



# ABERDEEN UPDATE

Summer 2006

The Official Newsletter of Aberdeen Township

[www.aberdeennj.org](http://www.aberdeennj.org)

## H.A.M. Fills Need For Special Residents

A recent Monday morning at the H.A.M. summer camp began with arts and crafts and continued with a fun and engaging science lesson, followed by an afternoon ceramics class in Red Bank.

Since its inception in 1980, H.A.M



Guest instructor from Mad Science program leads session at H.A.M. camp

(the Hazlet, Aberdeen and Matawan Therapeutic Recreation Program) has been providing a wide variety of educational and social activities for developmentally disabled residents of the three towns.

Under the direction of Program Supervisor **Bernadette Hammond**, the cooperative regional program offers year-round activities for people ages seven and up. Unlike programs

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## Website Has New Look and Features

In case you haven't visited recently, the Aberdeen Township website has a totally new look, greatly improved navigation tools, along with a host of new features that will be fully rolled out over the next three to six months.

Now located at [www.aberdeennj.org](http://www.aberdeennj.org), the redesigned site's homepage features the latest news from the township, advisories and legal notices, along with easy-to-use links to recycling/trash pickup information, an expanded municipal phone/e-mail directory, a tool to register for automatic e-mails providing info on all latest news and other updates to the website, as well as a search tool.

Additionally, four new buttons across the top of the homepage provide links to a variety of vital infor-



In addition to new look, website sports greatly improved navigation tools and a host of new features that will be fully rolled out over the next 3-6 months.

mation (some of which will not be available until the site's reconstruction is complete):

■ Government— Will include agendas and minutes of Council, Zoning Board and Planning Board meetings,

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## We Want Your Aberdeen Memories

Do you remember when Aberdeen Township was called Matawan Township? Did you live here when farms dominated the landscape and before the Garden State Parkway transformed the area? Were you an original Strathmore family?

Over the years, Aberdeen has undergone many changes and, in conjunction with the Township's 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2007, residents (past and present) are invited to share their memories of life in Aberdeen with our readers.

Submissions of up to 250 words can be sent by the end of September to: **Stuart Brown**, Township Manager, Aberdeen Township, 1 Aberdeen Square, Aberdeen, N.J. 07747 or e-mail to: [stuart.brown@aberdeennj.org](mailto:stuart.brown@aberdeennj.org). Please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail.

Selected submissions will be printed in upcoming issues of *Aberdeen Update*. All others will appear on the township website. Thank you. ●

## Building Permits: That Yellow Card Can Avert Big Problems

**A**berdeen homeowners Lisa and David Kreda were shocked when their recently installed central air conditioning did not pass the final inspection performed by the township. The work had been done by a contractor that served the area for many years and who had serviced their previous system. Yet, the town-



John Quinn, Director of Planning, Zoning and Development, is joined on a commercial site inspection by Deputy Mayor Wilhelmina Gumbs.

ship's electrical inspector uncovered two potentially dangerous problems that required the contractor to have a licensed electrician correct before the system could pass.

"We never appreciated the importance of permits and inspections until this experience," says Lisa Kreda. "While we've always had permits for work done in our home, we never realized how valuable they are. In this case, we assumed that because the company had a good reputation and had been in business for so long, that the work would be of the highest quality."

Construction permits are more than just those yellow cards displayed by home or business owners whose properties are undergoing renova-

tions, plumbing/electrical work, or a number of other projects.

"Permits are necessary to ensure the safety of residents and contractors working in the Township," says **John Quinn**, Director of Planning, Zoning and Development. "Even the best contractor can make a mistake. The inspections provide an additional checkpoint – whether a licensed contractor or a good friend did the work."

In addition to construction of new buildings, permits are required for the following types of projects: plumbing, electrical, or heating/air conditioning work; additions or other structural alterations; installation of roofing, siding or fire protection materials; and construction of swimming pools, decks or storage sheds. Property owners who are unsure if a permit is required for their project can call the Building Department at 732-583-4200, ext. 120 or Zoning Office at ext. 101.

