



Township Times

Pride In Our Community

Volume 8; Issue 10

October 2012

Weekly Recycling Pick-ups Begin In October

The township's Public Works Department will be making weekly recycling collections, **starting on Monday, Oct. 1**. This pilot program will continue until year end, when a cost-benefit analysis will be done.

"Please recycle as much as possible to make this program a success," urges Commissioner Gary Robinson.

Commissioners were waiting until the volume of recycling collections had grown to justify the expense of moving from bi-weekly to weekly collections. Collection of co-mingled recyclables will now be done on regular trash days. Please place recyclables in blue recycling cans or another clearly marked can with a lid. The mandatory recycling program in Aston has been an environmental success and a revenue-generator for the township, but the program would take a quantum leap forward, if every resident would participate diligently.

Township officials have created an instructional video to help Aston residents separate their trash and recycling to maximum benefit. The video dissects the average bag of trash, and identifies which items should be discarded as trash and which ones are recyclable. This video has been posted on the township's website at www.astontownship.net.

If you are not sure if an item is recyclable, do not hesitate to call the township office for assistance.

Aston residents are reminded that separating recyclables from the regular trash is mandatory.

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



(Above) Kit Spayd, of Maple Lane, flanked here by her mother, Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham and Third Ward Commissioner Mark Osborn, and joined by her father Jim Graham and husband Nick Spayd, was recently named 2012 Aston Township Outstanding Citizen of the Year; (Below) Kit enjoys a group hug from her daughters Evelyn (left) and Olivia. (see story on page 2)



Community Day is October 6

The Aston Business Association will host the 11th Annual Community Day and Business Expo from 11am-4pm on **Saturday, Oct. 6**, or 1-6pm on the rain date of Sunday, Oct. 7.

The fun-filled day begins at 9:30am with a parade that will march down Concord Road from Neumann University to the Community Center. John and Bill Venuti and their Aunt Carrie will be parade grand marshals.

After registering for the parade, but before the parade kicks off, the entrants in this year's decorated Bicycle Brigade will be able to participate in a bike safety/health & nutrition program presented by the Neumann University School of Nursing. This pre-parade event will feature a bicycle obstacle course, and certificates for those who challenge it.

The Business Expo starts at 11am and is open to all local businesses and organizations that wish to display their products and services.

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

Wristbands that grant the wearer unlimited access to all food and amusements will be available on Community Day for a \$3 donation. Proof of residence is required.

For parade information and float or Decorated Bike Brigade (up to age 12) sign-ups, contact parade organizer Nancy Bowden at **610-494-5490** or nbowden@webtv.net; For Business Expo information, contact Terry Yannuzzi at **610-497-4019** or terry@rickssheds.com; For general Community Day information, contact Maryann Bullen at **610-494-2337** or mimibull@comcast.net.



(Above) Police Officers Kevin Hall (left) and Joshua Micun were recently commended by Chief Dan Ruggieri for their actions in saving a man's life; (Below) Meanwhile, Officers David Gasiorowski (center), Michael Castagliuolo, and Dennis Killian (not pictured) received commendations and medals for their role in disarming and assisting a suicidal resident. (see story on page 2)



Leaf Bagging Will Continue

The Board of Commissioners has agreed to continue with the curbside collection of bagged leaves during the annual **Leaf Collection season**, which **runs from Oct. 29 to Dec. 21**.

Biodegradable paper leaf bags are available at the township office (open weekdays from 8:30am-4pm) at the price of 5 for \$1, while supplies last. **No plastic bags will be collected.**

In 2011, the Board of Commissioners decided to test out this form of collections, after many years of allowing residents to rake leaves into the street, and then picking them up with a vacuum truck. Some residents have expressed their dislike for the new collection method, while others have praised bagged leaf pick-ups.

The decision to continue with bagged leaf collections was not an easy one. The two main factors that drove this decision were cost and efficiency. Commissioners took many calls on both sides of the issue and spent countless hours with Public Works Department employees and township administrators, weighing the costs and benefits of the program.

