

Abington Township

Newsletter

Fall 2006 Volume 10, Issue 3

RECENT BOARD ACTIONS

- Officially adopted new Township Flag and protocol for its use;
- Appointed Michael Markman and Michael Barbiero, Esq. to fill vacancies on the Industrial Development Authority;
- Authorized staff to set up credit card system for payment of some municipal service fees;
- Reviewed results of pilot program and authorized staff to move forward with phasing in the automated trash collection system (see article);
- Approved new three-year contract with the Police Lieutenants;
- Authorized the establishment of the Township's first dog park in Grove Park off of Easton Road;
- Reviewed and approved the annual budget for the Federal Community Development Block Grant for \$849,000;
- Accepted a \$980,000 grant for the purchase and demolition of three homes on Baeder Road for the purpose of flood mitigation;
- Reviewed and approved update to Township's Open Space Plan

The Board of Commissioners meets the second Thursday of each month at 8 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

Public Works 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

Abington Township's New Flag



Have you seen Abington's Flag flying in front of the Township Building? As part of Abington's year long Centennial Celebration, we conducted a contest through the Abington School system to design a Township Flag. Over 500 students participated.

Ryan Sailor, then a ninth grader at Abington Jr. High, submitted the winning design. The Flag has the required colors (maroon and white); the eighteen rays represent the eighteen neighborhoods coming together ("Together we are Abington"); the top left portion is directly from the Township Seal - the live oak representing the Township's slow, steady growth; and the William Penn coat of arms.

If you are interested in purchasing a Township Flag, please contact the manufacturer at Flags Over America, 955 East Devon Avenue, Bartlett, IL 60103, Phone: 630-233-0277 or www.FlagsUSA.com

Township Moves Forward On Trash Collection Improvements

The Township has been evaluating the new automated form of trash collection for almost a year now in the pilot areas. As a result, the Board of Commissioners has authorized the administration to move forward by phasing the improved collection method into additional areas of the Township.

The program would be incrementally expanded 2500 to 3000 homes at a time. The first expansion is set to take place in January 2007, depending on the delivery of the new trucks.

The first set of areas to be expanded will be Chapel Hill, Glenside, Roslyn, the area around Abington Hospital, and the Jenkintown section of Abington Township. Homeowners in these areas will be notified with further details.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Township Building will be closed on the following holidays:

Veterans' Day, Friday, November 10th
Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23th
Christmas, Monday, December 25th
New Year's Day, Monday, January 1st
Martin Luther King, Jr., Monday,
January 15th
Presidents' Day, Monday, February 19th
Good Friday, Friday, April 6th



VOTE Election Day

November 7, 2006

Visit www.votespa.com, the Department of State's online voter information center for voting instructions, tips for first time voters, college voting guide, and much more. See page 30 of the Township Calendar for your polling location. Still need help? Please contact your Commissioner (listed on page 32 of the Township Calendar).

Flu Shot Reminder

10/24/06 Tuesday, 9 am - 1 pm

at the Willow Grove Mall (1st Level Elevator Court)

10/26/06 Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm

Congregation Beth Or, 239 Welsh Road, Maple Glen

11/2/06 Thursday, 9 am - 12 pm

Beth Shalom Congregation, 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park

These shots are provided to Montgomery County Residents aged 65 and older, children aged 6 to 59 months, pregnant women, people aged 6 months to 18 years on long-term aspirin treatment, household contacts and caregivers of high risk individuals and of infants less than 6 months of age, and people who have a long-term health problem such as: Heart Disease, Lung Disease, Kidney Disease, Diabetes, Neuromuscular Disorders, Anemia, Asthma, Weakened Immune System due to steroid use, cancer treatment, HIV/AIDS.

**Save Time: Pre-register at <http://health.montcopa.org>
Information: 610-278-5117**

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT *Cold Weather Fire Safety Tips*

Make sure that your furnace, stove and chimney is properly serviced. Make sure that anything that can burn is located a safe distance away from your furnace, hot water heater, portable heaters, baseboard heaters, etc. Ashes from a fireplace can be hot for several days; never put fireplace ashes in a plastic trash bag or a plastic trash can. Hot ashes should be put in a metal trash container with a lid.

Fires involving wood, oils, gas (fossil fuels) all give off carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless gas that can kill you. Install a carbon monoxide detector within 40 feet of all sleeping areas. Consider a sounding carbon monoxide detector the same as a smoke detector. If the detector should sound, call 9-1-1 and evacuate your home. Do not take the time to open windows and doors. The Fire Department will enter your home with special meters and attempt to identify the source of the problem.

Use space heaters with care; inspect electric heaters for damaged cords. Use the proper size and length electric extension cord.

Most cooking fires are caused by the person being distracted from the kitchen.

For further fire safety information contact the Abington Township Fire Department at 267-536-1055.



NEWS FROM THE SEWER

At one time, Abington billed its customers for sewer service much like real estate taxes -- homeowners were required to pay sewer tax on all of the plumbing fixtures they owned whether they used them or not. Since 2004, sewer customers in homes served by Aqua PA have been billed on the water they use, not the number and types of plumbing fixtures. In the absence of a viable alternative, those few customers who have private wells must still pay for service under the previous system; i.e., the number of plumbing fixtures in their homes.

