

# Township Times

## Pride In Our Community

Volume 8; Issue 9

September 2012



### 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.



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### Weekly Recycling Pick-ups Will Begin In October

The township's Public Works Department will be making weekly collections of recyclables, **starting on Monday, Oct. 1.**

Commissioners have been waiting until the overall volume of recycling collections had grown to justify the expense of moving from bi-weekly to weekly collections. Collection of co-mingled recyclables (please place recyclables in recycling cans with closed lids) will now be done on each resident's regular trash day.

The mandatory recycling program in Aston has been an environmental success story and a revenue-generator for the township over its first decade, but the program would take a quantum leap forward, if every resident would participate with diligence.

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. For the convenience of residents, this video will be posted on the township's website at [www.astontownship.net](http://www.astontownship.net). If you are not sure if an item is recyclable, please do not hesitate to call the township office for assistance.

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### Recycling Is Mandatory

Aston officials wish to remind residents that separating recyclables from the regular trash is the law.

Trash crews have been leaving notices warning of the cessation of collections at homes where recyclables are not removed 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.

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## 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. The Business Expo 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.

Wristbands that grant the wearer unlimited access will be available in advance (until Sept. 29) for a donation of \$2 each or 6 for \$10, and 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](mailto:nbowden@webtv.net); for general Community Day information, contact Maryann Bullen at **610-494-2337** or [mimibull@comcast.net](mailto:mimibull@comcast.net).

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### Leaf Bagging Will Continue

The Board of Commissioners has agreed to continue with the roadside collection of bagged leaves during the annual "Leaf Collection" season.

In 2011, the Board of Commissioners decided to test out this form of collection, 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. Some Aston homeowners remember a time when the township did not pick up leaves at all.

The decision to continue with the bagged leaf collection 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 is 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 taxpayer dollars were saved in 2011.

*(continued on page 2)*

### **Leaf Bagging Will Continue** *(cont. from front page)*

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. No longer will property owners need to spend a weekend working in the yard, rushing because the leaf machine is coming by on Monday.

Residents can now maintain their yards throughout the fall, as these **bags will be picked up every week, starting Monday, Oct. 29, and ending Friday, Dec. 21.**

Overall, bagged leaf pick-ups are an apparent win-win for the Community. 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.

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### **Smiles In The Playground Hopes To Make A Difference**

On behalf of Aston Township, 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. The donated funding will 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 use by handicapped children. Although the site for this "inclusive playground" is yet to be determined, the cost to purchase and install the specialized equipment has been estimated at \$150,000.

Graham's daughter, Kit Spayd, has volunteered to serve as chairwoman for the Smiles in the Playground Committee, and she plans to promote the fundraising effort in October.

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 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 a special account at Iron Workers Bank, c/o Mort Smitham.

For more information on the Smiles in the Playground program, contact Kit at **kspayd@comcast.net** or **484-995-3274**.

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

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### **Aston Addresses 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, and must be brought under control.

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

Treating peak flows during rain events puts "severe stress on the treatment process and capacity," Higgins noted. Reducing stormwater infiltration into the system is seen as a crucial 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 (which is illegal), Higgins explained.

Higgins said that addressing the infiltration issue will include changes to township ordinances and educating rate-payers as to their responsibilities and ways each home can contribute to a solution with corrective actions.

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**Visit the Aston Township  
Lions Club's new website  
at**

**[www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/astont/](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/astont/)**

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### **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."

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### 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](mailto:afavinger@astonbeechwood72.com).

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### Seniors Resume Meetings

The Aston-Chichester Chapter of AARP will resume their monthly meetings at St. James Episcopal Church on Concord Road, on Monday, Sept. 24, starting at 10am.

New members are welcome. Those who pay their \$10 annual dues on Sept. 24 will receive a free lunch.

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

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### Please Clean-up Clippings

Aston residents are reminded that two ordinances 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.

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### Tips For A Healthier Lawn

Labor Day signals the best time of year to renovate your lawn. Core aerate, then overseed a closely mowed lawn with a fine fescue grass seed mixture and spread a slow-acting, organic fertilizer. Slow-release fertilizers are less water-soluble and therefore less polluting to streams. Fine fescues require less fertilizer.

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### 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](mailto:ERKat17@gmail.com).

