

Abington Township

Newsletter

Fall 2008 Volume 12, Issue 3

RECENT BOARD ACTIONS

- Reviewed and adopted the Fire Department's new Strategic Plan;
- Adopted new Variable Rate trash collection system for 2009;
- Conducted public hearings on proposal to create new suburban industrial district for the Williard property in Glenside;
- Awarded competitive contract for purchase of two hybrid vehicles;
- Reviewed and approved transfer of liquor license for new Chili's restaurant at 817 Old York Road;
- Adopted policy to implement new Pennsylvania Right-to-Know/Public Records law;
- Approved contract for demolition of old building at 1100 Huntingdon Pike;
- Reviewed and approved the study of the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary;
- Reviewed progress of \$11 million Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade project;
- Expanded Shade Tree Commission from three to five members.

The Board of Commissioners meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Township Building...

or

View meetings on Channel 43 Mon. through Fri. starting the Monday immediately following the meeting at 9 a.m., 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. for one week

Contact Your Township

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Telephone: 267-536-1000
Fax: 215-884-8271
www.abington.org

Address: 1176 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001

Parks & Recreation 8:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.
215-576-5213

Public Works 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
267-536-1030, 1034, 1038

Tax Office 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
267-536-1025, 1026, 1027, 1028

Abington Selected One of "America's Best Places to Live"



Money Magazine recently announced its 100 Best Small Cities. Of the 716 municipalities nationwide with populations between 50,000 and 300,000, Abington was selected #21 among the top 100 that scored well in "the attributes most families care about."

Money Magazine examined cost of living, housing affordability, school quality, arts and leisure options, safety, medical care, and diversity. Abington scored highest in "Safety" and "Education" and was the only Pennsylvania community to be recognized in the nation's top 100.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY Coming to Montgomery County

Montgomery County has been selected as one of the first locations to begin implementation of The National Children's Study. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia will begin recruitment and enrollment of Montgomery County families in April 2009. The National Children's Study will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21. The goal of the study is to improve the health and well-being of children. Study findings may shed light on the root causes of many childhood and adult diseases, such as diabetes, autism, asthma, obesity, learning and behavioral problems.

Families who participate in the study will come from 105 previously selected locations across the United States. All locations were selected using a method to ensure that children and families across the nation - from diverse ethnic, racial, economic, religious, geographic, and social groups - are fairly represented in the study. **Information:** <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov> or call the CHOP Study Team at 267-997-6759.

Trash Program Fully Implemented!

With the mailing of the 'pricing component' letter to all residents, Abington Township's new variable rate trash program has come full tilt. Through this new program, we have been able to reduce and stabilize our fees for 2009, provide a more equitable trash system to our residents, and help the environment. If you have not received our mailing concerning trash options or leaf collection please call 267-536-1038.



Tax Office Reminders

Local Services Tax

In January 2008, Abington Township enacted the Local Services Tax (LST) of \$52. This tax replaced the Occupational Privilege Tax (OPT) of \$10. This tax is to be paid by all employees and self-employed individuals who work in Abington Township. If you are not aware of this requirement, or are not in full compliance with it, please contact us immediately.

Homestead Exclusion

The Taxpayer Relief Act, Act 1 of 2006 provides for property tax reduction allocations to be distributed by the Commonwealth to each school district when the revenue generated from slot machines reaches a certain level. This reduction only applies to your school district real estate tax and not to your local township or county real estate tax. For the 2008-2009 school year the exclusion resulted in a \$315 reduction from the school district tax bill.

What is Required to Qualify for the Homestead Exclusion?

Only a primary residence of an owner of the property may receive the homestead exclusion. You may only receive this exclusion once, even though you may own several properties.

Please call us if you meet the requirement above and do not currently have the homestead exclusion...we will help you apply for it.

Abington Township Treasurer
Jay W. Blumenthal
267-536-1024

Holiday Closings

The Township Building will be closed on the following holidays:

Veterans' Day, Tuesday November 11th
Thanksgiving, Thursday November 27th
Christmas, Thursday December 25th
New Year's, Thursday January 1st
Martin Luther King, Monday Jan 19th
Presidents' Day, Monday February 16th
Good Friday, Friday April 10th

STAY CONNECTED! TO BRIAR BUSH



Send us your email address!. In an effort to better market our programs, keep you informed about all the latest and greatest Briar Bush events through an email newsletter, and be kinder to the environment, we want to start an email list. Your information and privacy will never be compromised. To join the new email list, please email adonofrio@briarbush.org.

"Keep Abington Beautiful"

The Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and Shade Tree Commission (STC) will celebrate Earth Day 2009 with a township-wide beautification and clean-up in April. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring a site (township park or public area), please contact Cathy Gauthier, EAC Chair at 215-884-0954 or aajay@juno.com. The EAC will provide trash bags and gloves at designated locations throughout the township and will keep track of all projects to report to the Great American Clean-up Campaign. For more information, please visit our website at www.eac-abington.org.

Valuable Community Resource

Stay up-to-the-minute in the Abington community with children, teen, and family happenings. Visit www.abingtonact.org and check out the wide variety of activities from Abington Library, Parks & Recreation, schools, and YMCA offerings to sports and camp opportunities; helpful support programs from babysitting and life guarding certification to nutrition, exercise, and parenting courses; and special events open to the community as well as volunteer opportunities and timely tips on important community information. This website is updated *at least* weekly and sponsored by the Abington Community Taskforce (ACT).

REMINDER:

Basketball hoops in the right-of-way cause damage to Township trucks, firetrucks, and other vehicles. Abington Township Ordinance 143-13 states that no planting, trees, shrubbery, flowers, signs, posts, steps, walls, fences, or like obstructions may be placed within the boundaries of any public right-of-way. Residents could be responsible for any damage which might occur.



PARKS PROGRAMS

New York City Day Trip - October 22, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy a day of shopping or sight-seeing without the hassle of driving or parking. We will be travelling by bus to New York City where you will have the option of three drop-off points: The Theatre District (W. 48th Street), The Hard Rock Cafe (W. 57th Street), or The Metropolitan Museum of Art (E. 82nd Street). Cost \$35 per person.

Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular - December 4, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The 76th annual Christmas Show at the Radio City Music Hall featuring the Rockettes. Bus will leave from Alverthorpe Park main gate at 7 a.m. and arrive in New York at 9:15 a.m. Show time 2 p.m. Cost: \$95 per person (includes bus and ticket to show)

Washington D.C. Sight-Seeing Trip - April 4, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Drop-off at the Air and Space Museum and the Holocaust Museum at 11 a.m. Cost: \$35 per person.

CRIME PREVENTION - 267-536-1075

Protect Important Possessions

Would you send an invitation to have thieves come help themselves to your cell phone, credit cards, wallet, or purse? That is exactly what people do when they leave their cars or trucks unlocked in their driveway or on the street in front of their home. In recent months, there has been an increase in Abington Township of thefts from vehicles parked in these places. These crimes are highly preventable. Simply lock your vehicles and remember to take your keys with you - even at home. Further, do not leave tempting items in view inside your vehicles.

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

The holiday season is approaching, and many begin shopping now. To stay safe and prevent becoming a victim of crime, follow these key tips:

- Whenever possible, do not shop alone. Stay alert to your surroundings;
- Keep wallets in front or inside pockets;
- Never leave purses unattended or have them dangling from a shoulder;
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash; pay with checks or credit cards;
- Park in well-lit areas; always lock your vehicle;
- Don't overburden yourself with packages. Place them in the trunk, not in visible places.

Leaf Collection begins October 27th in areas

B,I,A,G,H, and E ...if you have not received your schedule, please call 267-536-1038



P A L

ABINGTON POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Abington Township has a place for young people to go on Friday and Saturday nights. It's the Abington Police Athletic League, held at the Glenside-Weldon School, 409 N. Easton Road, Glenside. The PAL site is open from 7:00-11:00 p.m. for boys and girls from age 11 through senior high school and offers a variety of sports and activities. For more information, visit www.abingtonpal.org or call 267-536-1100 ext. 1509.

Stories Come Alive!



Can't get to the library? Now you and your children can enjoy an extensive collection of stories online, thanks to a new link to TumbleBookLibrary on the Abington Township Public Library website, www.AbingtonFreeLibrary.org. TumbleBooks are animated picture books that "are created by taking existing picture books [and] adding animation, sound, music and narration to produce an electronic picture book which you can read, or have read to you."

(www.tumblebooks.com) Available titles include contemporary favorites such as *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin and classic tales such as *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

In addition to talking stories, TumbleBookLibrary provides puzzles and games to help children extend their online reading experiences. Spanish, French and bilingual books are offered to encourage language learning. All of these resources are available to you for free; go to www.AbingtonFreeLibrary.org, click on the Children's Department link, and look for the TumbleBooks logo. Fun for everyone!

BRIAR BLOG

With a quarterly newsletter, getting all the most recently updated information can be a challenge. To help spread the word faster and to more people, the Briar Blog has been created. This online journal allows staff to post information about special events, reviews of Great Escape trips and other programs, wish lists, and so much more. Check it out at <http://thebriarblog.blogspot.com/>

Board of Commissioners

Ward 1	Steven N. Kline	Ward 8	Vice President Peggy Myers
Ward 2	Robert A. Wachter	Ward 9	Dennis C. Zappone
Ward 3	Michael O'Connor	Ward 10	James H. Ring
Ward 4	Jay O'Connor	Ward 11	William J. Lynott
Ward 5	Wayne C. Luker	Ward 12	President Carol T. DiJoseph
Ward 6	Les Benzak	Ward 13	Michael W. Gillespie
Ward 7	Ernie Peacock	Ward 14	Lori Schreiber
		Ward 15	John J. Carlin

NO SCHOOL? COOL!

This program offers grade-specific field trips from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on days during the school year when school is closed but work is not. Details and prices: www.briarbush.org or 215-887-6603

Know that when someone looks, acts, or thinks differently than we do, it is easy to feel afraid. By not dealing with our fears we begin to exercise hate.

Joanne M. Weaver-Stroh
Abington No Place for Hate

ADULT PROGRAMS

@Abington Free Library

Folk Guitar Workshop Series

Oct 15, 29; Nov 12, 25; Dec 10 at 7 p.m.
For ages 15 and up
Instructor will bring some guitars to lessons.

Antiques Gems Show

Nov 9 at 2:30 p.m.
Discussion of estate and period pieces.
Winners of a drawing will receive an informal evaluation.

Multi-Generational Harp Ensemble

Oct 19 from 3-5 p.m.
Come join us for an afternoon of Irish, Scottish and medieval music.

An Afternoon with George Guidall

April 19 at 3 p.m.
Recipient of two Audie Awards and more than 50 Ear Phone Awards, Mr. Guidall will read from some of the 900+ books he has recorded and tell us of the process, preparation, and performance decisions that have made him a favorite.

For more information, please contact the Abington Library at 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or abingtonfreelibrary.org.

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Burton T. Conway, Township Manager
Jay W. Blumenthal, Treasurer

