



ASTON TOWNSHIP  
*Established 1688*

FREE

# TOWNSHIP TIMES

Pride in our Community

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## Aston Remembers 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Commissioner James W. McGinn



Aston Township lost one of its own with the sudden passing of Aston Commissioner James “Jim” W. McGinn on Friday,

July 20, 2018 at the age of 68. Not only was Mr. McGinn Commissioner of the Fifth Ward, he was Commissioner for all the Township’s residents and was always there for them, especially when they needed help.

Jim was raised in the McCafferty Village section of Chester before moving to Aston as a youngster. In his youth, Jim was active in township sports having played football for the Aston AA and Little League Baseball for the Aston Middletown Little League. During his high school years at Sun Valley, Jim played football. After his playing days were over, he was a loyal supporter of local sports, and is an honored member of the Aston Township Sports Hall of Fame.

Devoted to his township, Jim remained in Aston serving as a Township Commissioner of the Fifth Ward for over 39 years, being the longest-serving Commissioner in the township’s history. He was President of the board for ten years from 1996 to 2005 and also served as Vice President. Jim dedicated his life to Aston and spent

special attention to issues relating to police and senior citizens, chairing both committees. He was also an honorary lifetime member of the Aston Township Fire Department. Jim’s accomplishments are far and too many to mention here. However, two community projects that stand out are building of the Aston Township Community Center, dedicated in 1997, and the Aston Township Veterans Memorial Garden at Five Points, dedicated in 2009. Jimmy was the driving force behind both projects and his dedication and fund-raising ability lead to their completion. We know he is proud of what has been accomplished at both venues.

Commissioner McGinn, during his nearly 39 years of public service, touched the lives of thousands of people at the Township, County, State and National level. Jim had a strong view of the importance of local government and was deeply involved at all levels. In addition to being a former President of the Aston Township Board of Commissioners, McGinn served on and chaired many outside committees and associations. He was Past President of the Delaware County, Eastern Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (“PSATC”) and a member of their Executive Committees. His pinnacle moment with the PSATC came in 2001, when as its President, he was named Township Commissioner of the Year by then Governor Tom Ridge. McGinn also served as Chairman of the of the U-Comp Unemployment Compensa-

tion Trust, as well as, Chairman of the Aston Township Police Pension Plan Committee. He was also a Committeeman on the Aston Republican Executive Finance Committee as long as he had been commissioner, serving as its Chairman, and more recently as Vice Chairman.

Jim deeply cared about people. For many years, he provided poinsettia flowers to the senior citizens at their annual Christmas luncheon bringing smiles to their faces as they left for home. Likewise, he sponsored pictures with Santa for 5<sup>th</sup> Ward children and their pets at Christmas making for a lot of happy faces. He has also been a great friend to the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and liked bringing them ice cream from the Aston Dairy Queen. He was also a friend to Neumann University and their staff.

When Jim McGinn was not busy helping the residents of Aston and serving on the Board of Commissioners and the many associations and committees statewide, he was employed as an Account Executive for RT Opdendaker & Sons Trash Removal. He was very proud to be employed by Opdendaker. Jim often said, “I have been in this town for a long time. I remember when Knowlton Road was a white cinder road with no street lights at five points. They were all stop signs.” He often commented, “I remember when there was a dairy farm behind my house on Knowlton Road...” He certainly saw Aston grow into a wonderful place to live since moving here as a young boy. Jim

*Continued.*

Remembering Commissioner McGinn..

McGinn had a heart of gold. If you were from Aston, Jim was there to help you if you had a problem. If anyone needed help with anything, all they needed to do was call Jim and he would take care of it. People really don't know what they don't know about what Jim did to help the people and the Aston community. He gave of himself for others.

Jimmy was truly an Aston Township icon with a one-track mindset, that being a love of the Township and its residents. Next to his family and his church, Aston Township was the most important thing in his life, and he showed it. Jim has been quoted saying, "... I have been here my whole life and I will die here. I do love this town." And he did both. Aston Township was truly his town.

