



Aston Township
established 1688

FREE!

Township Times

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Curling Comes To Ice Works!

The Nordic sport of curling will be the featured attraction at the Ice Works facility on West Duttons Mill Road everyday from **Feb. 11-18**, when Aston Township will be hosting the 2012 USA Curling Nationals Competition. A crowd of 1,000 visitors, athletes, and an international press corps is expected throughout the week at Ice Works to watch over 100 of the nation's top curlers compete for a chance to represent the USA at the world championships.

Sunday, Feb. 12 has been declared Aston Day, when the host town will be recognized. Other special events during the weeklong competition include Team Night, Scout Night, and College Night. Group ticket rates are available. To purchase tickets, visit the website at www.2012usacurlingnationals.com or call 610-497-2200, ext. 117.

Presidents' Day Trash Schedule

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected in recognition of Presidents' Day,

Monday, Feb. 20

Monday's and Tuesday's routes will be picked up on Tuesday Feb. 21.



Fifth Ward Commissioner James McGinn officially began his record ninth consecutive term on the Board of Commissioners at the Jan. 3 reorganization meeting, where he was sworn in by the Honorable Magisterial District Justice Diane Holefelder (far right), while the Bible was held by his friend Linda Quercetti and her daughter, Jackie.



Having served the past year as an interim appointee, Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn was sworn in by Judge Holefelder to begin his first elected four-year term on the board, while his wife Michele held the Bible.



Sixth Ward Commissioner Jim Stigale, who was elected by his peers to serve his first full year as Commissioners President, presented newly-elected District Judge Holefelder with a token of appreciation from the township.



At the end of the 2012 reorganization meeting, Judge Holefelder posed with the newly-sworn members of the board of Commissioners, including (left to right) Seventh Ward Commissioner/Commissioners VP Michael Higgins, Jim McGinn, and Mark Osborn. First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti was unable to attend the reorganization meeting, so he was sworn in the next day to begin his second elected term.



The Aston Lions Club recently bestowed the Melvin Jones Award (the Lions' highest award) 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 58 years of perfect attendance.

Third Ward Speeders Beware

Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn 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 Police Department 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.

Aston Reorganizes; Retains Same Cast

Whomever said: "The more things change, the more things stay the same" may have been thinking about Aston Township in January 2012, when four incumbent Republican township commissioners were re-sworn by newly-elected District Justice Diane Holefelder, while the board re-appointed a laundry list of dedicated public servants.

At the Board of Commissioners' Jan. 3 reorganization meeting, unopposed electees Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn, Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn, and Seventh Ward Commissioner Michael Higgins took the oath of office. During the ceremony, the three men's significant others held the Bible, including Michele Osborn, Linda Quercetti and her daughter Jackie, and Maryann Bullen.

Since re-elected First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti could not attend the group swearing in, he was sworn in at a special ceremony on Jan. 4.

Commissioner McGinn was proud to note that he was starting his unprecedented ninth term on the board. But even McGinn's 32 years of public service is dwarfed by the 41-year tenure of re-appointed Township Manager/Secretary Richard Lehr, who was hired as Roadmaster of the Public Works Department in 1971 and has held his current position since 1987.

The election of board leaders was unanimous on all counts, with Sixth Ward Commissioner Jim Stigale continuing to hold the post of Commissioners President (starting his first full year) and Seventh Ward Commissioner Michael Higgins retaining the post of Vice President for a third consecutive year.

In addition to Lehr, the board also gave two-year reappointments to Township Solicitor Elizabeth Naughton-Beck (representing the law firm of Swartz Campbell), Township Engineers Joseph Viscuso and Eileen Nelson (representing Stantec Consulting), Alternate Township Engineer Nicholas Cirilli, Senior Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Maiden, full-time Code Enforcement Officer Paula Turnbach, part-time Code Enforcement Officer John Holefelder, Deputy Tax Collector Georgianna

DeVuono, Fire Marshal Thomas Morgan, Assistant Fire Marshals Nicholas Spayd and Sean Joyce, Aston Board of Health Officer Dr. William Cohen, Deputy Health Officer James Talbot, and Aston Zoning Hearing Board Officer Carol Thompson.

Other 2012 reorganization business included commissioners officially retaining the same regular public meeting schedule of the third Wednesday of each month, with all sessions starting at 7 PM; and maintaining TD Bank as the depository for all township funds and fiscal accounts.

