



Aston Township
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Township Times

Volume 8; Issue 7
July 2012



Just Ice Cream, on Pennell Road - an Aston institution for 29 years - will carry on its tradition of delectable dairy treats under the new name Just Homemade Ice Cream and the hands-on guidance of new co-owners Al Bush of Brookhaven (below left) and Ed Finn of Aston (below right).
(See story on page 2)



Aston Women's Soccer Team Now Forming

Aston Soccer has decided to expand and is now forming a Women's Soccer Club that would play this Fall on Sunday afternoons in the Tri-County Women's Soccer League. If you are an experienced soccer player interested in joining this team, contact Kate Sanitate at **484-723-9098** or **ERKat17@gmail.com**.

Read an expanded version of each month's newsletter at the new and improved www.astontownship.net



The rich taste and smooth texture of homemade ice cream, served up with a friendly smile, is something you have to experience to appreciate. Above, members of the Finn clan, including (left to right) Erin Finn, Patrick Finn, and Megan Finn, enjoyed double-decker cones at the store's new ownership celebration in June, while the counter crew of Kara Nedbalski (left) and Rachele Leach whipped up a banana split.



**Don't Miss the Annual Aston Fireworks Display
July 4, starting at dusk
at Sun Valley High School**



The players and coaches of the 2012 Girls District 1, Class AAA Champion Softball Team from Sun Valley High School were applauded at Aston Commissioners' June 27 meeting.
(See story on page 2)



(Above) Ed Cavacini was recently thanked by Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham for rendering assistance to an Aston homeowner whose garage was on fire in early June; (Below) And three Aston police officers - (center, left to right) Officer David Gasiorowski, Officer Mikell Jones, and Sergeant Gary Smith - were feted for their heroic actions during a house fire last year.
(See stories on page 3)





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

Spaces Still Available For Camp Rainbow

Another summer of fun-filled Camp Rainbow sessions is underway, but sign-ups are still possible. The camp is held Monday through Friday from 9am to 12pm at the Community Center and is open to all Aston residents entering 1st thru 5th grade in September. The camp runs for six weeks (June 25 thru Aug. 3) and the cost is \$20 per child per week, with the option to pay and attend week to week.

Pre-registration must be done by a parent or guardian at the township office (5021 Pennell Road) during weekday business hours (8:30am-4:30pm). Registration forms can be found on the township website or at the Aston Public Library and the township office.

For more Camp Rainbow information, call Dottie Kornafel at **610-494-1636, ext. 129**.

New Owners Continue Homemade Ice Cream Tradition

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

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

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

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

To learn more about this new enterprise maintaining old traditions, visit JustHomemadIceCream.com or call the store directly at **610-497-5550**.

Remember To Clean-up Clippings!

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

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

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

If you know of a vacant residential property where the grass is not being cut, please contact a code officer at **610-494-0384**.

West Nile Awareness Season Is Here

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

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

Vanguard Softballers Win Crown

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

The memorable 2012 season featured an 11-game winning streak and winning four extra-inning games. After defeating Oxford and Nazareth in the playoffs, the Vanguard squad took down Springfield in the single-game elimination on June 4.

And with a title team that was largely comprised of freshman and sophomores, the immediate future for the Sun Valley softball program is certainly bright.

The accomplishments of the team under third-year varsity Coach Jerome Lewis and his assistant coaches, Tony Calise, Craig Maloney, Brenda Smyregen, Sarah Church, and Tom Phillips, garnered a standing ovation at Aston Commissioners' June 27 public meeting.

Individual township proclamations were given to each coach and each

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

Congratulations to one and all!

Sewer Authority Steps Up Delinquent Collections

The Board of Commissioners fully supports and applauds the recent efforts of the Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority to collect delinquent sewer service fees. In the past two years, more aggressive collections have reduced the amount owed to the sewer authority from \$2.92 million down to just \$1.56 million, according to Commissioners VP Michael Higgins, who serves as Sewer Authority Committee Chairman. Delinquent accounts have been reduced from 2,920 down to 1,566, since the third quarter of 2010.