We speak on behalf of the Aston Township Board of Commissioners, the Township Staff and the Aston Police Department when we say that Jimmy will be missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire McGinn family and all those grieving our loss. May Commissioner James "Jim" W. McGinn rest in Peace.

### Summer Events in the Park



Hometown Concerts and Family Movie Nights are back this summer! Hometown Concerts will be held every Monday at 7 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public, just bring your lawn chairs or blankets. The events are rain or shine with the option of using the Community Center Gymnasium in the event of inclement weather.

### Hometown Concert Schedule:

August 6 Rick Choate August 13 Blackbird Society Orchestra

### Save the Date for Community Day October 6!



The Aston Business Association will host the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Aston Township Community Day on Saturday, October 6 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (with a rain date of Saturday, October 13).

The event will feature a parade as well as the Aston Business Expo. Wrist bands can be purchased beginning Friday, August 27 through Friday, October 5 for a donation of \$3 each.

As the event moves closer, information about Community Day can be found on Aston Public Access TV (Comcast Channel 5 or Verizon Channel 45), Aston Township Web Site ([www.astontownship.net](http://www.astontownship.net)), Aston Times, Community Bulletin Board, ABA Web Site, Neumann University Web

and Penn Delco TV and website.

Anyone interested in participating or volunteering in Community Day or the Community Day Parade, please contact: for Community Day Participation Contact: Maryann Bullen: 610-494-2337 or [mimibull@comcast.net](mailto:mimibull@comcast.net); for Parade Participation Contact: Nancy Bowden: 610-494-5490 or [nbowden@comcast.net](mailto:nbowden@comcast.net); for Business Expo Contact: Terry Yanuzzi: 610-497-4019 or [terry@rickssheds.com](mailto:terry@rickssheds.com).

### Now Accepting 2018 Aston Citizen of the Year Nominations

Do you know someone extraordinary here in Aston? Do you know anyone that has done something great for the township in the past year? If so, Aston Township is now accepting nominations for Aston's 2018 Outstanding Citizen Award.

You can find the application at <https://astontownship.net/2018-citizen-of-the-year-nominations/>. Visit the website to nominate the resident you think deserves this award. All applications must be turned in by September 3 and nominees must be Aston citizens.



### Matt Smith Appointed Part Time Aston Police Officer

Matt Smith was appointed to the position of part-time probationary officer at the July Commissioners meeting. He was sworn in by Judge Diane Holefelder with his father, mother, and brother by his side.

### Volunteer for Community Day

Community Day planning has begun!! All meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Aston Township Community Center in the small meeting room. The dates for meetings are as follows:

Tuesday	August 7
Tuesday	August 21
Tuesday	September 11
Tuesday	September 18
Tuesday	September 25
Tuesday	October 2
Friday	October 5

(all day till 8 p.m.)

We hope to see some of our wonderful residents there that are willing to volunteer for Community Day.

### Birney Highway and Crozerville Road Closure

As part of the Birney Highway and Crozerville Road Roundabout the entire intersection will be closed. We anticipate the road to be closed for approximately 4 to 6 weeks starting on or around August 6th.

### Upcoming Aston Township Historical Society Events

Aston Township has some great events coming up this fall! The ATHS will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday, September 13 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center and will feature a lecture on Hol-

To submit an item to the newsletter, e-mail [newsletter@astontownship.net](mailto:newsletter@astontownship.net). Deadline for next issue is August 22.

felder Family.

Western Delco Historic Societies will hold a 4 day event September 27-30, William Penn's Legacy of Tolerance. The event commemorates the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Penn's death. Events include:

Thursday, September 27 at 7 p.m. Middletown High School is hosting a lecture on Penn's Charter of Privileges presented by Bill McDevitt, Law Professor at St. Joseph University.

Friday, September 28 at 6 p.m. will feature the 18<sup>th</sup> century music of the Colonial Revelers at the Newlin Grist Mill.