Construction and zoning permit applications can be obtained at the Building Department

located in the Township Offices, at 1 Aberdeen Square, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If the homeowner is doing the work, they can apply for the permit. Permit application requirements for a number of areas can be found on the township website: [www.aberdeennj.org](http://www.aberdeennj.org)

A permit must be applied for prior to starting work. Quinn recommends allowing 20 business days for processing, although applications can typically be turned around in less time. The minimum fee is \$50 depending on the size and scope of the job.

If the project doesn't increase the footprint or height of your building, you just have to fill out the appropriate construction application form.

Projects that increase the footprint or height—such as an addition or swimming pool—require a zoning application and must be approved by the Zoning Officer.

"The Building Department is here to help you as a consumer and ensure your safety," advises Deputy Mayor **Wilhelmina Gumbs**, who is also a longtime Realtor. "Contractors sometimes look at the department as being 'the bad guys' who slow their job down and charge a permit fee which may have to be absorbed into the job's price. In reality, the department is there to help the resident and make sure that the contractor is safe. If there are things that need to be corrected, our inspectors catch them before they become major problems." ●

### Quinn's Tips...

- Beware of contractors who don't want to get permits or tell you they're not necessary for that type of project. Call the Building Department to check for yourself.
- Make sure you're comfortable with any contractor doing work in your home, even on the simplest of projects.
- Get recommendations from friends and neighbors and go to see a finished project.
- Check references and contact the Better Business Bureau to see if complaints have been filed against them.



**POLICE CHASE 'THE WRAT.'** Members of the Aberdeen Police Department competed against on-air personalities and other staffers from WRAT-FM in a softball game on July 17 at Oak Shades Park.

## H.A.M. (from page 1)

in other areas which are limited to those of school age (21 and younger), there is no cut-off age. Accordingly, residents of surrounding towns may also participate for a small additional fee.

From fall through spring, H.A.M. offers such after-school or after-work activities as bowling (age 7 and up), drama class (age 10 and up), movie night (age 13 and up), country line dancing (age 10 and up), plays and concerts (age 18 and up), and a cooking class (age 10 and up).

The program's summer camp begins on the last Monday in June and runs for six weeks. With door-to-door transportation included, the program consists of a traveling camp and regularly scheduled activities. Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Keansburg Water Park, Great Adventure, Dorney Park, Fun Time America, Lakewood Blue Claws games, and fishing trips are among the travel destinations. Regular camp activities include bowling, arts and crafts, pottery, gymnastics, and science. Additional summer activities include movie and concert nights for different age groups, including the recent concerts presented by Aberdeen Township.

Additionally, the group organizes an annual weekend trip for people 18 and older. Parents may come along as chaperones. "Last year's trip, a cruise to Nova Scotia, was a wonderful experience for everyone on so many levels," notes Hammond.

"A key element of H.A.M.'s success is that the program allows our members to take part in a variety of social activities without parental involvement," she continues. "Participation helps to increase their self-esteem and gives parents the time to relax and do their own thing."

Along with Hammond, who joined H.A.M. in 1980, program staff includes a number of college students, many of whom are training to become teachers or physical therapists. Staffers typically stay with the program for five or six years.

Aberdeen, Hazlet and Matawan provide the core financial support to the program, augmented by modest fees paid by the parents for certain indi-

vidual activities, such as summer camp or movie nights. Additional funds are generated through the annual Jolly Mouse Craft Show held at Lloyd Road School during the fall. The craft show is the organization's only fund raising initiative, with a current goal of obtaining funds to purchase a 15-passenger van.

"H.A.M. represents an excellent example of how three municipalities can work together to provide an important service for members of their communities," comments Councilman **Joe Raymond**. "We are proud to participate in this worthy endeavor." ●

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## Longtime Participant Praises Program

Aberdeen resident **Anne Strozak** joined the H.A.M. program as a teenager and today, at age 31, says



Longtime H.A.M. member Anne Strozak (l.) has formed a special bond with Program Supervisor Bernadette Hammond.

that she would like to remain for as long as possible.

