



ABERDEEN UPDATE

Spring 2009

The Official Newsletter of Aberdeen Township

www.aberdeennj.org

Aberdeen unveils redesigned website, new e-services

Earlier this year, Aberdeen introduced a redesigned website with a totally new look and vastly improved navigation tools. The site, which is located at the same address, www.aberdeennj.org, now also offers links for residents and businesses to receive the latest township news and information bulletins via email alerts or RSS feeds.

Among the site's other features, links across the top of the homepage allow users to learn about township services; obtain forms/permits/licenses (everything from applications for dog licenses, to Certificates of Occupancy and block party permits); get directions to the Municipal Building; complete an online resident service request form; or view calendars providing listings of township meetings, holiday closings and special events. Buttons on the side provide links to: About Aberdeen, Department Directories, Government, Community, Commuter Parking and

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Work on Rte. 34/Lloyd Rd. to begin this fall

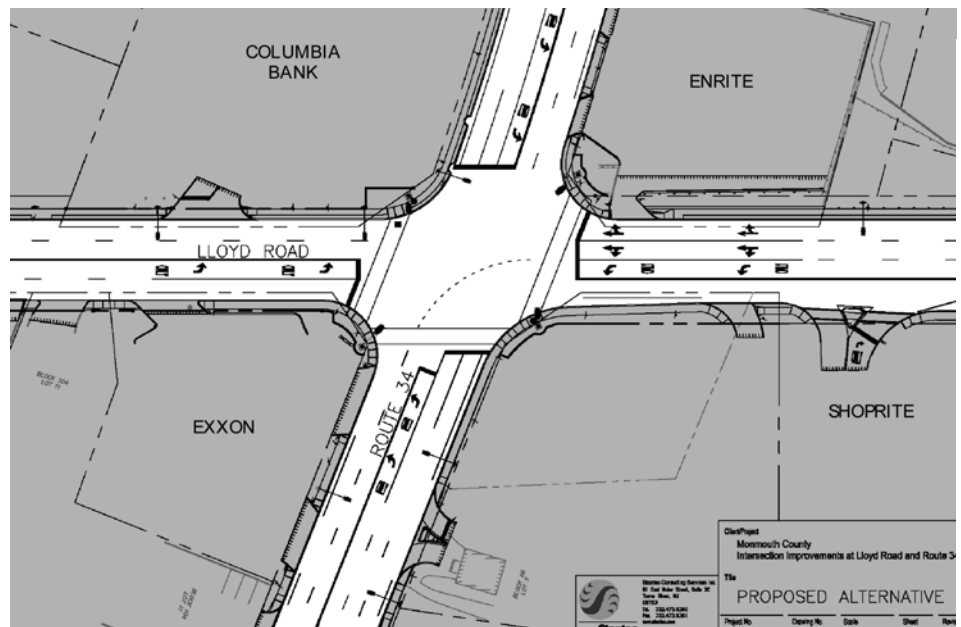
Construction is expected to commence this fall on a multi-faceted project designed to ease traffic congestion and enhance pedestrian safety at the busy intersection of State Highway 34 and Lloyd Road (County Road 3). The proposed improvements include widening of all approaches to the intersection, new striping patterns, and installation of a new traffic signal with revised timing.

According to Monmouth County Engineer **Joseph Ettore**, the actual launch date of the phased, year-long project is subject to securing right-of-ways from owners of 13 parcels affected by the construction. Property acquisitions are now underway. The

county engineer's office is serving as the lead agency on the unified project, coordinating plans previously developed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for Route 34 and by the county for Lloyd Road. NJDOT has committed \$2.33 million of state funds to the project, with another \$549,000 retained through developer assessments received by the county and Aberdeen Township. Any costs over the available \$2.87 million will be funded by the county.