Saturday, September 29 begins with a bus tour showcasing how Penn's tolerance resulted in religious freedom, growth, markets and more at 9:30 a.m. Cost \$10 in advance

Sunday, September 30 will feature a self guided tour: 11 a.m. - noon at Chi Meeting housing will re-enact a Freedom Runner's wedding; From 1-3 p.m. The Pusey Planation will be open; 1-4 p.m. Chester Meeting House, DCHS Museum will feature a Penn Exhibit with an authentic Penn's Land Grant singed by King Charles and hopefully the Court House will be open. Everything is free but the bus tour.

### **Double Trash Pickup Ends**

Double Trash Pickup ends on Friday, August 31.

### **Recycling Reminder!**

Remember! Recycling is single stream, you can include clear glass, aluminum cans, all plastic containers, green glass, bi-metal cans, newspaper (placed next to recycling can), brown glass, cardboard boxes, cardboard containers.

### **St. Joseph's Vacation Bible School**

St. Joseph's Church will hold it's Vacation Bible School August 6 - August 10 from 9 a.m. - noon.

Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. Each day at Shipwrecked VBS, kids travel through faith-building rotations that reinforce relevant Bible Points and immerse kids in new adventures.

\$40 per child. Includes tee shirt; snacks; crafts & music CD (one for each family). To learn more or sign up, visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/st-josephaston>.

### **Meals on Wheels Needs Your Help!**

Aston Meals on Wheels needs your help for just an hour or two, twice a month to assist with delivery of meals to our home bound seniors in Aston and Brookhaven this summer.

If you are interested in this worthy cause, please call Joan Hanlon at 610-485-2729.

### **Delaware County Sheriff's Reserve Unit Golf Tournament**

The 2018 Delaware County Sheriff's Reserve Unit Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, September 10 with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

The tournament will be held at the Concord County Club and feature awards for the longest drive, closest to pin, and three top teams. The event starts off with a boxed lunch and dinner will be served immediately after the end of play.

Formed in the aftermath of the 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina disasters, the Sheriff's Reserve Unit, staffed by volunteers, is trained to provide traffic and crowd control assistance to the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies in Delaware County as requested.

For more information, contact Jeff Stang at 302-750-9380 or Brad Feldman at 610-299-7834.

### **Public Works, Working for You**

Public Works spent a lot of time getting Valley View Park ready the past month. They began the prep and paint of the basketball backboards, began

painting the basketball court, and completed painting the backstop on the baseball field. They also completed installing playground equipment at the park.

### **ATFD Smoke Detector Assistance**

Any resident needing smoke detectors, please contact the fire station at 610-494-6771 or email: [fireprevention@atfd17.com](mailto:fireprevention@atfd17.com).

### **Greaseband is Back at St. Joe's**

The fabulous Greaseband is returning to Saint Joseph's Parish in Aston on Saturday, October 13. Greaseband is a seven member, nostalgic dance party band and concert attraction, featuring outstanding male and female lead vocals in a front trio, backed by a group of instrumentalists.

The highly entertaining and energetic delivery of some of the greatest songs ever written has kept the group on top for well over 30 years. Remember to mark your calendars to attend the Greaseband concert at Degnan Hall at the Church of Saint Joseph, 3255 Concord Rd.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the band will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. The cover charge is \$21 per person. There will be a cash bar and bar food will be available for purchase (no outside food or beverages are permitted).

For reservations, please contact Joe Zack at 610-888-4767 or email at [jaz1030@aol.com](mailto:jaz1030@aol.com).

**The Aston Township Offices and Public Works Department will be closed on Monday, September 3. Monday and Tuesday's trash and recycling will be picked up on Tuesday, September 4.**

Engraved Memorial Garden bricks make great birthday or remembrance gifts. Call Maryann Bullen at 610-494-2337.

**Wednesday Summer Programs;  
Last Month for Summer  
Reading Program**

The Library's Summer Reading Program "Libraries Rock" is continuing one last month, with rewards for reading and fun performances. The performances include:

Drum Beats Workshop

Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday Summer Programs at 1 p.m.**

Puppets Pizzazz August 8

David Darwin's One Man Sideshow  
August 15

Rolie Polie Guacamole August 22

Makin Music August 29

Join the Library Movie Discussion Group to view and discuss *The Shape of Water* on Monday, August 27 at 11 a.m. Light lunch will be provided.