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

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

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

2012 Road Paving Program

After Commissioners had budgeted \$200,000 for the 2012 Road Resurfacing Program, the lowest bid received from Kehoe Construction, Inc. amounted to \$238,000 for fresh asphalt on select streets in every ward. The roadways originally slated to receive a new layer of blacktop this summer are listed below, but it may be necessary to scale back some of the proposed streets. Commissioners are hopeful that the 2012 road program will include portions of:

FIRST WARD - Mount Road and Red Hill Road

SECOND WARD - Hillcrest Lane, Ford Avenue and Ashbrooke Lane

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

FOURTH WARD - Hearthsides Road, Blackthorne Lane and Williams Drive

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

SIXTH WARD - Park Lane and South Bent Lane

SEVENTH WARD - Gerald Drive, Raymond Avenue and Richard Road

Recycling Is Mandatory

Aston Township officials wish to remind residents that separating recyclables from the regular trash for disposal is not voluntary - it is the law. Township trash crews have recently been giving notices threatening the cessation of collections to homes that do not remove recyclables from the trash.

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

Recycling cans with lids are available at the municipal building for \$15, or a RECYCLE sticker can be affixed to a regular trash can to keep co-mingled recyclables separate from the trash.

Aston Honors

Neighborly Firefighter

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

Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham had a chance to express that gratitude to Cavacini on June 27,

when the Good Samaritan was publicly recognized for his neighborly deed.

Cops Enter Burning Home To Save Deaf Man

Three Aston Police Department members responded to a house fire on the corner of Tuscany and Wickersham at 11:50pm on April 20, 2011, and were quickly informed by neighbors that a deaf resident of the burning home was still inside. Even though the rear deck of the house was ablaze and the interior was filling with smoke, Sergeant Gary Smith and Officers Mikell Jones and David Gasiorowski rushed inside the house at great risk to their own lives and soon brought the hearing-impaired man out to safety.

For their life-saving actions in the face of danger, the three policemen were publicly recognized at the June 27 commissioners' meeting. Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri bestowed heroism commendations on the men; Aston-Beechwood Fire Chief John Lloyd and Delaware County Fire Marshal Joe Locke added their praise; Ann Iacona (standing in for State Representative Stephen Barrar) handed out citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and gave each man a capitol-flown American flag; and Aston Commissioners passed out township proclamations and their own kudos as well.

Nelson's BBQ Is Back!

Nelson's BBQ ribs and chicken dinners will once again be served - rain or shine - as a fundraiser for the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. from 11am-5pm on Sunday, **July 8** in the Aston Elementary School parking lot. Full racks of ribs cost \$21. Rib meals are \$12 and chicken meals are \$7. Each meal comes with a side dish, roll, and can of soda.

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

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Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. is also selling \$10 lottery tickets to raise operating funds. Based on the PA Lottery's nightly Daily Number drawings during the month of November, straight winners will receive a \$50 pre-holiday check from

the firehouse, or the \$500 grand prize, if your number comes out on Thanksgiving Day. For tickets, contact Annie or any Station 72 member.

Public Meetings and Special Events

July 4, 2012 (Wednesday)

Annual Fourth of July Fireworks
(starts at dusk at Sun Valley High School)

July 9-13, 2012 (Mon-Fri)

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

July 9, 2012 (Monday)

3pm in municipal building
Police Committee Meeting

July 9, 2012 (Monday)

6:30pm in municipal building
Public Works Committee Meeting

July 9, 2012 (Monday)

7:30pm in municipal building
New Construction Committee Meeting

July 10, 2012 (Tuesday)

6:30pm in municipal building
Executive Committee Meeting

July 12, 2012 (Thursday)

7pm in municipal building
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

July 17, 2012 (Tuesday)

7pm at Aston Public Library
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

July 18, 2012 (Wednesday)

7pm in municipal building
Board of Commissioners Meeting

July 24, 2012 (Tuesday)

7pm in municipal building
Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

July 24, 2012 (Tuesday)

6:30pm in municipal building
Ordinance Committee Meeting

July 25, 2012 (Wednesday)

7pm in municipal building
Planning Commission Meeting

July 26, 2012 (Thursday)

7pm in municipal building
Fire Committee Meeting

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



Norma Locke (left), representing the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Aston, recently presented a \$400 donation to Commissioner/Parks & Recreation Committee Chairwoman Carol Graham, earmarking the donation for the Smiles in the Playground project, which is aiming to make Aston's playgrounds handicapped-accessible.

July Fourth Holiday

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on **Wednesday, July 4**, in recognition of Independence Day.

*

Wednesday's trash and recycling route will be picked up **Thursday, July 5**, along with Thursday's regular route.

*

There will be no second trash pick-ups made during the first week of July for residents who have Wednesday or Thursday as their second day.



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

Crossing Guards Feted

Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri joined the Board of Commissioners in saluting Tom Lord and Maureen Peacock at the June 27 commissioners' meeting, where the school crossing guards were thanked for protecting students for a quarter of a century. Ruggieri noted that parents "place their utmost faith and trust in crossing guards," who do their jobs, rain or shine, without much fanfare. "Be proud. Aston Township has the best crossing guards in Delaware County," Ruggieri asserted.



Aston's own Brian Carroll (above), of the Philadelphia Union pro soccer team, and Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham (below) were among the volunteers who visited the Aston Public Library on June 15 to read storybooks to children.



Library Wants Kids To 'Dream Big'

The rewards program once again connected to this year's Aston Public Library Summer Reading Program (under the heading DREAM BIG, READ!) allows kids to earn prizes for their summer reading at tinyurl.com/AstonSRP12. Just print out the book log and bring it to the library each week to get a prize!

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

The upcoming presentations include:

July 5 (Thursday) - Dave Fiebert of Segal Puppets entertains with the Bartholomew Bear's Moon Misadventure puppet show.

July 11 - Classroom Adventures presents the Dreamweaver story.

July 18 - Storyteller Mr. Malcolm entertains with a Cinderella and Peter Pan double feature. A Seat Belt, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Safety program (with prizes for winners of an educational Bingo game) will be

offered this same afternoon at 2pm.

July 25 - Allison DeSalvo's World of Song will perform a concert.

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

Bring On Business Banners

In an effort to help Aston Township businesses succeed, Commissioners have announced a three-month moratorium on advertising banner restrictions. During the months of July, August, and September 2012, Aston businesses may advertise via temporary flags or banners for a period of one week, with the chosen week being up to the business owner.

Advertising banners should look professional and must be kept in good repair while on display. Business operators can call the township's Code Enforcement Department at **610-494-0384** for more information on this experimental program.

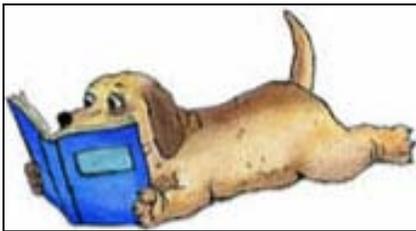
To learn more about Aston businesses, visit www.astonba.com



This framed Aston Township seal is hanging on the wall behind the commissioners' table in the public meeting room at the municipal building. The seal had been imbedded in the ice during the National Curling Championships at Ice Works in February, prior to being framed by Public Works Department personnel.

Eagle Scouts Need Projects

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



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

Leaf Bagging Will Continue, As Will Debate

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

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

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

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

Let There Be (More) Light

Commissioners have approved a proposal by Stouch Lighting to provide and install new LED street lights through the state's Co-Stars program, at a cost of \$14,919.

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

Commissioners Eye Amendments To Parking, Storage Regs

At Commissioners' **July 18** voting meeting, board consideration will be given to: **1.** Clarifying the regulations governing storage in Commercial Districts; **2.** Changing parking ratio regulations for industrial and other related uses; and **3.** Clarifying parking regulations for motor vehicles, trucks, boats, RVs, and trailers.

Scholarship Fund Gets Boost

The Pamela Stouch Scholarship Fund for Sun Valley High School students will be the beneficiary of all proceeds generated by the **Sept. 15** golf outing/dinner at Barnaby's in Havertown, located on West Chester Pike. Dinner starts at 5pm. The cost is \$25 per person, while a \$200 sponsorship gets your name on a sign at a tee box.

Event organizers are now accepting prize donations. Call Tricia Stouch at **484-433-9137** for more information.

Commissioners Make Appointment

The Board of Commissioners recently appointed Kevin Tinsley, of Wexford Drive, to serve a five-year term on the Aston Township Board of Health.

Board Approves Business Plans

Two Aston business owners recently received permission from the Board of Commissioners to move forward with their plans.

Albert Quercetti's land development plan to build a one-story office and equipment storage facility for Mulchworks Recycling, located at 22 Mount Pleasant Drive in the Rolling Hill Industrial Park, was unanimously approved.

Matthew Nigro, trading as MGN Automotive LLC, was also approved to start his own automotive repair shop in the vacant rear portion of 5420 Pennell Road, behind the auto body shop at the same address.

Nigro will initially be the only full-time employee, assisted by one part-timer. The 4,000-square foot shop can store up to a dozen vehicles overnight, while township zoners have limited Nigro to only five vehicles parked outside at one time.

Since the shop sits in a floodplain, all petroleum products will be stored 9 feet above ground level, Nigro noted.

Aston Garners Grant For Playground Equipment

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

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

Floodplain Ordinance Changes Delayed Until July

Commissioners were poised to adopt a number of changes to the township's floodplain ordinance on June 27, but opted to wait until the county's planning department had finished their review of the proposed revisions.

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

According to Township Solicitor Elizabeth Naughton-Beck, the 37 pending changes to the township code include a mandate for the township to appoint a floodplain administrator; revisions to the official floodplain map; new elevation limits for structures built in a floodplain; an option for residents to seek variances through the township's zoning hearing board; and some new language, such as replacing the familiar term "100-year flood" with the term "base flood." The pending changes to the floodplain ordinance can be reviewed in detail at the township office.

Aston Adopts Venue For Code Grievances

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

Residents Offer To Buy Speed Bumps

Bob Armstrong came before Commissioners for a second month in a row in June to report that speeding on Montgomery Lane needs to be curbed. But where he was hoping that the township was willing to purchase and install more speed bumps to slow down traffic in May, he and his neighbors are now offering to buy the portable rubber mats, if the township will install them.

Commissioner and Public Works Committee Chairman Gary Robinson noted that the township has been seeking grant money to purchase additional speed bumps or mats, as speeding on residential streets is a problem in every ward. Faced with the prospect of getting the mats for free, however, Robinson said that a deal might be possible, so long as the residents purchase traffic controls that meet the township's quality standards.

Sidewalk and Curb Requirements Changed

Commissioners have amended the township code to require the installation of concrete sidewalks and curbing at the time a property is sold or transferred, but only under certain circumstances. The new ordinance language went into effect on May 26. The code amendment was adopted by a 6-1 board vote, with Fifth Ward Commissioner Jim McGinn in dissent. McGinn stated that he was concerned that many areas of the township that currently do not have sidewalks might be required to install them in the future, under this amended ordinance. First Ward Commissioner V. Michael Fulginiti assured Aston homeowners, however, that the new requirement for sidewalk and curb installation will be applied on "an individual basis," and only when public safety is at risk or where access and/or stormwater runoff issues exist.

Historical Society Seeks New Members

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

"I've been to a couple of their meetings, and they bring folks in from the outside that you would find very interesting," Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins recently suggested in support of the ATHS. Higgins noted that interested parties can learn more about the ATHS through a link on the township's website.

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



These are the winners of this year's Bookmark Contest at the Aston Public Library. From left to right: Dominique Delgiorno, Emma Stewart, Mary Arena, Jaime Fleming, Giana Buoni, Jacob Sapiro, Molly Gasiorowski, and Lindsay Wigo.

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.

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

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.

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.



2012 Convention Chairwoman Carole Harper (right) of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Aston is congratulated by Carolyn A. Selders, honorary past president of the GFWC Pennsylvania, on the recent occasion of Harper being named GFWC Southeast District Director, a post that covers a nine-county area.

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 May 2012 totaled 68.3 tons of comingled items collected curbside, 7.8 tons of newspaper dropped off at the municipal building container, 180 lbs. of aluminum cans collected by the Aston Lions Club, 580 lbs. of scrap metal, and 400 gallons of used motor

oil, all of which generated a total township revenue of \$2,242. The township's free Electronic Recycling Event at the Community Center on April 21 collected nearly 5.6 tons of recyclable items.

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.

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.

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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.



The trout reeled in at this year's Lenni AC Fishing Derby on April 28 were all keepers, but some were larger than others. While 3-year-old Robert Slesicki of Drayton Road (above) had all he could handle with his smaller fish, 12-year-old Stephanie Chattin of Maple Lane (below) was hoping to win the trophy for the biggest fish in her age group.



Fire Co. Needs Your Support

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

During the month of May 2012 alone, Green Ridge volunteers answered 60 fire calls with an average response of 11 firefighters for each call.

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

***The fire company reminds residents to water dry mulch beds during the summer to avoid accidental mulch fires, most commonly caused by discarded cigarette butts.

**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.



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

Officers of the Year Named

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

Stop Sign Disregard Is Dangerous

Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins recently read a prepared statement warning residents of the dangers of speeding and running/rolling stop signs. The common illegal practices not only put a driver and his/her passengers at risk, but are very dangerous for pedestrians. "I'm especially concerned now that the school year is coming to an end, and children will be out playing during daylight hours," Higgins said. "The speed limit is posted in residential areas and needs to be respected." Higgins noted that violators are both men and women of all ages, from teens to senior citizens. He said he fully supports the efforts of the Aston Police Department to enforce stop signs and speed limits within the township to promote safety. "Just slow down and stop. The safety of our residents is first and foremost," Higgins concluded.

**Aston Tree-Trimmers
Come To The Rescue**

In late April, a large buttonwood tree fell near the Kings Mill banquet facility on Pennell Road and temporarily blocked access to a driveway and fire hydrant. Green Ridge and Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. volunteers responded quickly to the scene, but were unable to dislodge the enormous tree trunk from its resting place. Not even the heavy trucks of the township's Public Works Garage could budge the huge tree. A call was then placed to Tree Tops, Inc. - the Aston-based tree-trimming company owned and operated by Mark Filbert - and within minutes, some heavy-duty wood-cutting equipment was brought in to carve up the tree and regain access to the fire hydrant.

As important as Filbert's assistance was to reaching a resolution, the local businessman charged the township nothing for his emergency services. At the May 16 board meeting, Fourth Ward Commissioner Gary Robinson thanked Filbert and his crew for their expedient help and donation of time and expertise to the community. "He did this as a gratis thing for the fire companies, and I would just like to say thank you on behalf of the Board of Commissioners," Robinson stated.



Six-year-old Lorie Smith, 2012 Poppy Queen of American Legion Post 926, laid this memorial wreath on Memorial Day.

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(Above) 2012 Poppy Queen Kylie Benditt (left) and Lady in Waiting Miranda Potts of American Legion Post 87 attended the Memorial Day ceremony at the war memorial at New and Mount Road, where students from St. Francis de Sales (Below) turned out to show their patriotic colors.





Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham (third from end on left) was joined by this small army of creek-cleaning volunteers at Lewis Fisher Memorial Park on May 5.

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