Currently, both the Route 34 and Lloyd Road approaches to the intersection have a three-lane cross section that includes an exclusive left turn lane, a shared lane for through traffic

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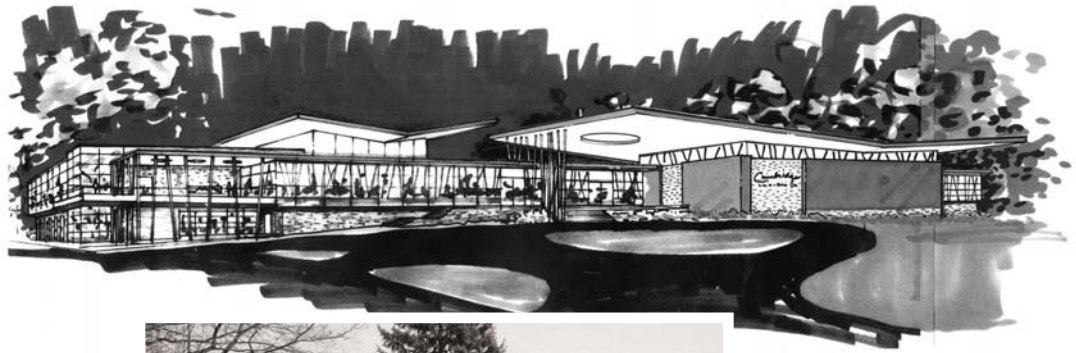
As shown in this graphic, the widening project at the Route 34-Lloyd Road intersection will add lanes on both roads. Congestion will also be reduced and pedestrian safety enhanced through installation of a new traffic signal.

The Cambridge Club

Pool club to become year-round facility

After getting the green light from the Aberdeen Township Zoning Board, the new owners of the former Strathmore Swim Club are moving forward on their vision to dramatically transform the aging nine-acre site on Lloyd Road into The Cambridge Club, a year-round facility offering a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities for people of all ages. Longtime area residents and former swim club members Frank and Tammy Ward expect to formally open the facility in late 2010 or early 2011.

"The Cambridge Club will be a breakthrough lifestyle club concept that's 100% family-centered," says Tammy McTaggart-Ward, who grew up in the "I" section of Strathmore and spent numerous summers at the old club as a child and adult. Her parents were among the original members of the swim club, joining some 44 years ago. "Unlike a traditional country club, which revolves around a sport, typically golf or tennis, or a gym that focuses on fitness, The Cambridge Club will offer a balance of health, fitness, wellness and social interaction. We will provide the entire family a full range of lifestyle choices in a refined, uncrowded, energized, inclusive environment. There are cur-



Club's new main building, as shown in this rendering, will be a far cry from the original structure built in the 1960s (left).

Ward. "The kiddie area will receive new surfacing for its pool, a new 'splash pad' water play area, and state-of-the-art playgrounds."

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Elsewhere, the grounds—which will retain the site's mature landscaping—will include open fields, shaded lounge areas, and an outdoor cafe grill with wait staff. Programming will include a day camp and social activities for members of all ages.

"The plans are spectacular," says Aberdeen Councilman **Fred Tagliarini**, who has been involved in the process since the time the Wards applied for zoning changes. "The Wards have deep roots in the community and want to restore the club to its position as a focal point of activity for the community, but now on a four-season basis. They have had an ongoing dialogue with the zoning board and residents who live nearby to ensure that the club will be a good neighbor."

Tagliarini adds that he and Aberdeen Director of Recreation **Jim Colabelli** have had preliminary discussions with the Wards regarding joint special programs at the site for children and seniors. "We would be happy to work with them as we have with other area businesses to offer specialized programming at their sites," says Colabelli. For example, the Department has offered children's programs at Rebound Gymnastics and Strathmore Lanes. ●

rently no other facilities like this in Monmouth or Middlesex County."

Under the plans developed by the Wards with Fabiano Designs—a firm that created over 400 clubs throughout the country—the 60,000-square-foot main building will house adult and children's centers. The adult area will feature an indoor lap pool, whirlpool spa and therapy pool; a full-service spa, with locker rooms that include a steamroom and dry sauna; fitness areas with a full array of cardio and strength equipment; a women-only group exercise room; and rooms for yoga, pilates and kinesis. A nutritionist and personal trainers will be available.

The building's children's center will include a basketball court, game room, interactive play areas, computer rooms, open space, as well as learning rooms for before- and after-school programs. The main building will also include a living-room style lounge area where members can play games or just relax, a library, art gallery, conference room, and full-service café.

Outdoors, major improvements are on tap for the main pool and kiddie pool. "We will completely renovate the big pool to include zero entry for disabled people, regulation lanes for the swim team and shorter ones for seniors, unique water features and water lounging areas," explains Frank

Advice for property owners...

Like all municipalities, Aberdeen has rules governing the proper day-to-day maintenance of residential and commercial properties, as well as for improvement projects. A complete list of key regulations can be found on the township website www.aberdeennj.org. Click on the "Ongoing" tab in the center of the homepage and go to "Advice for Property Owners." Residents without internet access can obtain a copy at the Municipal Building on Church Street. ●

LIBRARY NEWS

The Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library will offer the following children's programs in May and June:

- 5/2 Drop-In Storytime, 11 am
- 5/5 Mother's Day Craft, (ages 2- pre K), 10: 30-11 am, Registration required.
- 5/6 Mother's Day Craft (K- 4th grade), 4:15-4:45 pm, Registration required.
- 5/9 Drop-In Crafts, 10 am – 1 pm
- 5/11 Drop-In Storytime, 6:30 pm
- 5/15 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day Storytime & Craft, 10:30 am & 11:30 am
- 5/20 Music to Move By, (infant to 4), 10 am & 11 am, Registration required
- 5/20 Drop-In Crafts, 6:30-8:30 pm
- 5/21 After School Storytime – More Mixed-Up Fairy Tales, (Grades K-3), 4:15 pm-5 pm, Registration required
- 5/23 Drop-In Family Program – Saturday Movie, 2 pm
- 5/30 Drop-In Storytime, 11 am
- 6/20 MAPL Summer Reading Club Kickoff Concert with Presley and Melody, 11 am

The Library will offer the following adult programs in May and June:

- 5/4 New Jersey Shipwrecks, 7 pm
- 5/7 Back and Spine Health, 7 pm
- 5/9 Vintage Music on Vintage Instruments, 2 pm
- 5/11 Astrology: Basic and Beyond, 7 pm
- 5/13 Blood Sugar, A1C, 7 p.m.
- 5/14 Book Club Meeting, *The Professor and the Madman*, by Simon Winchester, 7:30 p.m.
- 5/16 SAT Practice Test-Kaplan, 9:30 am
- 5/18 Movie: *Changeling*, 2:30 pm
- 5/18 Mold, 7 pm
- 5/20 Reverse Mortgages, 7 pm
- 5/21 Knitting Club Meeting, 7 pm
- 5/27 Organization, 7 pm
- 5/29 Matawan Young People Group & Star Search, 3:30 pm
- 6/1 Movie: TBA, 2:30 pm
- 6/1 Boardwalks of NJ, 7 pm
- 6/4 College Application Essay – Kaplan, 7 pm

Ballfields get more upgrades

Work has been completed at three softball/baseball fields that resulted in the addition of drainage at each site along with reconditioning of the infields with new infield mix.

The projects were completed prior to the start of the 2009 season on both the Little League/softball and regulation baseball fields at Guisti Park, located on Cliffwood Avenue, and the Little League/softball field at Storyland Park, located off Warren Drive at Woodman Place. The fields are used by the Matawan Aberdeen Babe Ruth League, the Aberdeen Matawan Girls Softball League, and local men's and women's softball leagues.

Township Manager **Joseph Criscuolo** explains that the improvements were needed because when it rained, the fields were unplayable for several days, resulting in cancelled ballgames.

This is the latest in a series of improvements made to the township's baseball and soccer fields. Last year, projects were completed at Oakshades Park's Fireman's Field, Ross Field in Cliffwood Beach, and at Cambridge Field on Lloyd Road.

"We applaud the Public Works and Recreation departments' ongoing efforts to improve and maintain Aberdeen's ballfields," comments **Pat Egan**, president of the Matawan Aberdeen Babe Ruth League. "Field maintenance is something that has to be done year-after-year, and we commend the township for continuing to step up to the plate to improve the fields." ●



Aberdeen Recreation Director Jim Colabelli (r.) points to infield improvements at Guisti Park to Public Works Director Jim Lauro (l.) and Councilman Fred Tagliarini.

- 6/8 Movie: TBD, 2:30 pm
- 6/8 Wills/Living Wills - NJ Bar Foundation, 7 pm
- 6/10 How to do Scrapbooks, 7 pm
- 6/11 Book Club Meeting, *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus, 7:30 pm
- 6/12 Teen Program, 3:30 pm
- 6/15 Movie: TBD, 2:30 pm
- 6/15 Building a Simple Webpage, 7 pm
- 6/17 Blood Pressure & Body Fat Testing, 7 pm
- 6/18 Knitting Club Meeting, 7 pm
- 6/22 Movie: TBA, 2:30 pm
- 6/22 Round Table Discussion with Master Gardeners about Gardening Problems, 7 pm
- 6/24 Worries Management, 7 pm
- 6/25 Getting into Your First Choice School – Kaplan 7 pm
- 6/29 Movie: TBD, 2:30 pm
- 6/29 Crochet Plastic Bags into QMats, 7 pm

Aberdeen Day set for Sept. 26

Aberdeen Day 2009 is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 at Matawan Regional High School.

Businesses or organizations can enhance their visibility to the thousands of residents of all ages from Aberdeen and surrounding communities who attend the event. Sponsorship packages include opportunities at Aberdeen Day as well as in media advertising, flyers, signage, web and media publicity prior to the event.

Applications are also available for volunteer groups, youth organizations, businesses, crafters, entertainers and food vendors interested in participating in the event. Volunteer and youth organizations, entertainers and businesses distributing literature participate free of charge.

For more information, call Jim Colabelli, Recreation Director, at (732) 583-4200, ext. 134. ●

Softball league a hit for girls of all ages

When you ride around town in the spring and fall, one sight you can count on year-in and year-out is that of girls of all ages enjoying an afternoon or evening of softball.

Founded in 1973, the Aberdeen-Matawan Girls Softball League currently serves approximately 250 girls from pre-kindergarten through high school from Aberdeen, Matawan and surrounding towns. Players are grouped by age into four divisions: Instructional for pre-kindergarten through first grade, the Minors for grades two and three, Intermediate for grades four through six, and the Majors for girls in grades seven to 12.

Depending on the weather, practices start in mid-to late-March, with games scheduled from mid-April through mid-June. The League also offers a Fall Ball program.

Operations of the league are currently led by Aberdeen resident **Charlie Beach**, a 14-year veteran of the association who was elected President this year. He is joined by a seven-member board and a five-member executive board.



Charlie Beach presides over a league that now serves 250 girls from pre-kindergarten to high school.



Beach and his fellow board members spend countless hours on league matters. "We all work together to get everything done," he relates. "As early as January, we have to prepare and mail applications. We then have five walk-in registration sessions, the teams need to be organized, uniforms have to be ordered, permits have to be obtained, equipment has to be checked and ordered, and sponsors lined up. I don't think there would be a way to count the hours. And before the spring season is even over, we begin preparing for the Fall Ball league."

Besides the efforts of the board, Beach credits the hard work of the individual team coaches and league parents for contributing to the program's success. "Most of our parents are very willing to help however they can," he says. "Some volunteer as coaches and some work the snack bar at Oakshades. We also ask for their help to clean the fields at the beginning of the season and to help prepare the fields for play. Even more important, is the role that parents play in getting their girls to the field on time and teaching them to be responsible for their commitment to the team, as well as in being fans for all the players."

Beach's involvement began when his oldest daughter started playing softball at age six. He started out

coaching her team and has gone on to serve as a manager, Commissioner of Majors, Assistant Treasurer and now President. Beach's daughter played through her senior year in high school and his two younger daughters currently play.

Beach's favorite part of being involved with the league is watching the girls play, and seeing how they learn and have fun. "It is amazing to see them grow and advance as players. Having been with the league for so many years, I have watched so many of them grow up. Girls who played when I first started coaching are now in college and some have gone on to play on college teams. The main goal of our league is to keep our girls safe and to offer them the opportunity to learn to play ball and have fun. I am very proud to be part of such a successful league."

A number of the girls also go on to play at the high school level. "The Aberdeen-Matawan Girls Softball League is a very important part of our program," says **Steve Eisenstein**, varsity softball coach at Matawan Regional High School, who estimates that at least 95% of the varsity team started playing in the rec program. "We look to the league as a feeder for getting girls interested in softball and progressing their skills." ●

Commuter parking spaces available at Strathmore Lanes

A limited number of commuter parking spaces are still available at the Strathmore Shopping Center on Route 34.

Late last year, in an effort to make parking easier for those who commute to New York City and Jersey City via New Jersey Transit buses, Aberdeen signed a lease agreement with AMF Bowling Center for an additional 65 parking spaces.

Residents and non-residents can apply by sending a registered letter to the Mass Transit Secretary, Township of Aberdeen, One Aberdeen Square, Aberdeen, NJ 07747. The annual cost is \$100 for residents and \$522 for non-residents. For more information, please contact Susan Schneider, Mass Transit Secretary, at (732) 583-4200, ext. 100. ●

Township offers free mulch and Saturday recycling

With gardening season in full bloom, the Aberdeen Public Works Garage is the place to go for free, unlimited amounts of composting material. Compost can be used to enrich gardens and to improve soil around trees and shrubs. The compost is the end product of an innovative program in Aberdeen that recycles the enormous quantity of leaves collected by the Public Works department throughout the fall.

"Aberdeen is one of the few municipalities in the state equipped with the technology to create an end-product that is almost as effective as peat moss for gardening needs," said Director of Public Works Jim Lauro.

The compost can be obtained by coming to the Public Works Garage on Lenox Road off Cliffwood Avenue. Just bring a pail and shovel. The garage is open Monday to Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Public Works Garage is now also open six days a week for residents to drop off recyclables. Residents can also continue to bring recyclables to the Aberdeen Town Hall parking lot on the third Saturday of the month between 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. ●

Lloyd Road (continued from page 1)

and right turns, and one receiving lane. The proposed improvements will provide a five-lane cross section on Route 34 and a four-lane cross section on Lloyd Road.

Specifically, Route 34 will have two lanes in each direction, complemented by an exclusive left turn lane in each direction. On its eastern side between Shop-Rite and Enrite, Lloyd Road will have an exclusive left turn lane, a shared left and through lane, a shared through and right lane, as well as one eastbound receiving lane. On its western side (between Columbia Bank and the former Exxon), Lloyd Road will have an exclusive left turn lane, a shared through and right turn lane, and two westbound receiving lanes. The new lanes will extend 900 feet north and 800 feet south along Route 34, and 700 feet west and 800 feet east along Lloyd Road.

In addition, the existing traffic signal will be replaced with a new semi-actuated light that will give priority right-of-way to Route 34. Left turns on both roadways will be given a green light upon demand. The intersection and its approaches will be repaved within the project limits, with revised striping and signage installed. Pedestrians will be accommodated

with pushbuttons to cross Route 34 and "count down" signals for all three crosswalks. New sidewalks will be constructed along both sides of Route 34, the western side of Lloyd Road and in spot locations along the road's eastern side. Moreover, street lighting will be replaced along both roadways and at the intersection, while modifications will be made to the drainage system.

"The proposed improvements will significantly enhance traffic safety, increase capacity and reduce the use of local streets as diversionary routes for many years to come," says Ettore. He notes that the project was designed to handle the intersection's projected volume through 2025.

Work on the project will be phased to construct one approach at each stage. Police officers will be employed to maintain traffic flow during construction.

"We are excited to see this long-planned project come one step closer to reality under the auspices of a single governmental entity," said Mayor David Sobel. "Given the physical limitations arising from properties surrounding the intersection, we believe the proposed plan offers the most logical solution to the congestion that I and many other Aberdeen residents experience day-in and day-out." ●

RECREATION NEWS

Summer Adventures Registration: Be on the lookout for information on Aberdeen's Summer Adventures and Teen Adventures programs. Flyers will be distributed to area schools and sent home with students. Applications will be available starting May 4 at Aberdeen Town Hall. Mail-in registration runs until June 5. For information, call (732) 583-4200, ext. 134

Senior Trips: The Recreation Department's annual series of day trips for residents 55 and older will run through late fall. Destinations scheduled to be visited include: Platzl Brauhaus, Empire City Casino, and Renault Winery / Atlantic City. For more information, call (732) 583-4200, ext. 129 or 171. ●

Website

(continued from page 1)

Employment, as well as registration for the Code Red Emergency Notification system, RSS feeds and Aberdeen email alerts.

The email alerts are an "Opt-In" style mailing list, meaning that users must subscribe to receive notices and can change or delete their information at any time using a link at the bottom of the page. These lists are not sold or shared with anyone, so users will never receive junk e-mail as a result of registering for the service.

"We urge everyone to take advantage of the email alerts or RSS feeds to get the timeliest information on



Aberdeen's website has a new look and vastly improved navigation tools.

municipal, county and state events, services or other matters of interest that are regularly posted on our website," says Township Manager Joseph Criscuolo. ●

Township of Aberdeen MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

Police, Fire & Rescue
Emergencies 9-1-1

ABERDEEN NON-EMERGENCY
POLICE AND FIRE 732-566-2054

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
732-583-4200

David Sobel, Mayor Ext. 380
Wilhelmina Gumbs,
Deputy Mayor Ext. 383
Owen Drapkin Ext. 381
Tom Perry Ext. 384
Joe Raymond Ext. 385
Fred Tagliarini Ext. 382
Vincent Vinci Ext. 386

TOWNSHIP MANAGER
732-583-4200
Joseph Criscuolo Ext. 117

TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS
732-583-4200
Township Clerk Ext. 119
Construction Official Ext. 121
Engineering Ext. 101
Planning and Zoning Ext. 101
Finance Ext. 128
Health Ext. 129
Municipal Court Ext. 141
Public Works Ext. 174
Recreation Ext. 134
Tax Assessor Ext. 122
Tax Collector Ext. 128
Service Requests Ext. 100

HELPFUL NUMBERS
Animal Control
732-922-0100
Chamber of Commerce
732-290-1125
Electricity (JCP&L)
800-662-3115
Library, Free Public
732-583-9100
Gas (N.J. Natural Gas Co.)
800-221-0051
Water (N.J. American Water)
800-652-6987

www.aberdeennj.org

Aberdeen police cars add digital video recorders

Continuing to implement the latest in law enforcement technology, the Aberdeen Township Police Department has installed video cameras in all nine of its patrol cars. Specially designed for law enforcement, the ICOP digital in-car system records high quality video that can be downloaded to a server at headquarters. The system was purchased through the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System for approximately \$62,500.

Around the country, more and more police departments are implementing in-car mobile video cameras. Benefits have included increased officer safety, decreased departmental liability from unsubstantiated complaints against officers, as well as improved professionalism of the officers through policy, procedure and protocol review. In particular, situations may be de-escalated when subjects are aware they are being recorded. In turn, professionalism will be enhanced due to the fact the officers are aware their actions are captured on video. Other benefits include improved report-writing and preservation of evidence.

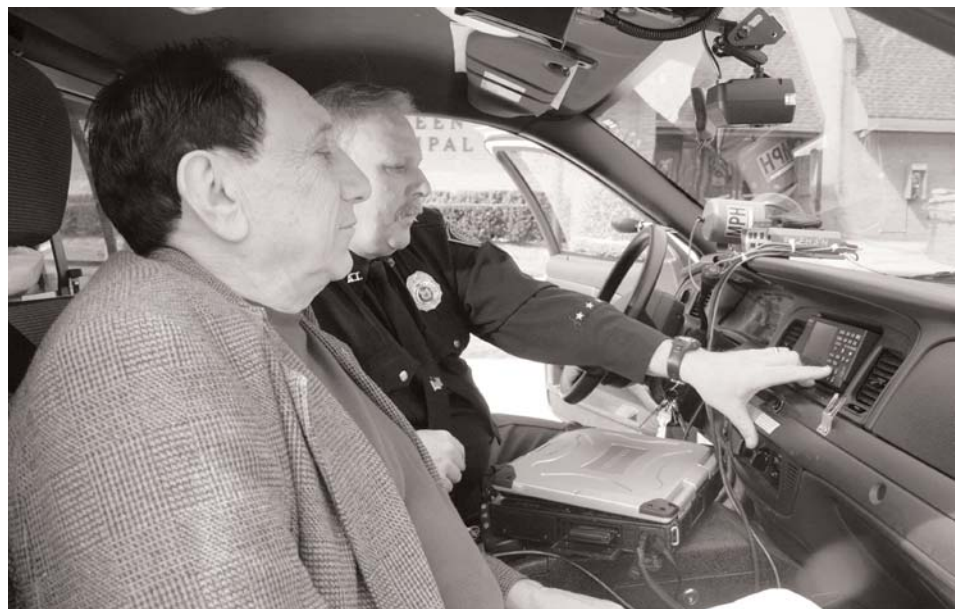
“In-car camera technology not

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only protects citizens and police officers, it serves as a reliable tool to gather evidence for investigative purposes,” says **Aberdeen Police Chief John Powers**. “It’s a common sense measure that police officers nationwide are embracing.”

The implementation of the ICOP system is the latest initiative employed by the department to enhance its crime fighting capabilities. Last year, the department implemented wireless-based software that gives officers in the field direct access to local, state and federal crime databases. Also added last year was an automated fingerprint system that allows officers to fingerprint offenders electronically, and transmit the impressions via computer directly to the State Police for review. ●



Deputy Chief Rick Derechailo (r.) shows camera system’s capabilities to Councilman Vincent Vinci, a retired member of the Aberdeen P.D.