Our next series of Saturday Chair Yoga classes will start September 1 at 11 a.m. Chair Yoga is a gentle form of Yoga using a chair for support.

The Kids Can Build Club is at the Library on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Your child can learn to build things using the library's Lego collection and other materials as well. All ages are welcome.

3D Printing Services Available. Ask Debbie or Stephen at the desk to find out how you can get your first small 3D printed item for free. Check out the designs the staff have made for ideas. They are on display in our display case.

**2018 Aston Business Expo**

The Business & Community Expo runs from 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. inside the Aston Community Center. The Expo will provide participating businesses the opportunity for direct contact with potential customers as well as the chance to display pertinent business information while residents browse the grounds of the Aston Community Center and participate in numerous Community Day activities. Here are some important points:

To register, apply online at <https://astonba.com/the-aston-business-and-community-expo/>. It is suggested that you respond as soon as possible, since space is limited.

Announcements will be made throughout the event. Please take advantage of this.

Set Up Times: Friday Evening (from 5- 7 p.m.) or Saturday (from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)

There will be 2 wristbands given for those at each table. Additional wristbands may be purchased. You will need a wristband in order to get your food.

NOTE - All cars must be out of the driveway by 9:30 a.m. Cost for the event, per table is as follows:

\$100.00 per table for members

\$150.00 for non-members

\$25.00 for non-profits

No tables are to be taken down before 3:00 pm.

Storytime. Your young child can learn basic literacy skills while having fun. The Aston Public Library offers story times every week, open to everyone. Join Ms. Debbie for toddler time (ages 2-3) on Tuesdays at 10:30, infant time (up to 24 months) on Wednesdays at 10:30, and preschool time (ages 3-5) on Thursdays at 10:30.

Stop by Tuesdays at 11 a.m. to learn the art of crochet with our diverse group with many levels of experience. Stop by Thursdays at 6 p.m. to participate in a wide variety of crafts with an even more diverse group.

Need help with an e-book reader, laptop or tablet computer? Stop by for our drop-in help time on Friday mornings- 10 a.m. for e-book readers and 11 a.m. for laptops and tablets.

More information and registration for all our programs is available via the Calendar at [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org).

Join the Friends of the Library. Go to [www.astonlibrary.org](http://www.astonlibrary.org) and click on "Join Our Friends" to send in your info. The Aston Public Library Board of Trustees do not meet in August.

You can access books for your Kindle, Nook, or other e-book reader with your library card. Go to <http://digitallibrary.delcolibraries.org/> to see what is available.

Are you on Facebook? Follow the Aston Library there. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/astonlibrary> and "like" us.



Puppets Pizzazz performs at the Library Wednesday, August 8 at 1 p.m.



David Darwin performs at the Library on Wednesday, August 15 at 1 p.m.

**Delaware County 4H  
Summer Fair August 9-11**

Come celebrate with 4-H at the 2018 Delaware County 4-H Summer Fair, August 9-11! The 4-H Fair draws local families to the 4-H Farm for a series of activities, contests, displays, pony and hay rides, and animal showing. The fair also serves as a showcase for 4-H youth to present their completed projects from the past year. The Delaware County 4-H Summer Fair is held at the Garrett Williamson Foundation, 395 Bishop Hollow Rd., Newtown Square, PA.

Schedule is as Follows:

**Thursday, Aug. 9:** 6 p.m. - Poultry Judging  
**Friday, Aug. 10:** 1 p.m. Horse Show; 5 p.m. - Beef Showmanship, Lamb & Pig Conformation; 6 p.m. - 4-H Parade of Clubs (Opening Ceremony); 9 p.m. - Fair Closes

**Saturday, Aug. 11:** 8:30 a.m. - Fair Opens; 8:30 a.m. - Sheep, Pig, & Dairy Showmanship; 8:30 - Beef Conformation; 11 a.m. - Vegetable Judging; Noon - Baked Goods Judging; 12:15 p.m. - Alpaca Show; 3 p.m. - Livestock Auction; 4 p.m. - Fair Closes