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The board's committee assignments for 2012 are as follows:

Executive Committee

Jim Stigale(chair), Michael Higgins, Jim McGinn

New Construction Committee

Higgins(chair), V. Michael Fulginiti, Carol Graham

Ordinance Committee

Fulginiti(chair), Graham, Higgins

Police Committee

McGinn(chair), Fulginiti, Mark Osborn

Public Works Committee

Gary Robinson(chair), Fulginiti, Higgins

Board of Health Committee

Osborn(chair), Graham, Robinson

Business and Commercial

Communication Committee

Osborn(chair), Graham, Higgins

Finance Committee

Osborn(chair), Fulginiti, Higgins

Fire Committee

Graham(chair), Osborn, Robinson

Recreation Committee

Graham(chair), Osborn, Robinson

Sewer Authority Committee

Higgins(chair), Fulginiti, Robinson

Tax Coordination Committee

Osborn(chair), Fulginiti, Higgins

Technology Committee

Osborn(chair), Graham, Higgins, Joseph DeVuono (resident), Samuel Iannucci (resident), George Needles III (administration)

Insurance Committee

Fulginiti(chair), Graham, Osborn

Penn-Delco School Committee

Robinson(chair), Fulginiti, Osborn

Personnel Committee

Stigale(chair), Higgins, McGinn

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The following liaison assignments will also be maintained in 2012:

Aston Planning Commission - **Fulginiti**

Aston Public Library - **Graham**

Aston Historical Society - **Higgins**

Aston Senior Citizens - **McGinn**

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At Commissioners' Jan. 18 regular monthly meeting, the re-appointments continued with the re-naming of Donald Miller and Nelson Shaffer to new five-year terms on the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority Board; Stephanie MacQueen, Kenneth Novotni, and Thomas D'Alonzo to new four-year terms on the Aston Township Planning Commission; Michele Dormer and Madelyn Bush to new three-year terms on the Aston Public Library Board of Trustees; Joseph McColgan, William Wescott, and Arthur Baur to new two-year terms on the Aston Township Electrical Board of Examiners; William Mason, Robert McLaughlin, and Frank Giorgini to new two-year terms on the Aston Township Plumbing Board of Examiners; and a new two-year term to Aston Township Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor Francis Sbandi.

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 pertinent information), and photo galleries of recent 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.

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

Board of Health Licenses Due; Annual Inspections Underway

The annual inspection of all Aston eating and drinking establishments by township health officials recently began for the 2012 licensing cycle. Payment of the board of health license fee is now due to Aston Township.

Quarterly Sewer Bills Now Due

The Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority sent out quarterly sewer service invoices on Jan. 31, with **payment due by Feb. 29**. Any SWDCMA customer who has not received this bill should call the office at **610-494-1335** 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 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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SWDCMA Board Member Nelson Shaffer recently recapped 2011 for commissioners, noting that the past year "was a bit of a challenge." In addition to the accidental death of a maintenance worker, the record-setting wet weather "has not been a friend," due to stormwater infiltration into the sewer system, Shaffer said. SWDCMA's aggressive pursuit of unpaid sewer bills has helped bring in about \$700,000 in outstanding revenue over the past year.

Shaffer hopes that SWDCMA's new sewage treatment agreement with DELCORA will soon put an end to Middletown's subsidized service, as the "sweetheart" contract creates a \$1 million operating deficit at the start of each calendar year. An amended 537 Plan is currently being held up by objections from Brookhaven Borough, with each month of delayed approval to switch over to DELCORA costing SWDCMA customers \$100-150,000, according to Shaffer.

Learn About "Big Trees of PA"

The Aston Township Historical Society will hold its next public meeting on Thursday, **Feb. 9**, starting at 7pm. Please use the rear entrance to the municipal building.

A special (free) presentation will be made by local Arborist Scott Wade, the author of "King of Big Trees."

Scott's love of Pennsylvania's trees began while he was working at Our Lady of Angels Convent in Aston. His subsequent work as an arborist has helped us understand what mature trees mean to nature and what they should mean to us.

Sweetheart Karaoke Night

Come and celebrate Valentines Day with a spaghetti dinner and a heartfelt song for the one you love.

The amazing Lisa Parks will be spinning the records for Sweetheart Karaoke Night from 7-11pm at the Aston-Beechwood Firehouse Hall (793 Mount Road, at the foot of Aston Mills Road) on Saturday, **Feb. 11**.

Tickets are \$30 per couple or \$20 per person and include a spaghetti dinner, beer and wine. BYOB is allowed.

For more information, send email to afavinger@astonbeechwood72.com or call **610-459-1252**.

Public Invited To Free Lecture On Native Flora & Fauna

The public is invited to a free 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, Horticulturist/Nature Photographer Mark Gormel will present "Native Plants, Birds, Bees, and Butterflies and Healthy Watersheds - What's the Connection?"

Learn how to create eco-friendly gardens where wildlife, birds, and butterflies will thrive. Please contact CRC at **610-892-8731** or visit crc@nni.com to pre-register.

Neumann Slates Classical Concerts

Two concert performances are scheduled at Neumann University's Meagher Theatre this month.

At 3pm on Sunday, **Feb. 12**, a Chamber Concert will present classical pieces. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors and students, and children under 12 free with an adult.

At 3pm on Sunday, **Feb. 26**, a Symphony Concert will also perform classical music, with special guest pianist Marcantonio Barone. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors and students; free to children under 12.

***All military personnel on active or reserve duty who attend Neumann concerts in uniform will be admitted free at all times. For more information, call **610-879-7059** or visit www.dcsmusic.org.

Public Meetings and Special Events

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

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

February 6, 2012 (Monday)
7:30pm in municipal building
New Construction Committee Meeting

February 7, 2012 (Tuesday)
6:30pm in municipal building
Executive Committee Meeting

February 15, 2012 (Wednesday)
7pm in municipal building
Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 20, 2012 (Monday)
Presidents' Day Holiday
Township offices closed;
No trash or recycling collected

February 21, 2012 (Tuesday)
7pm at Aston Public Library
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

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

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

Commissioners Pay For Own Cell Phones

The Board of Commissioners recently unanimously adopted a formal policy that allows commissioners to purchase a cell phone through the township office, but with the understanding that all associated costs will be borne by the commissioners themselves, and not Aston taxpayers.

Seniors Meet To Socialize

The next general meeting of the Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will be held at 10:45am on Monday, **Feb. 27** at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME! This meeting will feature a speaker from COSA presenting "Laughter is the Best Medicine." For more AARP information, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.



Jemima Wildrick of Maple Lane was recently honored with a township proclamation (presented here by Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham) in recognition of her 95th birthday. Wildrick is a 52-year Aston resident and the proud mother of four children (including daughter Sandy Byrne in blue sweater), 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.



This colorful Aston Public Library Drawing Contest winner was submitted by 3rd Grader Milena Jacyszyn.

Library Offers Tax Preparation

The Aston Public Library will host free federal and state income tax preparation (for families or persons with annual income under \$50,000) during the morning of Monday, **Feb. 6**. Call **610-494-5877** to schedule an appointment.

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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. **The deadline for submissions is Friday, Feb. 10.**

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The library is collecting entries for the Young Poets of Delaware County Poetry Competition. Prizes include savings bonds for first place and publication in a booklet for all first, second, and third-place winners. Entries (only one per K-12 student) must be original poems, typed or neatly written on standard-sized paper, and must include student's name, address, home phone number, grade, school, and school district. Judging will be done by grade level. **Deadline for submissions is Feb. 24.**

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A special Thomas the Tank Engine Storytime for kids ages 2-7 will be held at the library at 6:30pm on Wednesday, **Feb. 29**. The session will feature several stories, songs, and games about the fussy little steam engine. Please go to www.tinyurl.com/astonkidsevents to register.

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Free Chair Yoga classes for men and women will be returning to the library. Classes for this gentle form of yoga will be held on Saturday mornings (starting Feb. 25) and Wednesday nights (starting March 14). Go to www.tinyurl.com/astonadultevents to pre-register for this six-week program.

Friends of Library Make Impact

The Friends of the Aston Public Library will be holding its next meeting at the Community Center at 7pm on **Feb. 26**. There is no membership fee, and new members are always welcome. The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month to strategize on ways to advance their mission to support the library through fundraising and increasing awareness of library services.

During 2011, the Friends organization raised over \$4,000 for the library through Dine-To-Donate events at local eateries, in addition to funds raised through book sales and raffles. The money helped purchase new bookshelves; sponsored a Chair Yoga class; and added over 100 books to the library's permanent collection.

10 Things You Can Do To Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters.
2. Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams.
3. Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
4. Compost your yard waste.
5. Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
7. Take your car to the carwash, instead of washing it in the driveway.
8. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
9. Pick up after your pet.
10. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.

***Provided by United States Environmental Protection Agency - For more information, visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps.



Ace Hardware Assistant Manager Karlene Lafferty (above) displays the selection of pet-friendly de-icers in her store, while John Venuti (below) shows that his store is well-stocked with snow shovels. Other snow-related items, such as scrapers and rock salt et al, are also available at Ace Hardware on Pennell Road and Venuti Hardware on Concord Road.