## Public Meetings and Special Events

### September 3, 2012 (Monday)

Township offices closed;  
No trash or recycling collected  
**Labor Day Holiday**

### September 4, 2012 (Tuesday)

**7pm in municipal building**  
Board of Health Meeting

### September 5, 2012 (Wednesday)

**7pm in municipal building**  
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

### September 10-14, 2012 (Mon-Fri)

Bulk Trash & Appliance Pick-ups

### September 10, 2012 (Monday)

**3pm in municipal building**  
Police Committee Meeting

### September 10, 2012 (Monday)

**6:30pm in municipal building**  
Public Works Committee Meeting

### September 10, 2012 (Monday)

**7:30pm in municipal building**  
New Construction Committee Meeting

### September 11, 2012 (Tuesday)

**6:30pm in municipal building**  
Executive Committee Meeting

### September 13, 2012 (Thursday)

**6pm in municipal building**  
Finance Committee Meeting

### September 18, 2012 (Tuesday)

**7pm at Aston Public Library**  
Library Board of Trustees Meeting

### September 19, 2012 (Wednesday)

**7pm in municipal building**  
Board of Commissioners Meeting

### September 20, 2012 (Thursday)

**(date tentative)**

**7pm in municipal building**  
Fire Committee Meeting

### September 24, 2012 (Monday)

**6pm in municipal building**  
Technology Committee Meeting

### September 25, 2012 (Tuesday)

**6:30pm in municipal building**  
Ordinance Committee Meeting

### September 25, 2012 (Tuesday)

**7pm in municipal building**  
Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

### September 26, 2012 (Wednesday)

**7pm in municipal building**  
Planning Commission Meeting

### September 28, 2012 (Friday)

Twice-a-Week Trash Pickups  
(Summer Schedule) Ends

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### 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](http://www.teachantibullying.com).

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### 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 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.

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### Labor Day Trash Schedule

Township offices will be closed and no trash will be collected on Labor Day, **Monday, Sept. 3**

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\*\*\*Monday's trash route will be picked up **Tuesday, Sept. 4**, along with Tuesday's regular route.

\*\*\*There will be no second trash pickups made during the first week of September for residents who have Monday or Tuesday as a second day.

\* \* \*

## Commerce Corner



Venuti's Hardware Store on Concord Road - a family-operated Aston institution for the past 53 years - has been selling off its stock at a discount in preparation for the store's permanent closure on Labor Day. Best of luck to the entire Venuti clan... Five Points Intersection will never be the same.

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

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### **Library Sets New Record For Summer Months**

This summer was the busiest ever for the Aston Public Library, with over 29,000 items checked out from June through August. Over 1,000 attendees enjoyed the library's diverse kid-friendly programs in person this summer, while the library hosted more than 4,000 public computer sessions. Surprised by these impressive numbers? You shouldn't be, since the Aston Public Library, under the energetic leadership of Library Director Stephen Sarazin, has been setting monthly circulation and visitor records every month for the past year.

\*Special Storytimes for Toddlers (featuring books, music, fingerplays, rhymes, and puppets for ages 2-3) will be held on Thursdays, **Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27** at 10am. This program is free, but attendees must register in advance at [tinyurl.com/astonkidsevents](http://tinyurl.com/astonkidsevents).

\*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!

\*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](http://tinyurl.com/APLVolApp).

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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).

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Annie Favinger of the Aston-Beechwood Fire Co. got a thank you hug from Green Ridge Firefighter Mark Calvecchio, when he stopped by the Aston Elementary School to pick up his Nelson's BBQ dinners on July 8. The fire company held another successful Nelson's fundraiser on Aug. 12; and another chance to support your local fire companies is slated at the same locale **Sunday, Sept. 9, from 11am-5pm, or until sold out.**

\*

### **Aston Youth Soccer Team Offers Nelson's BBQ**

Nelson's BBQ ribs and chicken dinners will once again be served up - rain or shine - but this time as a fundraiser for the Aston Youth Soccer Association's U-11 Boys Avalanche Team, with pick-ups being made from 12-5pm on **Sunday, Sept. 23** in the Green Ridge Fire Co. parking lot, located at the intersection of Pancoast Avenue and West Dutton's Mill Road. Rib meals are \$12 and chicken meals are \$7. Each meal comes with a side dish of either macaroni salad, potato salad or cole slaw, a roll, and a can of soda.

Pre-ordering is recommended, as these tasty meals usually sell out. To pre-order, contact Susan Vaughan at [mstvaughan1@verizon.net](mailto:mstvaughan1@verizon.net) or **610-494-1088**.

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**Submit newsletter information by  
the 22nd of the month to  
[newsletter@astontownship.net](mailto:newsletter@astontownship.net) or  
[castarkis@comcast.net](mailto:castarkis@comcast.net)**



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 will be starting his quest for a biology degree at Penn State's main campus in September.

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There was something very puzzling about a recent Classroom Adventures session at the Aston Public Library.



...while this Golden Retriever lent an ear to participate in last month's Pals For Life Reading To Dogs Program at the library.

