of our new Aston fuel station will provide our Delaware County customers with greater convenience and another location where they can redeem their Gas Extra Rewards for additional savings," said Giant Manager Chris Reeves.



It only took about a month for construction of the new Giant convenience store and fueling station to be completed. The new business on the south side of Concord Road officially opened its doors on Dec. 14.

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### Commissioners Approve Auto Shop

Subject to the owner securing all appropriate licenses and permits, commissioners unanimously approved the conditional use application of Panagiotis "Pete" Pittas, who hopes to soon open Cutting Edge Auto Repair & Towing in the Rolling Hills Industrial Park.

The owner is an experienced mechanic and tow operator. He plans to hire four employees to help him do state inspections and general vehicle repairs, in addition to some towing. All vehicles parked on Pittas' lot will be protected by video surveillance cameras and fencing.

### Aston Goes Tobacco Free

It has actually been several months since Aston Township banned smoking and all tobacco use at public facilities, making our town one of the leaders in the "Young Lungs At Play" initiative that is now being embraced by other local municipalities. By declaring all parks, playgrounds, recreational fields, and the Aston Community Center grounds tobacco-free zones, township officials are protecting children's play areas and effectively limiting exposure to secondhand smoke and unattractive tobacco litter.

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The Aston Lions Club recently bestowed the Melvin Jones Award (the highest award given by the Lions) on Joseph Glowacki (center) for his years of dedicated service. The award was presented by Glowacki's sponsor, Bob Hoyt (left). Walter Longhurst (right), the longest-serving member of the club, received a pin recognizing his 58 years of perfect attendance.

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### Updated Zoning Code Adopted

The process of modernizing and updating Aston Township's zoning code has taken over two years, but was recently completed with Commissioners' Dec. 21 unanimous adoption of an amended zoning ordinance.

The 13 different zoning districts currently existing in the township will remain in effect, including three types of Residential, as well as Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional districts, et al.

Sam Haber of the Delaware County Planning Department, which has provided the township with valuable assistance throughout the code revision process, presented a summary of the zoning issues that have been addressed in the amended ordinance.

Effective as of Jan. 1, the flood plain along Aston's creeks have been modified; recently adopted cell tower and billboard regulations have been incorporated; residential additions that

are attached to the original dwelling are now permitted by right; "no-impact" home businesses are now allowed; professional home offices (with up to two employees) are permitted by special exception; a distinction has been created between "active" and "passive" recreational uses; minimum open space requirements for Planned Residential Developments has been increased from 35 to 40%; and maximum building height has been raised up to 50 feet, while maintaining a two-story limit.

A complete list of new zoning regulations is available through the township office.

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### New Year's Holiday Trash Schedule

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on the day after New Year's Day,

**Monday, Jan. 2**

**Monday's and Tuesday's routes will be picked up on Tuesday Jan. 3**

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### Third Ward Speeders Beware

Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn, who was recently elected to his first full term on the board, is giving those who speed through his ward fair warning. In response to residents' complaints of speeding on residential streets, Osborn has enlisted the Aston PD for additional patrols on high-volume thoroughfares like Cherry Tree Road.

"So if you get written up for speeding on Cherry Tree Road, well, you've been warned," Osborn recently stated.

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### Township Vehicle Sold

A used 2003 Ford sedan, that once served as a police cruiser, then as a code enforcement officer's car, has been approved for sale to the highest bidder, fetching \$1,009 from the Police Car Store, LLC.

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### 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.

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### Aston Mom Helps Decorate White House

Congratulations to Patricia Morgan - the wife of Aston Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Morgan and mother of Green Ridge Fireman Tom Morgan, Jr. and USMC Lance Corporal Charles Morgan - who recently spent two days in Washington, D.C. helping other volunteer invitees decorate the White House for the holidays.

Corporal Morgan is a member of the elite HMX-1 squadron of military police that are assigned to guard the president's helicopter. While visiting her son at his base in Quantico, VA, this Fall, Patricia learned of the chance to volunteer for decorating duty, so she filled out an application. After completing endless paperwork and thorough security checks, the military mother was cleared to participate in the event of a lifetime.

The first task was to sort and organize decorations and ornaments for several Christmas trees in the president's home. Then Patricia helped decorate the 18-foot-tall balsam fir that stands in the Blue Room, which is generally recognized as the official White House Christmas tree. The hung ornaments included handmade holiday cards sent by the children of military personnel stationed around the world.