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

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

GOP Women Plan St. Patty's Party

The Aston Township Republican Women's Club will be holding a St. Patty's Day Party at the American Legion Post 926 Banquet Hall on Friday, **March 9**, from 7-11pm. For ticket information, contact Alma Carroll at alsredvan@yahoo.com.

Emergency Responders Report Busy 2011

Last year, volunteers from Green Ridge Fire Co. answered 660 fire calls and 233 medical alarms, while crews from Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. and Ambulance Corps responded to 414 fire alarms and 1,410 ambulance calls. That's a total of 2,717 emergency responses in 2011, for an average of 7.4 calls answered each and every day. Please support your local fire companies. The next call they answer may be yours!

Snow Dos and Snow Don'ts

We are well into the winter season and thankfully we have not had to endure the endless barrage of snow we had become accustomed to over the past few years. Even though winter has been mild, it does not mean we won't have a winter storm this year. When a winter storm does come, the most important thing any individual can do is be prepared. The most important thing that a community can do is work together. The first line of defense here in Aston Township is our Public Works Department. While most residents are still sleeping, these individuals are out treating and clearing our streets and public areas. The Public Works Department would like to thank the residents for all the cooperation and assistance they receive during winter storms. The next time a storm hits, they ask that you pay attention to these helpful tips:

*Please check on and help out your neighbors, especially the elderly and disabled.

*Please have all sidewalks cleared within 30 hours of the storm.

*Please utilize off street parking if you have it available to you. This is

especially important in areas with steep inclines, declines, and areas where there is minimal room for the plows to maneuver, such as cul-de-sacs.

*Do not blow or shovel snow out into streets.

*Stay off of the roads, if at all possible.

*Remember that snow removal is not an easy job, and that you should take frequent breaks and stretch before beginning.

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 the first Commissioners' meeting of 2012, Aston Township has joined the Delco municipalities that will utilize the county's appeal board to resolve code grievances.

Land Plans Move Forward

At Commissioners' Jan. 18 meeting, the board unanimously approved a subdivision of three existing lots owned by the Sisters of St. Francis and Neumann University on the south side of Convent and Red Hill Road. The 62-acre subdivision will create three different lots, but no new construction, as the intent of the property owners is only lot line adjustment.

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Commissioners also approved an extension request until April 19, 2012 for submission of final land development plans from Mulchworks Recycling, Inc.

Mulchworks President Albert Quercetti requested the additional time for his engineer to finalize a plan to erect a storage/maintenance/office building on three contiguous lots in the Rolling Hills Industrial Park.

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**.

Giant Offers Incentives To Patronize New Store

The newly-opened Giant convenience store and gas dispensing operation that sits across Concord Road from the Giant Food Store is the 92nd fuel station operated by Giant in the Mid-Atlantic region. The store features 12 gas pumps and free air, and will be open seven days a week, 6am - 11pm. The convenience store offers 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 new Giant convenience store and fueling station on the south side of Concord Road officially opened its doors on Dec. 14.

Free Training For Landscapers

If you are a professional landscaper, a groundskeeper, or just a homeowner who wants to keep his property looking good, a free training session called "Caring For Managed Open Space" is being offered at the Ridley Creek State Park Mansion Ballroom from 8:30 to 11:30am on Wednesday, **March 7**. Check-in and a free continental breakfast start at 8:30, and the presentation starts at 9am.

The topics that will be covered by the training session's two expert presenters include mowing for minimal environmental impact; creating meadows and stormwater basins; invasive plant species; pesticide use; planting, mulching, and pruning of trees; and care and use of landscaping equipment.

Please **pre-register by March 5** at **610-892-8731** or crc@nmi.com.

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**.

According to SWDCMA Board Member Thomas Cozza's December report, 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.

FREE SMOKE DETECTORS

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

www.astonbeechwood72.com

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 December 2011 totaled 73.7 tons of comingled items collected curbside, 13.9 tons of newspaper dropped off at the municipal building container, 132 lbs. of aluminum cans collected by the Aston Lions Club, 2,080 lbs. of scrap metal, and 250 gallons of used motor oil, all of which generated a total township revenue of \$470.

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.

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.

'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.

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.

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**.

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**.

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' 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. 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.



The carpet squares donated by Crown Flooring of Aston get quite a workout as seats during Storytime activities with the kids at the Aston Public Library.

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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.

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You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook by visiting **www.facebook.com/astonlibrary**.

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.



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.

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.