When asked what she likes best about the program, Anne immediately cites the major trips, singling out the Nova Scotia cruise and journeys to Cape May, Hershey Park and Niagara Falls. Her favorite day-to-day activities include bowling and gymnastics, as well as summertime beach, water park and fishing outings.

Over the years, Anne—who works during the school year in the cafeteria at St. Benedict's School in Holmdel—has become more than a H.A.M. participant. "Having been with the program for so many years, Anne has become very familiar with the program and how things work. As a result, she is able to assist us in a number of areas," says Program Supervisor Bernadette Hammond.

Anne adds that she has made a lot of friends through the program and likes that she is able to see them outside of the program too. These friendships, Hammond notes, often continue after someone leaves the program.

"The H.A.M. program has given Anne the opportunity for socialization, different activities and a circle of friends that she wouldn't have made," says her father Steve. "The trips have also been good experiences for her. She likes to be on her own and the trips and other H.A.M. activities give her the chance to be away from her parents and with her friends." ●

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## Expanded Aberdeen Day Scheduled for Sept. 9

The pool is closed and the lifeguards have left the beach. What better way to spend a late-summer afternoon than with a visit to Aberdeen Day? This year's event—scheduled for Saturday, September 9, from noon to 5:00 p.m. at Matawan Regional High School—promises to be bigger and better than ever. New this year will be an amusement ride area and many new food and craft vendors. And of course, Aberdeen Day will feature old favorites including entertainment, children's activities and refreshments.

Applications are now 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 may participate, free-of-charge. An application fee will be charged for food vendors, businesses selling goods or services, and crafters. Applications and additional information can be obtained by calling the Aberdeen Township Recreation Department at (732) 583-4200, ext 134, 173 or 129. ●

## Website (from page 5)

including links to documents being considered by each body; the municipal Code Book searchable by keyword; Forms/ Permits/ Licenses (everything from applications for dog



Township Manager Stuart Brown (seated) shows Mayor David Sobel some of the site's new features.

and cat licenses, to Certificates of Occupancy and Block Party Permits); requests for government records; and expanded background information on all departments, Council members, boards, committees and commissions. The expanded Municipal Court page, for example, includes everything from detailed information on parking at the train station to the ability to pay traffic tickets on line.

■ **Community**— Will include links to

the regional school district and individual schools; a history of Aberdeen Township; back issues of *Aberdeen Update*; and links to various recreational athletic leagues and other community organizations.

■ **Directories**—Will include a "What Department Do I Need?" index designed to easily steer users to the correct officials for assistance on various matters; the municipal phone/e-mail directory; 'Contact Us' links; directions to the Municipal Building; and an electronic Resident Service Request form.

■ **Calendars**—Will include listings on Township meetings, holiday closings and special events.

"With its new look and expanded features, the website makes it far easier for residents, business owners and other interested parties to navigate through permitting and licensing processes, as well as access vital services and programs offered by the township and various community groups," says Mayor **David Sobel**. "Equally important, by making meeting minutes and related documents more accessible than ever, the site fosters the principle of transparent government."

## Roadwork in High Gear

With reconstruction work being wrapped up on four roads and getting ready to commence on another four, Aberdeen Township's road improvement program is in high gear. Meanwhile, bidding will get underway soon for another 13 roads that will be scheduled for completion over the next 12-15 months.

By mid-July, projects were being completed on Idaho Lane, Invar Place, Italic Place and Shadynook Drive—the latter, a lengthier job that included water main replacement.

Upon completion of those projects, contractor crews will commence work on the reconstruction of Atlantic Avenue (between Church Street and the Atlantic Avenue bridge), Belle

Place, Brookview Lane, and Newland Place. All are expected to be finished this fall.

**Bill Skorton**, project manager for Township Engineers CME Associates, notes that bids are now being solicited for seven additional full reconstruction projects: Cypress Court, Cypress Lane, Icemeadow Lane, Island Place, Marjorie Street, Noble Place and Oxford Lane. "Some of these projects could get underway this fall, with the remainder commencing next spring," he says.

Concurrently, bids will be solicited for pedestrian improvements in the vicinity of the train station. The program, which will be funded by the N.J. Department of Transportation, will include pedestrian walkway striping, in-road pedestrian signage

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Councilman **Tom Perry** adds: "Aberdeen's new website contributes significantly to our objective to provide our residents with an alternative means of interacting and communicating with the Township. At the same time, its look and feel promotes the community spirit that is Aberdeen." ●

## LIBRARY NEWS

■ **The Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library will offer Storytime for children, from infants to five- years-old. Registration takes place on September 12th at 9:00 a.m. for sessions scheduled as follows:**

*Book Babies* (infants to 23 months) – Meets Thursdays, from 9/21 –10/12. Sessions take place at 10:15-10:35 a.m., and 11:00-11:20 a.m.

*2-Year-Olds* – Meets Tuesdays, from 9/19 – 10/24. Sessions take place at 10:30-10:50 a.m., and 11:10-11:30 a.m.

*3- to 5-Year Olds* – Meets Wednesdays, from 9/20 –11/1 (no class October 4). Sessions take place 10:30 -11:00 a.m. and 11:30-noon.

A children's crafts program will be added to the schedule. Check with the Library for more information.

■ **The library will offer the following adult programs in September and October. All programs, unless indicated, begin at 7:00 p.m.**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 9/14  | Book Club, 7:30 p.m.                            |
| 9/21  | Rework, Revise, Rewrite that Resume             |
| 9/27  | Leadership Skills through Mediation             |
| 9/28  | College Financial Planning                      |
| 10/5  | Self Hypnosis                                   |
| 10/11 | How to Recover Your Loses from the Stock Market |
| 10/12 | Book Club, 7:30 p.m.                            |
| 10/16 | Strengthening the Parent/Child Relationship     |
| 10/19 | Natural Approach to Health Wellness Foundation  |
| 10/23 | Paranormal Investigating                        |
| 10/26 | Virtual Vacation                                |

## Senior Softball Team Keeps Rolling

They may have to wait another two years before the Mets' ageless Julio Franco would be eligible for their roster, but the Aberdeen-Matawan squad in the Monmouth County Senior Softball League seems to be doing just fine without him.

After capturing the 50-and-over league's championship for four straight seasons, the team is a strong candidate for taking the 2006 crown as well, ending the regular season with a 17-1 record. The winner of the Monmouth championship will go on to compete in the state tournament later this summer.

Sponsored by Gallo's Wine Cellar, the 20-member team includes seven Aberdeen residents, as well as a number of township natives who now live elsewhere in the Bayshore area. Current residents on the roster include Councilmen **Vincent Vinci** and **Owen Drapkin**, Director of Public Works **Jim Lauro**, along with **Butch Gallo**, **Mike Kawoczka**,

**Jim Marsh**, and **Richie Vena**. The team's players range in age from 50 to 67, with some on the squad for as long as 17 years. ●



Members of the winning senior league squad include (clockwise, from lower left): Aberdeen Councilman Vincent Vinci, team sponsor Butch Gallo, Councilman Owen Drapkin, and Director of Public Works Jim Lauro.

## HEALTH UPDATES

### Mosquito Extermination Notice.

The Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission (MCMEC) may apply pesticides as needed throughout the county until Nov. 30. In case of a pesticide emergency, call the NJ Poison Information and Education System at (800) 858-7378.

For up-to-date information on the time and location of mosquito control applications, visit :

[www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito) or call: 732-578-1600.

### Mosquito Control at Home.

Eliminating standing water from your property is key to mosquito control. A complete list of precautions can be found at [www.aberdeennj.org](http://www.aberdeennj.org).