"I rank the experience as one of the top five in my life. Only my marriage and the birth of my three children were more exciting," said Morgan.

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Members of Boy Scout Troop 225 and Cub Scout Pack 225, both out of St. Joseph's Church, pose with the truckload of 3,450 canned goods that they recently collected for the Sisters of Charity food bank in Chester. Other Scout troops in Aston, including Packs 77 and 292 out of Mt. Hope Church, collected 3,500 canned goods for Mt. Hope's food bank.

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**To stay informed during emergencies, residents should check updated postings on cable Channel 10 and on 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**.

According to SWDCMA Board Member Thomas Cozza, the sewer authority responded to 21 service calls in November, bringing the total number of service calls up to 215 for 2011.

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.

\*

The Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority sent out its quarterly sewer service invoices on Oct. 31, with payment due by Nov. 30. Any SWDCMA customer who has not received this bill should call the office at to request one.

Payments can be made by mail to P.O. Box 2466, Aston PA 19014 or dropped off at the sewer authority office at 1 Gamble Lane, Aston, Monday thru Friday, from 8am-4pm. Credit or debit card payments can be made online at [www.swdelcoma.org](http://www.swdelcoma.org) for a small convenience fee. Customers who cannot pay their bill in full can call the office to set up payment terms.

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#### **FREE SMOKE DETECTORS**

To learn how to receive a free smoke detector for your home, visit

[www.astonbeechwood72.com](http://www.astonbeechwood72.com)

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#### **Emergency Responders Never Rest**

During the month of November, volunteers from Green Ridge Fire Co. answered 31 fire calls and 23 medical alarms, while crews from Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. and Ambulance Corps responded to 22 fire alarms and 107 ambulance calls.

That's a total of 183 emergency responses in a 30-day period, for an average of six calls answered per day. Please support your local fire companies. The next call they answer may be yours!

\*

As of Dec. 31, Aston-Beechwood Fire Chief Michael Keiser is stepping down, with Chief Emeritus John Lloyd assuming the office of A-B Fire Chief for 2012.

Also effective as of Jan. 1, A-B Lieutenant Jeff Kane will be promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief, while Assistant Chief Adam Kissel will continue to serve in his current position through 2012.

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#### **Township Receives Bids For Renovations**

Aston Township had two renovation projects that went out for bid in December. The planned replacement of the gymnasium floor in the Community Center and the installation of an HVAC system and heat pump in the One-Room Village Green Schoolhouse were both put out for bid. This was the second time the gymnasium floor was put out for bid. The first time, no bids were received, and the current status is pending.

At Commissioners' Dec. 21 meeting, the installation of the HVAC system with heat pump was awarded to Ellis Construction for a total base bid of \$40,584. The cost of this project will be covered by a grant.

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#### **Aston Adopts Inspection Ordinance To Curb Stormwater Infiltration**

Commissioners have unanimously adopted an ordinance that requires the inspection of sanitary sewer lines at the time that any residential or commercial property is being sold or major building alterations are being done. If heater or air conditioner condensation, swimming pool water, or stormwater is being dumped into the sewer system through the discharge of sump pumps or gutter downspouts, those illegal connections (which can overload the system and add thousands of dollars to sewage treatment costs) must be removed, before a certificate of occupancy will be issued by the township.

"The basic premise here is that there's water getting into our sewers that causes extra costs," explained First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti. "It's not nice to pay per gallon for extra water in the system, and we're all paying for this...The only water that should be going into our sanitary system should be from sinks and toilets."

#### **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.

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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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#### **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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**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.**

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### Lions Offer Social Network

The Aston Township Lions Club was established in 1948 and is now looking for a few good men. The service organization offers its members a social network of fellowship that can be beneficial when in search of new job opportunities or when seeking a chance to participate in a community project as a volunteer. The relationships you will develop with fellow Lions will serve you well by expanding your personal network. Interested parties can call Bob Hoyt at **610-517-9362** or send emails to **charleshoyt01@verizon.net.**

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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** to express your interest.

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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.***

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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.

**\*\*\*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 November 2011 totaled 58.3 tons of comingled items collected curbside, 6 tons of newspaper dropped off at the municipal building container, 1,600 lbs. of scrap metal, and 900 gallons of used motor oil, all of which generated a total township revenue of \$480.

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### 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' Food Pantry Needs Help

The Aston Township Community Center on Concord Road is now being utilized as a food pantry collection depot that will help feed dozens of local families and children.

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors network has already recruited Giant, the Aston Police Department, the Penn-Delco School District, and other Aston organizations that want to help. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Community Center any day of the week during business hours. Community Center staff will securely store all donations.

All donated items (including gift cards and individual cans or cases of food) will be distributed to needy local families, as contributions allow in the coming months.

"The need has, unfortunately, been increasing, and our food bank is starting to dwindle," Commissioners President Jim Stigale recently stated. "So if anyone wants to contribute non-perishable goods during business hours at the Community Center, it would be much appreciated."

Aston residents who know of a neighbor in need should contact Stigale.

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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.

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**The Aston Lions Club has dozens of pieces of gently-used medical equipment that are available for loan to disabled persons in need.**

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### Lions Dedicate New Headquarters

Establishing a permanent home for the Aston Township Lions Club was a notion that was as old as the service organization that has been helping residents of this community for the last 58 years. That dream was finally realized with a building dedication on Nov. 19, when the new headquarters of the Aston Lions was formally opened at 3 Gamble Lane.

"Everybody worked hard to get this done," said Aston Lions President Bob Willoughby. "It's huge and it's beautiful, and it's going to do a lot of good for the community. We can get a lot more done by centralizing the things that the Lions Club needs, to do what they do on a daily basis."

In attendance were Aston Township Commissioners, who arranged for the 3-acre lot on township property to be leased to the Lions for a nominal sum, and State Senator Dominic Pileggi, whose \$25,000 legislative initiative grant funded construction of the 40 x 60-foot building.

"I'm happy to have been of assistance, and in some small way helped you to reach your objective," stated Senator Pileggi. "Aston is a very special community. There's such a sense of teamwork in Aston, between the commissioners and the residents, and in every community activity I've ever seen, the Lions have been a part of it."

"It's so appropriate that this ribbon-cutting ceremony is so close to Thanksgiving, because there's so many people that we need to thank," said Commissioners President Jim Stigale. "The first ones we need to thank is the

entire Lions Club, for all they do for Aston. You deserve this building.

"And we'd like to thank Senator Pileggi for all his efforts to get us the funds to have this facility, and Dick Lehr, who personally took this on to make sure you had this property."

The building is already being used for storage of equipment that the Lions use for their breakfast fundraisers and medical equipment that is loaned to those in need. Utility service to the structure is yet to be connected, and the addition of a bathroom, kitchen, office, and meeting room inside is also pending.

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### Useful Tips For

#### Stormwater Management

The ultimate goal of stormwater management is to enable rainwater to soak into the ground to recharge the groundwater table. Here are a few tips that will help achieve that purpose and minimize the impact of heavy rains.

-Replace paved surfaces (concrete and blacktop) with blocks or pavers with gravel- or grass-filled voids. The open surfaces absorb rainwater and reduce runoff.

-Direct surface water to seepage areas by channeling gutter downspouts to mulched or stone seepage beds or grassy areas of the yard.

-Collect rainwater for later use. By funneling downspouts into rain barrels, an ample supply of rainwater can be held for lawn and garden watering during dry periods.

-Plant more trees, shrubs, and flowers to intercept runoff and promote absorption. Deep-rooted plants collect rainwater better than mowed lawns.

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#### Medical Waste Requires Special Disposal

Residents who generate medical waste are reminded to take all biohazardous material to a special 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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**Sgt. Jeffrey Brown of the Aston PD recently received a Valor Award from Police Chief Dan Ruggieri for actions taken this summer.**

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#### Officer Lauded For Bravery

Aston Police Sergeant Jeffrey Brown recently received a Valor Award (the highest commendation the Aston PD can bestow) for his crucial role in ending an armed standoff in Trainer Borough on July 4, 2011.

After an enraged man had shot five people, killing three, the murderer barricaded himself inside his home and refused all requests to surrender.

Once all attempts to negotiate had failed, police determined that only entry into the house would subdue the armed man. Brown, a 12-year veteran of the Aston force, volunteered to lead the entry team, following up a tear gas assault on the premises. Although visibility inside the home was poor, Brown showed tremendous restraint in trying to take down the suspect by non-lethal means, but was ultimately compelled to use lethal force on the deranged shooter.

"Sergeant Brown's courage and poise under fire directly resulted in other team members maintaining their composure and properly using all force options, before resorting to deadly force. He is a credit to himself, the Aston Township Police Department, and the law enforcement profession," stated Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri.

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