



# ABERDEEN UPDATE

Spring 2006

The Official Newsletter of Aberdeen Township

## Powers Takes Reins of Police Department

Deputy Chief **John T. Powers**, 46, has been promoted to Chief of the 35-member Aberdeen Police Department, taking the reins from **Joseph Kelly**, who retired after a 30-year career with the township's force. Concurrently, Lieutenant **Richard**



Chief Powers addresses his force at swearing-in ceremony on April 4.

**Derechailo** was promoted to Deputy Chief, while Sergeants **Joseph Cole** and **Alan Geyer** were named Lieutenants, and Patrolman **Darrell Oliver** was elevated to Sergeant.

A 43-year resident of Aberdeen, Powers began his career with the department in 1982 as a Patrol Officer and rose through the ranks to be named Deputy Chief in 2003. He graduated from Richard Stockton State College with a B.A. in Criminal Justice.

Derechailo, 48, joined the depart-

*Continued p3*

## Anchor Glass Redevelopment Takes Step Forward



The Aberdeen Township Council has kick-started the process that could transform the former Anchor Glass factory site on Cliffwood Avenue from a decaying industrial property into a thriving town center-style development potentially combining retail, office, restaurant, limited residential, entertainment and hotel elements. As envisioned by the developer, the commercial components could provide significant new ratables that would ease property taxes for Aberdeen residents.

At its February 21 meeting, the Council passed resolutions designating the 52-acre property as a redevelop-

'Main Street' area, as shown in this conceptual design, would be at the core of the redevelopment of Anchor Glass.

ment zone and Lakewood-based Somerset Development, LLC as the developer. Somerset had acquired the site from Anchor Glass in 2004. This governing body's action, which followed a presentation by Somerset officials of the company's preliminary plans for the site, triggered a negotiation period during which the township works with Somerset to complete a formal development agreement. Among other things, this

*Continued p5*

## Contents

- 2 - Library in Internet Age
- 2 - Library News
- 3 - Summer Concerts
- 4 - Grass-Cutting Outsourced
- 4 - Volunteer Cleans Parks
- 4 - Health Updates
- 6 - Senior Specials
- 6 - Municipal Directory

## Public Safety/Volunteer Fair Set for May 20th

Aberdeen Township will present a Public Safety /Volunteer Fair on Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall, located on Church Street, just off Atlantic Avenue.

"This event will allow residents to learn about the many volunteer opportunities that exist with our law

enforcement, fire, rescue and emergency services," says Councilman **Joseph Raymond**, a longtime volunteer fireman. "From my own experience, I can assure residents that participating in these organizations provides fulfillment on numerous levels. It's a great way to provide

*Continued p5*

## Library keeps pace with the 'Internet Age'

Visitors to the Matawan Aberdeen Public Library are sure to have noticed the many improvements made during the building's recent renovation.

Less visible are the numerous system upgrades that have occurred during the past year that allow library users to access a variety of services from their home computers.

Checking the availability of library books, reviewing standardized test preparation materials and reading back issues of newspapers and magazines are among the many services that no longer require visits to the library.

"Services such as these are a plus in a town like Aberdeen with so many commuters who leave early and return late in the evening, making it hard to find the time to visit," says Library Director **Susan Pike**.

One of the biggest changes came as a result of the library's membership in The Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium (lmax), a not-for profit organization that provides a full range of automation services to its member libraries. Consisting of 28 libraries in Middlesex and Monmouth counties, the consortium offers Matawan-Aberdeen library cardholders the opportunity to search the lmax online catalogue for books. If the book is available at a member library, it will be sent over to Matawan-Aberdeen.

With the recent upgrades, overdue books can now be a thing of the past. The library website's "My Account" feature allows users to view their account to see a list of items charged to them, their due dates and any unpaid fines. They can also renew or reserve books online and create a "Keep" list of items they are interested in.

A number of online research and educational services are now avail-

able through the library's "Reference Links" section.

The "Learning Express Test Tutorial," for example, provides



Library Director Susan Pike explains some of the new Internet research tools to Councilman Nicholas Minutolo.

access to over 300 online practice tests for students of all ages.

"Jersey Clicks" allows users to search full-text magazine articles and encyclopedias from home or the library. "NewsBank" and "ProQuest" provide access to business articles and full-text articles from *The Newark Star-Ledger* and *New York Times*, respectively.

"Listen NJ" allows card holders to check out and download audio books.

"Q&A New Jersey" puts users in touch online with a New Jersey librarian — in real-time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week — for help with any topic or information need. Assistance is also available for college students from librarians at participating university libraries.

"Healthy NJ," provided by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, offers a wealth of health-related information.

In addition to the 12 new computers available for use on site, the library now offers free, high-speed wireless Internet access for those bringing their own laptops or PDAs. "Our library has really come a very long way in the past year," Councilman **Nicholas Minutolo** commented after a recent visit. "We strongly urge Aberdeen residents of all ages to pay

a visit and learn how they can take advantage of all it has to offer on the premises or from the comfort of their homes." ●

## LIBRARY NEWS

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

**Mother's Day Craft** – Register on May 3 for the May 10 Craft Sessions. Crafty Kids (Ages 2 to Pre-K) meets from 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and After School Kids, (Kindergarten to Grade 4) meets from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Father's Day Craft** – Register on June 7 for the June 14 Craft Session. Crafty Kids (Ages 2 to Pre-K) meets 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and After School Kids (Kindergarten to Grade 4) meets from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Drop-In Crafts** – May 10 and June 14. No registration required. Come in between 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and make a craft to take home. Open to ages 2 and up. Parent must stay with child.

**Summer Reading Club** – Registration begins June 27. The Summer Reading Club is for children ages 2 and up. Free to all library card holders, the eight-week program features crafts, raffle prizes, weekly trivia questions, games and contests.

### ■ The library will offer the following adult programs in May and June. All programs, unless indicated, begin at 7:00 p.m.

- 5/4 – Feng Shui and the Aura by Roslyn Karpel
- 5/8 – First Time Home Buyer by Mari Anne
- 5/11 – Book Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 5/15 – Settling Work Place Disputes by Pat Westerkamp
- 5/17 – E Commerce by Richard Jarosz
- 5/22 – New Jersey Family Care by Josie Aualt
- 5/24 – Eating Disorders
- 5/25 – Allergies
- 5/31 – Inner Health Through Meditation by Peter Kurczynski
- 6/5 – Blood Pressure Screening by Visiting Nurse Assn. of Central Jersey, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 6/7 – Book Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 6/12 – Water for Life by the Staff of Waterspirit
- 6/14 – Recovering from a Heart Attack
- 6/15 – Glucose Screening & Hearing Test by Centra State Healthcare System, 10:00-a.m.-Noon
- 6/19 – Foreclosures by Joan Duszcak
- 6/21 – Ghost Hunting in NJ by Staff of South Jersey Ghost Research
- 6/26 – The Reverse Mortgage Solution by Darryn Murdoch

## Powers ( from page 1)

ment in 1985 as a Patrol Officer and rose through the ranks to become a Lieutenant in 2003. He holds a Masters Degree in Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a B.S. degree in Administration of Justice from University College-Rutgers University.

"We are very proud to promote these two 'home-grown' veterans of the department to the top-two positions," Mayor **David Sobel** commented at a swearing-in ceremony on April 4. "In addition to highly decorated records, Chief Powers and Deputy Chief Derechailo bring strong leadership

and communication skills, solid academic backgrounds, compassion, and a firm commitment to the community policing initiative that had been successfully implemented during former Chief Kelly's tenure. He has left the department in very capable hands."

Cole, 38, joined the department in 1995 as a Patrol Officer and, following several earlier promotions, was named Commander of the Detective Division in 2004. Prior to joining the department, he was a Correctional Officer at a New Jersey Correctional Facility. He holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Phoenix and is now pursuing a M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration from Boston University.

Geyer, 49, joined the department in 1987 as a Patrol Officer and rose through the ranks to be appointed Commander of the Traffic Safety Bureau in 2002. He earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Thomas Edison College.

In 1999, Oliver, now 36, left his initial career as a stockbroker to become a Patrol Officer with the department. Oliver, who holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Management and

Economics from the University of Delaware, plans to pursue a second degree in Criminal Justice.

"Like Chief Powers and Deputy Chief Derechailo, Lieutenants Cole and Geyer, and Sergeant Oliver embody the qualities we seek for the Aberdeen Police Department," said Deputy Mayor **Wilhelmina Gumbs**. "We are pleased to be able to have



From l. to r.: Chief John Powers is joined by Deputy Chief Richard Derechailo, Lt. Alan Geyer, Lt. Joseph Cole, and Sgt. Darrell Oliver at the swearing-in ceremony.

witnessed the professional growth of these decorated veterans and to be able to elevate them to new leadership positions within our department."

Discussing his vision for the department, Powers says, "I would like to continue the practice begun under Chief Kelly of encouraging officers to advance their education. Deputy Chief Derechailo and Lt. Cole completed both undergraduate and graduate programs while working in the police department, and Lt. Geyer earned his associates degree while working. Continuing their education while coping with shift work and the other demands of the job makes these accomplishments more impressive, and they all set a great example for our younger members. The increasingly technical nature of policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century makes advanced education a necessity."

Looking ahead, he anticipates that planned developments like the Anchor Glass project will place new demands on the department, including the need for a bicycle patrol unit. Other objectives include reinvigorating the Neighborhood Watch program,

re-establishing the Police Explorer program, and developing a volunteer domestic violence response team.

"I grew up in Aberdeen and am raising my three children here, so I take my responsibilities very seriously," Powers concludes. ●

*NOTE: For more biographical info and photos, visit [www.twp.aberdeem.nj.us](http://www.twp.aberdeem.nj.us) and click on 'Police Promotion Ceremony' on home page.*

## Free summer concerts

Aberdeen Township will present its first-ever Summer Concert Series, with performances on the lawn at the Aberdeen Township Municipal Building on Church Street, just off Atlantic Avenue.

The series will kick-off on Thursday, June 8, with blue grass by Reconso and continue on Thursday, July 13 with hits from the 1960s by Code 3. Both will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The concerts are free. All that is needed is a chair or blanket. Refreshments will be sold. Overflow parking will be available at the Matawan United Methodist Church located on Church Street and Atlantic Avenue.

"We're very pleased to kick-off what we hope will become an annual tradition in Aberdeen," says Mayor **David Sobel**. "The concerts will be a great way for people of all ages in our



Mayor David Sobel (l.) Councilman Joseph Raymond (c.) and Rec. Dir. Jim Colabelli scope out the Town Hall site for Summer Concert Series.

community to come together to enjoy the sounds of professional groups on Town Hall's tree-shaded lawn."

Councilman **Nicholas Minutolo** adds: "Thanks to the efforts of Township Manager **Stuart Brown** and Recreation Director **Jim Colabelli** in lining up corporate sponsors, these events are being produced without additional costs to our taxpayers." ●

## Grass-Cutting Outsourced, Freeing Crews to Improve Parks

Beginning this spring, grass-cutting and other landscaping services for Aberdeen's parks and other facilities are now being performed by an outside contractor, freeing up Township employees to focus on maintenance of the parks.

"Contracting to an outside company for these services will not only deliver cost savings, but should also vastly improve the maintenance of our parks," says Councilman Tom Perry. "The seasonal landscaping duties were previously performed by a four-member crew from the Public

Works Department, limiting the time they had to empty trash barrels, do litter patrol, rake ballfields, repair or replace playground equipment, and perform other maintenance services. Now, they can dedicate all their time to these projects during the season when our parks get the most use."

The change also allowed the township to not fill an open position on the crew, resulting in payroll savings.

"These changes," added Councilman Owen Drapkin, "tie into an ongoing program to improve conditions in our parks." ●



Downsized Public Works Department crew can now focus efforts on parks maintenance.

## Volunteer Helps Spruce Up Parks

Rather than collect his severance paychecks and sit around a union job bank facility in the hope that another opportunity will arise, long-time Aberdeen resident Richard Bauman has opted to make the rounds of the township's parks with a pick and bucket in hand.



Volunteer Richard Bauman at work.

Under a program sponsored by the United Auto Workers Union, the laid-off General Motors electrician is volunteering five days a week to provide litter patrol services for Aberdeen. Bauman, who spent a total of 47 years with G.M., lost his position following the company's decision to close its Linden plant.

"The UAW gives us the choice of spending our days at the job bank in

*Continued p6*

## HEALTH UPDATES

### Dispose of those hazardous items.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Days are set for May 6 and September 30, from 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., at the County Garage in Hazlet (Union Avenue, off Route 36).

Acceptable items include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, solvents, thinners, corrosives, cleaners, pool chemicals, liquid paints, varnishes, aerosol cans, used motor oil, anti freeze, gasoline, batteries and propane BBQ tanks. Maximum amount accepted is 200 pounds of dry material and/or 20 gallons of liquid. All items must be in closed containers with original labels. Year-round service is also available at the Household Hazardous Waste facility in Tinton Falls. For more information, contact the Monmouth County Health Department at (732) 431-7456 or (732) 922-4788, ext. 651.

### Learn more about Pandemic Flu and Avian Influenza.

Information is now available from a number of sources to help prepare for possible Pandemic Flu and Avian Influenza outbreaks. *Pandemic Influenza Planning: A Guide for Individuals and Families* is now available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at [www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/guide.pdf](http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/guide.pdf). Additional information can be obtained at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov), an official

U.S. government website.

Information from the state can be found in *New Jersey: A Public Health Guide to Emergency Planning*, [www.state.nj.us/health/er/documents/citizens.guide.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/er/documents/citizens.guide.pdf).

Information is also available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

[www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index). Residents who do not have computer access can obtain copies of the above publications by calling the Aberdeen Health Department at (732) 583-4200, ext 129 or 173.

### Medical Volunteers Wanted.

The Monmouth County Health Department is seeking volunteers for its Medical Reserve Corps, a team of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and interested citizens whose mission is to supplement existing public health resources and improve response capabilities in the event of public health emergencies. Training and credentialing are provided with minimal time commitment required. For more information or to complete an online application, visit [www.njmrc.nj.gov](http://www.njmrc.nj.gov), or contact the County's Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, Julie Coveney at (732) 683-8516, or at [jcoveney@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:jcoveney@co.monmouth.nj.us).

*Prepared by Robert Scapicco, Health Officer for Aberdeen & Hazlet Townships*

## Anchor (from page 1)

pact will outline project timelines and what is expected of the developer throughout the process, including infrastructure improvements.

"We expect the agreement to be in



place by May or June, and then proceed later this year to the planning and design process. Construction could begin in two to three years," says Township Manager **Stuart Brown**. "Importantly, Somerset has agreed that this will be an integrated design process that will involve strong input from the community. Their planner—who the Township must approve—will actively engage the community to provide their input on what they would like to see on the site."

"Somerset is a forward-thinking developer that believes in getting the community involved in the design process," notes Councilman **Joseph Raymond**. "This was a key factor in our decision to designate them as the developer."

The company's preliminary plan envisions a mixed-use town center development "providing living, shopping, entertainment, dining, employment and recreational opportunities to township residents and visitors alike. These pedestrian-oriented communities provide aesthetically attractive environments that encourage strolling from store to store, or from home to the 'main street.'"

The 'main street' buildings would have retail and restaurant uses on the ground floor, with office and residential units above. "Surrounding the main street concept would be additional commercial and residential uses that are organized around attrac-

Councilman Vincent Vinci (l.), Deputy Mayor Wilhelmina Gumbs (c.) and Councilman Owen Drapkin look forward to transformation of the Anchor Glass site.

tively landscaped streets, boulevards and public open spaces that connect to the mixed use component of the project," the preliminary plan states.

"With Somerset's plan limiting the community's market rate and affordable residential components to one- and two-bedroom units, the development won't have a big impact on our school system," says Deputy Mayor **Wilhelmina Gumbs**. "As envisioned, the village will be the type of place where individuals who live on the site or families from nearby or other parts of town can walk or drive over to enjoy a concert or other type of entertainment, stroll around the restaurants and shops, or just get together for an ice cream cone. I'm really excited about what they've presented and can't wait for the project to go forward."

In an effort to alleviate concerns about traffic volume on Cliffwood Avenue and provide the type of access that would make the project more attractive to major retailers and other commercial tenants, Somerset

has approached the state about building an exit from the northbound lanes of the Garden State Parkway, which adjoins the site, and will pay for construction once the exit is approved.