Those who are served by Aqua PA may be pleased to know that the connection between sewer service and fixtures need not be forever severed. If you have a sprinkler system on your real estate, or any other voluminous use of water which does not enter the sewer as part of its water cycle, you may be well advised to consider the installation of a "sub-meter".

A customer may, using his or her own resources, install a sub-meter, which measures the quantity of water used in a sprinkler system, or other usage that never enters the sewer. Abington Township reads this meter once each year, and subtracts the quantity of water that passes through this meter from the total quantity of water supplied by Aqua PA for the year. The customer is billed only on the difference.

There is an initial fee of \$35 to obtain a permit and register the meter, then each year there is a surcharge of \$35 to cover the cost of reading the meter and adjusting the bill. At the current rate for a typical home of \$2.87/1000 gallons (based on 5/8" water service) of water used, and an estimated cost of \$500 to install the meter, the installation will have a five year payback if you use 50,000 gallons per year in non-sewered usage.

Please feel free to call me at **215-886-0934** if you want more information

Robert Leber, Wastewater Utilities Director

POLICE

PAL has E-Mail!

The Abington Police Athletic League (PAL), beginning its sixth year of serving the community, has an email address. Parents and young people who have questions about the program or a specific activity as well as community members who would like to explore volunteer opportunities can now reach Abington PAL at PAL@abington.org.

ACT Seeks Nominees for "Citizens That Care" Award

The Abington Community Taskforce (ACT) asks the community to submit nominations for its sixth annual "Citizens That Care Recognition Reception" to honor special people who have made positive contributions to the safety and well-being of Abington Township youth.

Please provide the names and accomplishments of those who have given their time and talents to make Abington a safe, caring, and responsible community specifically for youth and families. Nominees may serve as positive role models for youth in different settings, provide healthy activities for young people to participate in, or support various youth programs.

To submit nominees, send the nominee's name, organization, the person's contributions, and your name and telephone number (please print or type) and mail it to the Abington Community Taskforce, c/o Jack Murphy, 1166 Old York Rd., Abington, PA 19001. You may also submit this information through the ACT website at www.abingtonact.org, under "Contact Us". **The deadline for submissions is Friday, November 3rd.**

What's Happening?

Check Community Website

Keep up-to-date with programs, activities, and events happening throughout Abington. Visit www.abingtonact.org - it provides listings of *Things To Do* for children and youth as well as *Sports* and *Special Programs*; highlights of Special Events for community members to attend, a resource for *Parenting Programs*, and a *Community Calendar* to check out important dates.

2006 LEAF COLLECTION

Leaf vacuuming begins October 29, 2006 in Areas B, C, D, F, G, H (see Calendar page 18-19). Please remember to place leaves curbside by each Monday of the scheduled week of collection.

Please call the **Leaf Collection Hotline - 267-536-1040** with questions or concerns.

Feather Our Nest Gala

Get ready for Feather Our Nest-Briar Bush Nature Center's Gala and Silent Auction! This year's event will be held at Cairnwood in Bryn Athyn, Thursday, November 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Auctions are successful when great items are donated. The auction items will be put on the Briar Bush website to view (www.briarbush.org).

Tickets: Online or call the Center at 215-887-6603. This will be a marvelous party..please join us!



Did You Know???

Abington Township has a Business Tax

Many people have told me that they were not aware that Abington has had a business tax. This is a tax on annual gross receipts and is taxed at different millage rates. A mill is \$1 per thousand dollars.

The Mercantile Tax is for businesses that sell a product. This tax has two different rates. Retail is taxed at the rate of 1-1/2 mills, while wholesale is taxed at 1 mill. The Business Privilege Tax (BPT) is a tax on service type businesses. Some examples of a service business might be a doctor, accountant, salesman, broker or a consultant. Rental income is also taxed under the BPT. The BPT rate is 4 mills of gross receipts.

These taxes bring in approximately \$6,000,000.00 per year and have become a major factor in the Township's budget.

It does not matter if you do not have an actual "place of business." The rule of thumb is if you are operating a business base within the Township, then you are responsible for the tax. People who operate any sort of business from their homes fall into this category.

Please contact our office if you should be responsible for filing either of these taxes. There are additional charges (penalties & interest) if you are delinquent with these taxes. Our office staff is here to service you and is available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. & 4 p.m. You may stop in or reach us at 267-536-1024.

Jay W. Blumenthal, Abington Township Treasurer/Tax Collector

Board of Commissioners

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

Briar Bush Nature Center *Is Best of Philly!*

No longer is Briar Bush Nature Center Abington's "best kept secret;" now it's a 2006 Best of Philly destination. In the August edition of *Philadelphia Magazine*, Best of Philly 2006, Briar Bush is a "Funky Find in Montgomery County!" Known throughout the area (in all 5 counties) as one of the largest nature educators, Briar Bush prides itself as a "first" educator. "We get kids excited about nature, the environment, plants and animals" according to Executive Director, Dede Long. Briar Bush programs for children from 2 to 92 years of age and takes adults on great escapes around Philadelphia for day trips and as far as Maine or North Carolina for 5 to 7 day excursions. Come visit us, you'll love it here!



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

Hate Groups:

They're Targeting Our Community and Our Children



Parents are invited and encouraged to attend an information panel on

October 26, 2006

Copper Beech School

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Information: 267-536-1074

Channel 43 for Abington Township Updates

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 44



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER