

Abington Township

Newsletter

Summer 2008 Volume 12, Issue 2

RECENT BOARD ACTIONS

- Adopted new Sketch Plan Review process to facilitate Planning Commission review of proposed development;
- Authorized \$5,000 to support the Tookany-Tacony Watershed programs;
- Accepted \$7,500 from PECO Green Region Grant Program for the development of Alverthorpe Manor Cultural Park project;
- Accepted a Montgomery County Revitalization Grant Award for the Roslyn Community in the amount of \$350,000;
- Accepted ownership of 1100 Huntingdon Pike (at Susquehanna Rd.) so that the old club house can be demolished;
- Approved funding to start construction of Roslyn Skate Park;
- Accepted the terms of Montgomery County Open Space Grant to fund the acquisition of one acre on 1383 Easton Road and 5.28 acres at Forrest Avenue;
- Accepted a Tree Vitalize Grant (\$20,635) for buffer renovation in Roslyn Park.

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

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

You Will Have an Opportunity to Save on Next Year's Refuse Bill

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We have finally reached the next phase of the new automated variable rate trash collection program and are set up to implement the pricing component of the system.

This past year, each residence paid \$264.00 for their trash disposal. This was a decrease from previous years and a direct result of the automated collection. In 2009, costs to residents will be further reduced! Each household will be billed according to the size of their trash container. A residence with a 95-gallon container will pay \$262.00 per year; a residence with a 65-gallon container will pay \$235.00 per year; a residence with a 35-gallon trash container will pay \$207.00 per year. As you can see, these are all reductions from the \$264.00 that you are currently paying. Keep in mind that there is no charge associated with either the paper or the recycling containers.

We will no longer be picking up excess trash in conventional bags outside of your can. Special bags will be available for 50 cents per bag to dispose of your excess trash.

The majority of our Township residents are using the 95-gallon trash can. **If you wish to continue using the 95-gallon can, you do not have to do anything at all. If you feel you generate significantly less trash and would like to switch your trash cart to a 65-gallon or 35-gallon size, please contact the Public Works Department at the following numbers: 267-536-1038 or 267-536-1037. Please keep in mind that all changes in size of trash cans must take place prior to September 1, 2008. You will not be given the opportunity of changing the size of your trash can again until September of 2009.**

We will be offering an extra trash can for those residents that generate in excess of their desired can. The extra can will be priced as follows depending on the size requested: a 95-gallon container will be \$82.00 per year; a 65-gallon container will be \$55.00 per year; a 35-gallon container will be \$28.00 per year. The remainder of this year, if you desire an additional container, you will be billed on a pro-rated basis. Next year you will be billed as part of your refuse fee.

(continued on back page)

Engineering Summer Projects

- **Curb and Sidewalk Replacement** - 1500 Block Reservoir Avenue and Jenkintown Road;
- **Street Reconstruction** - Washington Avenue/Rubicam Avenue;
- **Bridge Replacement** - Paulbrook Road/Meadowbrook Road and Johnston Avenue at Roslyn School;
- **Creek Bank Stabilization** - 900 Block Maple Avenue and Rydal Park;
- **Yard Drains** - 2000 Block Parkdale Avenue;
- **Storm Sewers** - Mill Road, Cumberland Road, Keith Road, 1800 Block Cleveland Avenue, 800 Block Harrison Avenue, and the 1100 Block Tyson Avenue;
- **Demolition of Building** - 1100 Huntingdon Pike.

2009 Budget Workshops

All Budget Meetings and Workshops are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend. October 28th - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Budget Workshop.

October 30th - 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Budget Workshop as needed.

November 13th - 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Preliminary Budget Meeting.

November 20th - 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Budget Workshop as needed.

December 18th - 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Final Budget Meeting - Public Hearing on Millage Ordinance.

Please check Cable Channel 43 for additional workshop dates should they be needed.

Earned Income Assistance

Berkheimer Tax Administrators will be available in the Township Municipal Building on July 23, 2008 from 2-6 p.m.

Nominate Citizen or Organization "That Cares"

The Abington Community Taskforce (ACT) is seeking nominations for its 8th annual "Citizens That Care Recognition Reception" to honor special people and organizations that have made positive contributions to the safety and well-being of Abington Township youth.

Please submit the names and accomplishments of those who give their time and talents to serve youth at www.abingtonact.org, under "Contact Us" or call Jack Murphy at 267-536-1071 by Friday, September 5th.

Fire Department Reminders

- If a fire hydrant is located on or near your property, please remember that Abington Township Ordinance requires that it be kept clear of plants and shrubs in a 3 ft. radius;
- All outside burning is prohibited (i.e. chimineas/fire pits); the exception is cooking food on barbeque grills;
- This is a busy time of year for buying and selling homes. Abington requires an affidavit be completed for the "Display of Street Address Numbers and Installation of Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors". This affidavit can be downloaded from <http://www.abington.org/docs/forms/code/affidavit.pdf>
- Some folks have attached basketball hoops to telephone poles and large vehicles passing by have sustained damage. If your basketball hoop is attached to a telephone pole, please remove it.

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP - 2007 TREE CITY

Abington Township has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. Abington Township has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community:

- a tree board or department;
- a tree care ordinance;
- a comprehensive community forestry program;
- an Arbor Day observance.

Trees in our cities and towns help clean the air, conserve soil and water, moderate temperature, and bring nature into our daily lives. Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and those that provide needed care for its trees deserve recognition and thanks.

Congratulations to Abington's Environmental Advisory Council and Shade Tree Commission for their work in obtaining this distinction!

The Shade Tree Commission has been expanded from 3 to 5 members, and is seeking applications for membership until August 1, 2008. Please send your resume to your Commissioner or Township Manager.

Digital TV on Its Way - Prepare for the Switch to Get the Picture

Big changes are coming in television broadcasting. On February 17, 2009, all full power television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and continue broadcasting in digital only. This is known as the DTV transition.

Some consumers are asking why they need to switch. First, all-digital broadcasting will give needed communications channels to police, fire, and emergency rescue personnel. It will also allow for new wireless services for consumers. In addition, since digital is more efficient than analog, it allows stations to broadcast several programs at the same time, instead of just one program with analog.

It is also important to know that the end of analog broadcasting does not mean that consumers must purchase new TVs, and you certainly don't need an HDTV to watch digital broadcasts. If you currently receive over-the-air programming on an analog television using a broadcast antenna, either through "rabbit ears" on your set or an antenna on your roof, you will only need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue watching broadcast television on that set after February 17, 2009. These boxes will cost approximately \$40 to \$70, and are available in stores. To help defray the cost of digital-to-analog converter boxes, each U.S. Household can request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each to be used toward the purchase of eligible boxes.

THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

What You Need to Know About DTV

This coupon program is being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). For more information on the coupon program visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009.

If you watch over-the-air programming on a DTV (a TV with a built-in digital tuner), you will not need a digital-to-analog converter box. Also, an antenna you use to receive analog broadcasts should work for receiving digital broadcasts, both on a DTV and on an analog TV connected to a digital-to-analog converter box. If you subscribe to a paid television service such as cable or satellite TV, you will not need a digital-to-analog converter box, and the TVs connected to your paid service will continue to receive local broadcast programming. However, consumers are advised to check with their providers to see if they will need any additional equipment in the future.

For more information, call the FCC at 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322) or visit their DTV web site at www.dtv.gov.

PARKS PROGRAMS

Inner Harbor Baltimore - August 9, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For a day on your own...you can check out the Gallery and Harborplace (with over 160 shops and restaurants), visit Ft. McHenry, or go the National Aquarium (discount tickets can be purchased through the Parks Department). Cost \$35 per person.

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.

U.S. Open - August 28, - 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The trip will leave from Alverthorpe Park for Corona Park, Flushing Meadows, NY. Cost \$95 for ticket & transportation.