"The parkway access would be a real plus and would help keep traffic down on Cliffwood Avenue and other local roads," says Councilman **Vincent Vinci**. "This is an ideal location to create an exit, since it can be built without uprooting people from their homes or businesses."

Somerset, which is experienced in all facets of the redevelopment process, currently has over \$2.1 billion of projects under development in New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, and Maryland. ●

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## Public Safety (from page 1)

meaningful service to your community, learn important skills and, at the same time, make life-long friends."

Interested volunteers will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from a number of organizations to sign up or just learn more about the organization and its work. In addition, the fair will showcase all public safety and emergency services that are available in the community.

Organizations scheduled to participate include the Police Department, DARE, Cliffwood Fire Department, Aberdeen Hose & Chemical, South Aberdeen First Aid, Cliffwood First Aid, and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Fire trucks, Haz Mat and first aid vehicles will be on display in the parking lot.

Moreover, the Monmouth/Ocean Lead Childhood Consortium, and Monmouth County Health Department will hand out literature and answer questions; the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey will offer free blood pressure screenings; and The Central Jersey Blood Center will have its Bloodmobile at the fair to accept blood donations.

The Aberdeen Patrolmen's Benevolent Association will provide free refreshments for attendees. Parking will be available at the Matawan United Methodist Church located across from Town Hall on Church Street. ●

## 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  
Nick Minutolo Ext. 382  
Tom Perry Ext. 384  
Joe Raymond Ext. 385  
Vincent Vinci Ext. 386

TOWNSHIP MANAGER  
732-583-4200  
Stuart Brown 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

## SENIOR SPECIALS

The Recreation Department runs six trips from late spring to late fall for residents 55 and older. The following is a list of destinations to be visited in June, July, August and September. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (732) 583-4200, ext. 129 or 171.

*Renault Winery/Atlantic City*—Tuesday, June 20. Tickets are \$18.00 and include family-style lunch at the winery and casino visit. Register by May 3.

*'The Bickermans Renew Their Vows,' The Tides Dinner Theater, North Haledon, NJ*—Tuesday, July 18. Tickets are \$35.00 and include one-hour open bar, lunch and show. Register by May 24.

*Spirit of Philadelphia Cruise*—Tuesday, August 15. Tickets are \$29.00 and include cruise along the Delaware, lunch buffet and entertainment. Register by June 14.

*'Ruth,' Sight & Sound Theater, Strasburg, Pa.*—Wednesday, September 13. Tickets are \$57.00 and include family-style meal at Hershey Farm and the show. Register by July 26.

George Hausmann Senior Center  
Schedule:

*Tuesdays*  
Qigong 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  
Tai-Chi 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
Aerobics 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

*Wednesdays*  
Gentle Yoga 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Aerobics 11:15 a.m. – Noon

*Thursdays*  
Aerobics 11:00 a.m. – Noon.

*Fridays*  
Gentle Yoga 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The George Hausmann Senior Center is located at 30 Noble Place in the "N" section of Strathmore.

U.S. Post Office  
PAID  
Aberdeen, NJ  
07747  
Permit #414

**To: Postal Customer  
Aberdeen, NJ**

## Volunteer (from page 4)

Linden or doing volunteer work for non-profit or government groups; I chose to see what I could do to help my community," explains Bauman, a 44-year resident of the Cliffwood Beach section.

"When Richie approached me and asked if he could help with our park clean-ups, I jumped at his offer," says Aberdeen Director of Public Works **Jim Lauro**. "He's got a great work ethic and has already made a difference in the cleanliness of our parks."

Bauman, 65, began his service to the township in February and plans to continue through July or August when he officially retires from G.M. With retirement looming, Bauman and his wife Dorothy are now considering their future plans. But, stressing the desire to remain active, he doesn't rule out some type of part-time work.

"We will certainly consider hiring Richie for any part-time opportunities in our department," notes Lauro. "He's been a real asset." ●

## Sign up for summer fun

Mail-in registration will take place from May 2- May 26 for the Recreation Department's Summer Adventures, Teen Adventures, Pony Share and Summer Sports Camps. Walk-in registration at Aberdeen Town Hall will take place from May 30-June 2. For more information, call (732) 583-4200, ext. 129 or 171.