### Speed Mats Vandalized

Portable rubber speed humps that were affixed to First and Second Ward roads to slow down traffic were recently pulled up and damaged. Commissioner Gary Robinson noted that a police investigation is underway to identify the vandals, who will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Anyone with information pertaining to this crime is urged to contact the Aston Police Department.

"These speed mats are down for public safety...and we will seek restitution for the damage to these mats," Robinson stated.

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### 2012 Road Paving Program

The 2012 Road Resurfacing Program included fresh asphalt for select streets in every ward. The roadways that received a new layer of blacktop are:

**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

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### Service Contracts Extended

A total of 11 service contracts were unanimously awarded to various vendors at Commissioners' July 18 meeting, with all but one award being contract renewals.

The new one-year contract, in the amount of \$2,988, went to **CM3** (a Pennsylvania Co-Stars provider) for maintenance on the Community Center/Library's new HVAC system. Two-year contract renewals, covering 2012-2013, included:

**A-1 Traffic Control Products**, in the amount of \$8,855, for restriping of intersections.

**Kelly's Landscaping**, in an amount not to exceed \$3,315, for basin landscaping.

**Superior Plus Energy Services, Inc.**, in the amount of \$120,739, for gas and diesel fuel supplies.

**R. T. Opdenaker & Sons, Inc.**, in the amount of \$13,570, for bulk trash removal.

**Republic I.T.S.**, in the amount of \$26,438, for street light maintenance.

**Charles A. Higgins & Sons, Inc.**, in the amount of \$8,206, for traffic signal maintenance.

**Oceanport LLC**, in the amount of \$64,625, for rock salt.

**A. F. Damon, Inc.**, for ordinary street maintenance.

**Pyramid Materials**, for road materials.

**Rick's Sheds LLC and Tree Tops LLC**, both for snow removal.

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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.

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**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.**

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### 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.

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### 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**.

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

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Commissioners President Jim Stigale holds the framed certificate of appreciation given to township officials by the Aston Township Historical Society. ATHS President Karen Micka and past President/Founder Paul Dougherty noted that the township's recent exterior restoration and air-conditioning of the historic Village Green One-Room Schoolhouse (c.1850) - an effort led by Township Secretary/Manager Dick Lehr - was critical to preservation of the structure.

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### 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**.

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### 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.

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### Police Urge Safety Precautions

Due to recent thefts from vehicles and homes, Aston police are advising residents to avoid keeping valuables in parked vehicles or to lock valuables in the trunk. The most common items stolen from vehicles are purses, wallets, and electronic equipment, like laptop computers and GPS units. Break-ins have occurred both day and night, often targeting unlocked cars or homes.

As a precaution, residents should keep vehicle windows closed and doors locked, while the doors and windows of the house should be locked, as well. Whenever possible, park vehicles in a well-lit area, and keep the outside of your home illuminated.

Residents should immediately report any suspicious persons and/or vehicles in their neighborhood by dialing 911.

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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.

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### Lions Offer Medical Equipment

The Aston Lions Club loans medical equipment such as hospital beds, shower chairs, portable commodes, and mobility aides (including wheelchairs, motorized scooters, and walkers) to local residents who need them. If anyone has a late model wheelchair or any of the equipment listed above and would like to donate it for use, or if a disabled person is in need of such equipment, please call Anthony at 610-368-3435 or send mail to P.O. Box 2052, Aston PA 19014.

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### New Owners Continue Homemade Tradition

Al Busch 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 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 in the region.

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.

Busch 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 JustHomemadeIceCream.com or call the store directly at 610-497-5550.

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

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### Stop Sign Disregard Is Dangerous

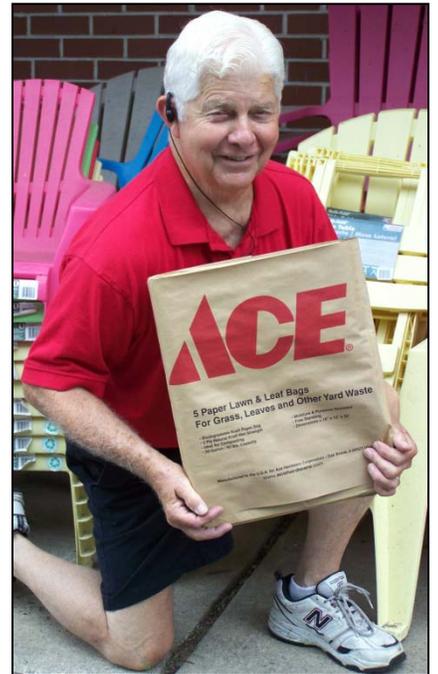
Commissioners Vice President Michael Higgins recently read a prepared statement warning residents of the dangers of speeding and running/rolling stop signs. The common illegal practices not only put a driver and his/her passengers at risk, but are very dangerous for pedestrians. "The speed limit is posted in residential areas and needs to be respected," Higgins said.

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.

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Ace Hardware employee Joe Sweeney holds up a sample of the biodegradable leaf bags that can be purchased at the Pennell Road store in packs of five bags for \$1.99 per pack.

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### Keep Trash Cans Curbside On Trash Day Only

Township officials are reminding residents that an Aston ordinance mandates that trash and recycling collection containers should not be placed curbside more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up time. Furthermore, empty trash containers must be removed from curbside the same day that collections are made.

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### 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,** as this represents a danger to public works department personnel. Direct questions to Aston Township Deputy Health Officer James Talbot at 610-494-0384.

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### Consider Scouting For Youth

Aston is blessed to have active Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Cub Scout programs within the township.

The Boy Scouts of America are accepting new registrations for local Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops. Boys ages 7 to 10 (first grade thru fifth grade) are eligible for Cub Scouts, while ages 11 to 17 can be Boy Scouts.

Call Barry Pinkowicz at **610-494-5294** or send email to [barrypnk@aol.com](mailto:barrypnk@aol.com) to express your interest.

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### To become a Friend of the Aston Public Library

go to [www.astonlibrary.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/astonlibrary)

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### Citizens Urged To Use Environmental Hotlines

Any citizen can help report environmental violations or problems they notice in their neighborhood or in local streams, before the situation can cause more damage and pollution. You may be the first person to notice an illicit, non-permitted discharge, and could be the first person to report it to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection or a similar regulatory body.

-If an Aston resident witnesses sediment leaving a construction site during a heavy rain event, they should promptly call the Delaware County Conservation District at **810-892-9484** and send a photo, if possible.

-If pollutants are seen in a stream; clogged or leaking sanitary sewer lines are found; or inadequately treated discharge is observed from a sewage treatment plant, call the Aston Township office at **610-494-1636** during business hours or dial **911** after hours.

-If illegal dumping, spills, or other directed discharges (other than rainwater) into storm sewers or streams is observed, call the DEP 24-hour Water Quality Hotline at **484-250-5900** or the DEP Water Quality

Complaints Department at **484-250-5991** (weekdays from 8:30am-4:30pm only).

-To report a fish kill in a stream or pond, call the PA Fish and Boat Commission at **717-626-0228** or the DEP 24-hour Water Quality Hotline at **484-250-5900**.

-To report a water main break, call the Chester Water Authority at **610-876-8181** or Aqua PA at **610-525-1402** at any time of day or night.

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Feeling the heat? Then stop by Rita's Water Ice, where friendly Aston residents Ana Guenther (left) and Arielle Thomas are waiting to serve you; or perhaps you'd prefer to cool off like Avery Penna (below) does, with a tasty treat from Dairy Queen.



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### 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."

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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.

### 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 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 Commissioners' June meeting.

Township proclamations were given to each coach and 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.

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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.

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### Aston Teen Thwarts Robbers

When 15-year-old Austin Morgan realized someone was breaking into his family's home around noon on May 30, he did not panic, but left the

residence immediately and used his cell phone to call police to the scene.

After dialing 911, Morgan provided an accurate description of the burglars to the police dispatcher. As a result of Morgan's calm thinking, no one was hurt and two professional thieves were taken off the street. Once the perpetrators were in custody, a laundry list of unsolved Delco robbery cases were resolved with the evidence found at the suspects' homes.

Aston Police Chief Dan Ruggieri congratulated Morgan at the July 18 commissioners' meeting, where the young crimefighter received a standing ovation from the crowd.

"As a result of Austin's prompt and courageous actions, these two career criminals will no longer pose a threat to the residents of Aston Township," Ruggieri noted.

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### Commissioners Amend

#### Flood Plain, Parking, Storage Regs

Several ordinances were recently amended to reflect changes to flood plain, parking, and storage regulations. Chapter 1286 of the Floodplain Ordinance was updated to re-instate former language and include new definitions required by FEMA.

The Floodplain Ordinance changes were 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.

The changes made 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." Chapter 1284.03 of the township code was modified to provide parking ratios for off-street parking for industrial and other related uses. The parking requirements are based on square footage of floor space and number of employees on the most active shift.

Changes to Chapter 1276.08D of the code include a ban on all types of outdoor storage facilities in a Commercial District and restrictions

on merchandise displays beyond the front line of a building.

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