Questions on above trips: 215-576-5213

BRIAR BUSH NATURE CENTER

is sponsoring some terrific summer-time and early fall events. If you have not picked up the Centennial Celebrations booklet, drop by the Center soon. Don't miss out! All BBNC programs require pre-registration.

Friends of Briar Bush Annual Meeting & Potluck, September 9 - 5:30 p.m.

"A Look Back: 100 Years" - revisit the past 100 years of the BBNC history and the wonderful legacy left by so many Abington residents.

Aloha Nui Loa: Hawaiian Luau, September 13, -
6 p.m. Relax on the Briar Bush deck while enjoying tropical drinks and watching professional hula dancers. A complete luau buffet of pig. Dress with a Hawaiian flair. \$35 per person.

Digital Photography 101 August 6, 13, 20 - 7-
8:30 p.m. Larmon Photo is offering BBNC friends a three session workshop that will help you master your camera and take amazing pictures. \$50 per person...first 9 to call.

Abner's Authentic Barbeque "All You Can Eat"
October 13, 5:30-8p.m. \$25/adult, \$10/child under 10. Abner's is offering BBNC friends an evening of southern barbeque and lively tunes.



GONE BUGGY - In keeping with this year's summer reading program theme, "Catch the Reading Bug," Abington Senior High School art students recently painted a mural in the Abington Free Library Children's Department. The mural, featuring bugs engaged in surfing, sunbathing and story time activities, will be used to display the names of children enrolled in the library's summer reading program. Pictured are painting crew members (front row, from left) Nicole Caracciolo, teacher; Kristy Peronace; Becca Panitch; David Ferro, teacher. Middle row, from left: Emily Knihnicky; Kaitlyn Boccardo; Jessica Cohen; Jocelyn Simmons; Olivia Dobson; Richard Metz, teacher. Back row, from left: Jim Nedbal; Margie Calvanese; Brian Joyce.

Abington Township Special Police

The Special Police form a voluntary unit within the Abington Police Department and are overseen by a patrol lieutenant. They augment the work of the Department by providing many hours of community service in traffic and crowd control; passive security at community social, school, and business events; crossings for houses of worship; and assistance in emergency situations. Currently, there are 16 Special Police. In 2007, the Unit performed more than 2,500 hours of service to Abington Township.

The Abington Police Department is currently accepting applications for the Special Police. Applications are available in the Abington Police Records Department, 1176 Old York Road, Abington.



**Remember how often our children quote us.
Choose carefully what you say to them
about hate.**

Joanne M. Weaver-Stroh
Abington No Place for Hate

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

SAVE ON YOUR REFUSE BILL (continued from Page 1)

If you would like to exchange your current recycling container for a larger container, please call 267-536-1038 or 267-536-1037.

Please look for a letter from the Public Works Department sometime in August, 2008 outlining the trash can options available to you; decide which best suits your family; and let us know!



Come to Pre-Night Out Block Party - August 4

Pre-Night Out...it's the community event of the summer, and everyone is invited! Plan to attend this crime prevention block party on Monday, August 4 (rain date Tuesday, August 5), 6:00-10:00 p.m., at the Abington Town Center parking lot (by Target) at Old York and London Roads. This fun-filled and informative evening lets community members learn about the many resources and organizations available to them while enjoying food and entertainment.

There will be give-aways at information booths and a raffle tent featuring donated merchandise and gift certificates from area businesses and restaurants. Concessions will sell pizza, hotdogs, soft pretzels, etc.

New this year is Tuckers' Tales Puppet Theatre presenting family shows. There are plans to have the rock climbing wall from the U.S. Army National Guard and a jet simulator from the Air Force.

Returning is Murphy the police horse from Bensalem, AmeriKick Karate School, and Thunderbird Lanes to host "Bowling for Bucks".

For more information, contact Dave Rondinelli in Community Policing at 267-536-1074.

Holiday Closings

Labor Day, Monday, September 1st
Columbus Day, Monday, October 3rd

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Abington Township
 1176 Old York Road
 Abington, PA 19001
 Burton T. Conway, Township Manager
 Jay W. Blumenthal, Treasurer