In a report prepared by Public Works Foreman Russ Palmore and Township Administrator Assistant George Needles, the cost savings through reduced expenses was undeniable.

The Public Works crew needed to pick up bagged leaves is much smaller than the crew needed to operate the leaf vacuum. As a result, Public Works employees are now being used for other jobs throughout Aston Township - jobs that used to be contracted out.

Roughly \$36,500 was saved in 2011 through leaf bagging.

Commissioners President Jim Stigale empathized that this form of collection will put a burden on some residents. He believes, however, that the township will benefit overall from bagged leaf pick-ups.

The new process allows residents to clean up at their own pace, instead of raking all weekend because the leaf machine is coming by on Monday.

If you, or an Aston resident you know, is physically unable to bag leaves, please call the township office at **610-494-1636**. The Administrative Department will gladly assist any resident in finding a community organization to help.

Spayd Named Citizen of the Year

Mrs. Katherine (Kit) Spayd was recently named the 2012 Aston Township Outstanding Citizen of the Year, earning the title through an endless succession of volunteer efforts to benefit others.

The Maple Lane resident has lived in the Aston Mills section of the township all her life, and volunteering on behalf of the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. has always been a focal point of the Spayd and Graham households.

Kit has served as trustee and vice president of the A-BFC, and is currently serving her second term as president. She has received the President's Award three straight years, and has helped plan and host countless fire company events and fundraisers.

But Spayd's community service is not limited to a fire company, as she has also served on the Aston Township Veterans Memorial Committee, the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Parks & Recreation Committee, and the Smiles in the Playground Subcommittee.

Spayd gives freely of her time to support Autism Speaks and the Girl Scouts of America; has participated in local park clean-up days; and has officiated both the Aston Community Easter Egg Hunt and the Second Ward Egg Hunt for several years.

Police Feted For Actions

The Sept. 19 Commissioners' meeting was a very good day for five Aston Township police officers.

Two officers - Joshua Micun and Kevin Hall - received commendations of merit for their May 26 response to a call that found a 74-year-old man unconscious in his car. Though the subject had no pulse, the administering of CPR revived him.

Without the immediate medical attention rendered by the first responders, the unresponsive man probably would have died, said Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri.

Three Aston patrolmen, including Officers Dennis Killian, Michael Castagliuolo, and David Gasiorowski, earned framed commendations and medals for a May 28 incident that required both courage and compassion, when an agitated and suicidal subject was confronted in his basement, with a loaded shotgun lying in his lap.

All five commended officers also received American flags that had been flown over the state capitol. The gift was presented on behalf of PA State Representative Stephen Barrar.

'Smiles in the Playground'

Project Lifts Off

Commissioner/Parks & Recreation Committee Chairwoman Carol Graham recently accepted a \$7,500 PECO Green Region Grant and a \$400 check from the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Aston to help jump start the Smiles in the Playground initiative that Graham is heading up.

The goal is to create an Aston playground that features special equipment for handicapped children. The cost to purchase and install the specialized equipment for this "inclusive playground" has been estimated at \$150,000.

The Community Day parade will feature a Smiles in the Playground float, and 'Smiles' t-shirts will be on sale at the **Oct. 6** event.

A Halloween Costume Karaoke Night at the Aston Community Center on **Saturday, Oct. 27 (from 5-8pm)** will provide family fun and additional fundraising with a suggested \$5 donation for attendees.

Contributions to support Smiles in the Playground can be sent directly to an account at Iron Workers Bank (3333 Concord Road), c/o Mort Smitham.

To learn more about Smiles in the Playground, contact Kit Spayd at **484-995-3274** or **kspayd@comcast.net**.

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

Fire Company Holds Lottery

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

To purchase lottery tickets, contact Annie at **610-733-9609** or **afavinger@astonbeechwood72.com**.

Tips Offered To Combat Sewer Line Infiltration

The seepage of millions of gallons of rainwater into the sanitary sewer system costs sewer customers thousands of dollars for unnecessary treatment every year.

Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins recently let all Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority customers know that township and sewer authority officials are determined to address this problem.

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

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

Focusing on vent covers that sit below grade, SWDCMA Board Member Bob Naef recently gave a demonstration of how to easily correct this problem by inserting a 4-inch plastic sleeve to raise the cover. The slotted metal vent covers are crucial to the performance of gravity-fed sewer lines, but should not be a source of infiltration.

Sun Valley Holds Craft Fair

Sun Valley High School will be holding its annual Craft Fair in the school's gymnasium from 9am to 3pm on **Saturday, Oct. 20**.

The event will feature raffles, and local crafters offering a large selection of homemade crafts, holiday gifts, and jewelry.

Library Friends Host Harvest Fest

The Friends of the Library will be hosting the First Annual Friends' Harvest Fest at the Community Center from 9am to 3pm on **Saturday, Oct. 20**.

This fundraising event will feature a book sale table, candles, prints, silent auction items, a raffle table, and Tammy's Treasures. All proceeds will benefit the Aston Public Library.

Table space for vendors and crafters is available at \$15 per table. For more information, call Carol Cannon at **610-459-43121** or Tammy McDonald at **610-818-8223**.

Seniors Get Together

The Aston Senior Citizens will hold their next meeting at the Community Center at 10:45am on **Thursday, Oct. 25**. The catered luncheon will feature presentations by Aston K-9 Officer Mikell Jones and his partner Jax, as well as Jennell Williams, the president/CEO of the Senior Lift Program.

This meeting will be the last opportunity for new members to join ASC for this season (September thru May). Annual dues are \$10, which must be paid by Oct. 31.

Membership is open to all Penn-Delco residents, age 55 or older. New members must submit an application, which can be obtained by calling Liz Anderson at **610-565-5650**.

Some ASC members play cards at the Community Center on Tuesdays. Stop by, if you'd like to be dealt in.

*

The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will hold their next monthly meeting at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road, starting at 10:45am on **Monday, Oct. 22**. New members are welcome.

To learn more, call President Ruth Brusstar at **610-494-1534**.

AARP will be hosting a bus trip to Atlantic City to see "Christmas in the White Mountains with Don Ho" at Resorts Casino on **Nov. 7**. The cost is \$24 per person, which includes transportation and a \$10 voucher. The bus leaves Furey Road at 10am. For more bus trip information, call Margo at **610-358-0704**.

Green Ridge Turns 70; Offers Beef & Beverage

The Green Ridge Volunteer Fire Co. has been serving this community for 70 years. To celebrate seven decades of selfless service, the fire company will be hosting a fundraising Halloween Beef & Beverage event at the firehouse on West Dutton's Mill Road on **Saturday, Oct. 27**.

For more information, visit the website at **www.greenridge63.com**.

Public Meetings and Special Events

October 1, 2012 (Monday)

Weekly Recycling Collections Begin

October 1-5, 2012 (Mon-Fri)

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

October 4, 2012 (Thursday)

1 pm in municipal building

Tax Coordination Committee Meeting

October 4, 2012 (Thursday)

7 pm in municipal building

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

October 8, 2012 (Monday)

Township offices closed;

No trash or recycling collected

Columbus Day Holiday

October 9, 2012 (Tuesday)

3 pm in municipal building

Police Committee Meeting

October 9, 2012 (Tuesday)

6:30 pm in municipal building

Public Works Committee Meeting

October 9, 2012 (Tuesday)

7 pm in municipal building

New Construction Committee Meeting

October 10, 2012 (Wednesday)

7 pm in municipal building

Executive Committee Meeting

October 16, 2012 (Tuesday)

7 pm at Aston Public Library

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

October 17, 2012 (Wednesday)

7 pm in municipal building

Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 23, 2012 (Tuesday)

6:30 pm in municipal building

Ordinance Committee Meeting

October 23, 2012 (Tuesday)

7 pm in municipal building

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

October 24, 2012 (Wednesday)

7 pm in municipal building

Planning Commission Meeting

October 25, 2012 (Thursday)

1 pm in municipal building

Finance Committee Meeting

October 25, 2012 (Thursday)

4 pm in municipal building

Technology Committee Meeting

October 25, 2012 (Thursday)

7 pm in municipal building

Fire Committee Meeting

October 29, 2012 (Monday)

Bagged Leaf Collections Begin



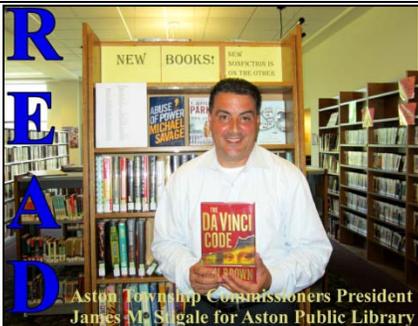
School crossing guard Joan Gusler (center) was recently presented with a clock as a token of appreciation from Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri, recognizing 25 years of service to the community. Joan's good friend, Sister Stephanie Unger OSF, was asked to join her in the photo.

Township Appreciates Cooperation

Aston Township officials and the members of the Public Works and Code Enforcement Departments would like to thank those residents who responded to township notices about overgrown weeds and grass along the curblane by taking the time to remove the unsightly overgrowth. Keeping the curb area neat is just as important as mowing lawns, as it keeps our residential neighborhoods looking clean and inviting. Keeping the curb free of weeds and overgrowth is required by ordinance. Your continued cooperation will be greatly appreciated.



Just Homemade Ice Cream co-owner Al Busch recently paid a visit to the Aston Public Library, where he gave a hands-on demonstration of how to crank out your own homemade ice cream.



Aston Township Commissioners President James M. Stigale for Aston Public Library

Commissioners President Jim Stigale is the latest Aston official to lend his support to the library's READ program.

Storytime Openings At Library

Kids Storytimes for ages 2-6 are still being offered every week at 10:30am on Tuesdays at the Aston Public Library, and spaces are currently available. Sign up at the library desk or online at www.astonlibrary.org.

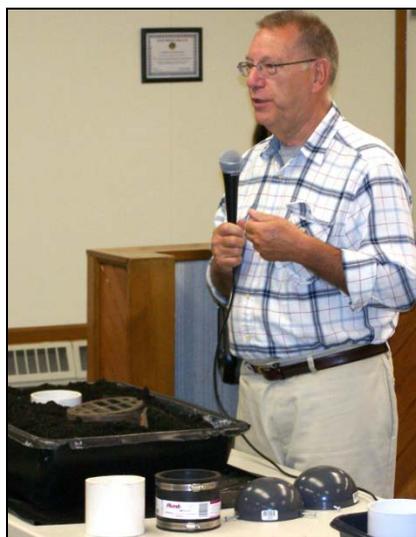
*The Friends of the Library are planning a book sale for **Community Day, Oct. 6**. Stop by and pick up a bargain during the festivities!

*Also on Community Day, from 11am-3pm, the library will be offering free Child IDs provided by New York Life. Parents get a photo ID card and fingerprints for their child for use in an emergency.

*Another Chair Yoga class will be starting soon at the library. Visit the library's website for specific dates and to sign up. These classes fill up quickly, so do not delay. Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga, practiced with the support of a chair, and is appropriate for all shapes, sizes, ages, and genders.

*You can access books for your Kindle, Nook, or other e-book reader with your library card! Go to digitallibrary.delcolibraries.org/.

*Do you have five hours a week to spare? The library needs volunteer help in many places, doing many important jobs. Pick up an application at the library's front desk or submit a volunteer application online at tinyurl.com/APLVolApp.



At Commissioners' Sept. 19 meeting, SWDCMA Board Member Bob Naef showed residents how to fix the problem of stormwater infiltrating into the sewer system through vent covers that sit below grade. (see story on page 3)

Commerce Corner



The Concord Road eatery formerly known as Dexter's on the 5 is currently under renovation and will be re-opening in the coming months as the Aston Diner.

*



After Commissioner Mark Osborn presented a township proclamation on Sept. 19, members of the Venuti family, including (right to left) brothers John Jr. and Bill and their Aunt Carrie, received a standing ovation from the room in recognition of 53 years of community service. Venuti's Hardware Store - a Five Points Intersection fixture since 1959 - closed on Sept. 3.

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

Lions Need Your Help To Make A Difference

The many good works of the Aston Township Lions Club are only possible with the support of the community that they serve.

Lions provide free wheelchairs to persons in need, and currently has a waiting list, but **the club is in short supply of gently-used lightweight wheelchairs**. All donors will get a valuation letter for IRS use.

If you can help the Lions fill the needs of others, please call **610-368-3435** or **610-517-9362** or send a note to Aston Lions C. F. Inc., P.O. Box 2052, Aston, PA 19014-0052.

The Lions will be hosting their semi-annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at the Community Center on **Nov. 4**, and an outdoor BBQ fundraiser is tentatively slated for April 13, 2013.

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

Columbus Day Trash Schedule

Township offices will be closed and no trash or recycling will be collected on Columbus Day, **Monday, Oct. 8**

Monday's trash and recycling routes will be picked up **Tuesday, Oct. 9**, along with Tuesday's regular routes.

Learn How To Compost

Aston Township and the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association will be hosting a free public workshop entitled "Simple Steps to Successful Composting" from 7-8:30pm on **Thursday, Oct. 18** at the municipal building on Pennell Road.

Presenter Sam Barnett is a master gardener. He will show attendees how to construct a compost pile; how to manage it; and how to use it to your benefit.

For more information, contact CRC at **610-892-8731** or **crc@nni.com** or visit **www.crcwatersheds.org**.

Pre-registrations are welcome.

Feed Your Lawn This Fall

To improve your lawn next year, start a compost pile with fallen leaves this year. Mix in non-meat kitchen scraps or other "green" organic matter. Compost can be used next year to condition your soil so that it can absorb more rain water. Purchase a compost bin and attend a composting workshop hosted by your County Solid Waste Authority, Master Gardeners, or Pennsylvania Resources Council.

Mow fallen leaves with a mulching mower and leave the fragments in the lawn as mulch for grass plants.

Fertilize in late fall with a slow-release, organic fertilizer to encourage root development, which will help create a healthier, more resilient lawn next year.

Aston Approves Required Pension Obligations

To meet the minimum municipal obligation to fund the police and non-uniformed employees' pension plans, Commissioners have approved the budgeted expenditure of \$1,157,979 for the police pension fund and \$87,814 for the non-uniform pension fund for 2013.

Rails-to-Trails Project Eyes Construction Start

According to Rails-to-Trails advocate Mike Fusco, the long-awaited and much-debated project is poised to begin construction next year.

Aiming to convert sections of abandoned creekside railroad beds into public walking trails in Aston and Middletown Townships, Rails-to-Trails organizers are hoping to advertise for bids in March, then begin the first of three construction phases in July 2013. The first phase of the walking trail will be completed in about 14 months, Fusco estimates.

Fuel Truck Parking Approved

Businessman Michael Saunders, of Glen Mills, came before Aston Commissioners on Sept. 19 to request conditional use approval to park 4-6 heating oil trucks on a flat portion of the lot at 16 Crozerville Road in the Rolling Hills Industrial Park.

The request was granted by a 5-1 board vote, with Second Ward Commissioner Carol Graham alone in dissent, claiming that she was "not comfortable" with the potential environmental risks to the West Branch of Chester Creek, which lies below the proposed parking area.

The majority of the board, however, felt that allowing Brandywine Fuel Co. to park partially-filled oil delivery trucks (each with a capacity of 2,800 gallons) on the Light Industrial-zoned lot would not create unreasonable risks and would have no impact on neighbors. It was noted that other fuel trucks are parked in the industrial park, and that Saunders' trucks would not be visible from the street.

Fire Companies Prepare To Consolidate

Methods of consolidating the emergency services provided by Aston's two volunteer fire companies are currently being explored in the name of greater efficiency and cost savings.

One step in the process was recently taken when Commissioners appointed Aston Township Fire Marshal Thomas Morgan to act as a consultant to the Fire Departments Consolidation Committee.

Handicap Spaces Approved

Acting on recommendations from the township's traffic safety officer, Commissioners have approved the installation of two 'Handicap Parking Only' signs. The signs will be placed in the vicinity of 1 Harrison Avenue and 30 Scarlet Avenue for the convenience of handicapped residents. It was noted that a handicapped parking space can be used by anyone who has a Handicap Parking sticker. The reserved spaces are not specific to any one person or address.

Hoag Lane Dedicated, But Escrow Withheld

Hoag Lane - the street off Birney Highway that serves the Spring Valley development known as Trotters' Run - was officially dedicated to the township at Commissioners' Sept. 19 meeting. The president of the Spring Valley Homeowners Association was on hand to celebrate the fact that Hoag Lane residents can now look forward to not driving over or navigating around raised manhole covers.

The HOA president also expressed his concerns about the slow drainage of the stormwater retention basin in the 5-year-old housing development. He noted that the HOA had treated the retention pond for mosquitoes earlier this year, out of fear that the standing water would become a mosquito breeding ground and a potential source of West Nile Virus.

To address the drainage concerns, Commissioners decided to withhold an additional \$15,000 of escrow funds that were slated for release to J & V Developers. According to Township Engineer Joseph Viscuso, the retention pond will be carefully monitored to make sure that it is functioning properly, before the remainder of the escrow account is released.

Commissioners OK Expenditures

Aston Township Commissioners unanimously approved some major expenditures at their Sept. 19 meeting. A proposal from Keystone Publishers, Inc. for the codification of township ordinances was authorized in the amount of \$13,545.

Repairs to the Community Center's HVAC system will be made by CM3 Building Solutions, Inc. at a cost of \$2,592.

Retired Police Captain Fills Civil Service Post

Captain John McKenna, of Donnelly Avenue, who retired from 58 years of police work earlier this year, has been named by Aston Commissioners to complete the unexpired term of Otto Zittarelli on the Civil Service Commission. McKenna's interim term will expire on Jan. 1, 2017.

The Civil Service Commission plays a key role in screening and interviewing applicants for police positions.

Township Seeks Bids For Used Vehicles

The township is now taking bids for the sale of a 1996 International trash truck, which was replaced earlier this year by a new vehicle. The deadline for bid submissions is Nov. 12.

Other used township vehicles that may also be destined for the auction block include high-mileage Ford Crown Victorias.

All bids should be sent to the township office at 5021 Pennell Road, Aston, PA, 19014, attention Township Manager/Secretary Dick Lehr.

Recycling Saves Taxpayer \$\$\$

The amount that Aston residents pay for trash disposal depends on how much trash is collected AND how much weight is removed from the trash through recycling.

For the months of July and August 2012 combined, a total of 165 tons of co-mingled recyclables were collected curbside by township crews; 15.6 tons of newspaper were dropped off at the container behind the municipal building; 261 lbs. of aluminum cans were collected by the Aston Lions Club; and 1600 lbs. of scrap metal and 920 gallons of used motor oil were collected. Recycling collections for these two months generated a total township revenue of \$4,010, while saving the township thousands of dollars in trash processing surcharges.

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.



Boy Scout Troop 225 Scout Master Glen Clark congratulates Zach Middleton, of Christopher Lane - the latest member of Troop 225 to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Aston Scout Achieves Eagle Rank

Zachary Middleton became a Boy Scout in 2005, and ultimately earned a total of 35 merit badges in pursuit of scouting's highest rank - Eagle Scout.

Middleton's Eagle project benefitted the Tristate Bird Rescue in Newark DE, and included replacing the sheathing on the walls of the facility's flight cage, which is used in the rehabilitation of a variety of species of birds of prey. The project required 250 service hours from a crew of volunteers, but was completed in a single weekend.

Middleton officially attained the rank of Eagle Scout on July 29, at a Court of Honor held at St. Joseph's Church.

The Sun Valley grad started his quest for a biology degree at Penn State's main campus in September.

Historical Society Seeks New Members

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

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

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

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

Police Urge Safety Precautions

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

Break-ins have occurred both day and night, targeting unlocked cars/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.

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.

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**.

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.

**

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.

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.**

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 bring waste to the municipal building, and DO NOT PLACE IN TRASH CANS WITH REGULAR TRASH.** Direct questions to Aston Township Deputy Health Officer James Talbot at **610-494-0384.**

Consider Scouting For Youth

Aston is blessed to have active Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Cub Scout programs within the township. The Boy Scouts of America are accepting new registrations for local Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops. Boys ages 7 to 10 (first grade thru fifth grade) are eligible for Cub Scouts, while ages 11 to 17 can be Boy Scouts. Call Barry Pinkowicz at **610-494-5294** or send email to **barrypnk@aol.com** to express your interest.

To become a Friend of the Aston Public Library

go to **www.astonlibrary.org** and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your information.

Click the "Donate" button to make a contribution.

*

You can follow the Aston Public Library on Facebook by visiting

www.facebook.com/astonlibrary

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."

Camp Rainbow Ends With Party



While Camp Rainbow's volunteer counselors enjoyed the pizza from Cocco's of Aston at the Aug. 3 closing party, Brakel Lane siblings Joey Baylock and Analiece Taylor apparently enjoyed the ice cream from Dairy Queen.



Visit the Aston Township Lions Club's new website at

www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/astont/

West Nile Fight Ramps Up

2012 has proven to be the worst year yet, since West Nile Virus first appeared in the United States in 1999. Worse still, the active mosquito season lasts until the first hard frost, so more WNV cases are sure to arise.

As of the third week of August (near the peak of the May-October season), a total of 1,118 cases of West Nile Virus had been reported in 38 states, including 41 deaths. Texas has been hardest hit, but every state that had a mild winter, followed by a hotter-than-average summer, has also seen rising WNV numbers.

In Pennsylvania, two women recently contracted WNV, with a Franklin County resident being hospitalized with meningitis, while the Lancaster County resident only had a fever.

Delaware County has mobilized to prevent the spread of WNV-carrying mosquitoes by recently spraying low-lying portions of several municipalities, including Norwood, Ridley Park, Prospect Park, Glenolden, and Folcroft - all communities that border the marshlands of Heinz Wildlife Refuge. All Delco residents are being urged to take this health threat seriously and join nationwide efforts to stem the WNV tide by taking the following precautions:

*Use insect repellants (but not on infants)

*Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants outdoors, especially around dawn and dusk

*Eliminate standing/stagnant water around your home

*Install or repair window and storm door screens

*Use air conditioning, when possible

There is no cure or specific treatment for West Nile Virus.

About 20% of WNV patients develop symptoms such as headache, joint pain, fever, skin rash, or swollen lymph glands. Only about 1% of those infected with WNV will develop paralysis or cognitive difficulties.

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



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

*

Emergency Responders Applauded

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.



Delaware County District Attorney Jack Whalen (center) is an advocate of the Teach Anti-Bullying program founded by Dr. Claudio V. Cerullo (left) and co-administered by Vice President Daniela Redpath (right).

*

Anti-Bullying Initiative Helps Students and Families

Teach Anti-Bullying, Inc. is a non-profit organization that is trumpeting the message that bullying is not acceptable behavior in schools or the community at large.

The founder of Teach Anti-Bullying is Dr. Claudio Cerullo, who also serves as VP of the Glen Riddle Rotary. Teach Anti-Bullying and the Glen Riddle Rotary will be co-hosting this year's Delaware County Disabilities Fair at the Granite Run Mall from **Sept. 12-16**.

Delco District Attorney Jack Whalen recently threw his support behind the all-volunteer Teach Anti-Bullying initiative.

To learn more about how Teach Anti-Bullying may be able to assist your student or family, visit the website at **www.teachantibullying.com**.