### Tick Identification and Testing.

The county has instituted a Tick Identification & Testing service. Ticks (dead or alive) must be submitted in person at the MCMEC facility in Tinton Falls, to test for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease. Identification is free, but there is a \$25 fee to cover testing for the Lyme disease-causing organism. For info visit:

[www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito/tick/html](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito/tick/html). For brochures on this service, Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, contact MCMEC at (732) 542-3630 or by e-mail at [ticks@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:ticks@co.monmouth.nj.us).

### Recognizing the Signs of a Stroke.

Call 911 immediately. Going to the hospital and starting treatment immediately increases the chances for a swift and full recovery. The signs of a stroke are: sudden weakness or numbness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; difficulty seeing; loss of speech, trouble talking or understanding speech; sudden, severe headache with no cause; trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, especially along with any of the above symptoms. For more info, contact the American Stroke Association at (888) 4-STROKE or visit: [www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org).

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



**THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT.** Aberdeen's first-ever summer concert series was a major hit, with crowds of all ages enjoying free performances on the Municipal Building's lawn featuring bluegrass band Reckon So on June 8 and 60's pop/rock band Code 3 on July 13. Series began with (l. to. r.) Councilmen Vincent Vinci, Owen Drapkin, Nick Minutolo and Joe Raymond (at mic) introducing Reckon So. Concerts will be followed by a free Family Movie Night on August 3 (see article on page 6).

## 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

[www.aberdeennj.org](http://www.aberdeennj.org)

## Movie Night Set for August 3rd

The Aberdeen Township Recreation Department will present the premier of Family Movie Night featuring *Matilda* on Thursday, August 3 at Giusti Park, located on Cliffwood Avenue between Myrtle and Archie Streets.

Sponsored by the Cliffwood Beach and Aberdeen McDonald's restaurants, the evening will start with entertainment by Ronald McDonald at 7:00 p.m., followed by the movie at 8:30 p.m. *Matilda*, based on the novel by Roald Dahl, stars Danny DeVito and Rhea Pearlman.

The evening is free. All that is needed is a chair or blanket. Refreshments will be sold. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at (732) 583-4200, ext. 134. ●

### FREE POPCORN!

Present this coupon at the Movie Night concession stand to receive one, free, small popcorn. One coupon per family, please.



## Roadwork (from page 4)

and new handicapped-accessible ramps.

These projects will be followed in 2007 by an additional package providing for the reconstruction of six streets: Gerard Avenue, Imperia Place, Ives Place, Marshall Concourse, Olden Lane, and Woodmere Drive. The Marshall Concourse and Woodmere Drive projects will include installation of new water mains.

"Each of the reconstruction projects is an outgrowth of the Roadway Master Plan adopted by our Council in 1997," notes Councilman Nicholas Minutolo. "With scheduling based largely on a computerized program administered by our engineers, this program has helped keep Aberdeen's roads among the best maintained streets in the county." ●

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

To: Postal Customer  
Aberdeen, NJ

## SENIOR SPECIALS

The Recreation Department's series of day trips for residents 55 and older continues into the fall with the following journey:

*Culinary Institute of America and FDR Mansion & Museum Tour, Hyde Park, N.Y. – Wednesday, 10/25.* Tickets are \$34.00 and include lunch at the Culinary Institute of America, a guided tour of the FDR Mansion and walking tour of the library, museum and grounds. Register by 9/13. Buses will depart from the A&P shopping center at 8:00 a.m. and from the parking lot of Temple Shalom at 8:15 a.m. Buses will return home at approximately 7:30 p.m.

One additional trip is planned in December to the Platzl Brauhaus Christmas Festival. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (732) 583-4200, ext. 129 or 171.

George Hausmann Senior Center  
Schedule:

*Mondays*  
Aerobics 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  
Yoga 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
*Tuesdays*  
Qigong 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
*Wednesdays*  
Aerobics 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  
Yoga 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
*Thursdays*  
Aerobics 11:15 a.m. – Noon

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