



ABERDEEN UPDATE

Summer 2008

The Official Newsletter of Aberdeen Township

www.aberdeennj.org

Aberdeen Day preview

Offering a variety of activities for people of all ages, Aberdeen Day 2008 will take place on Saturday, September 20, at Matawan Regional High School, from noon to 5:00 p.m.

Featuring a mix of new performers and longtime favorites, this year's event will include entertainment by local artists, including doo-wop group Special Request, The Matawan Regional High School Marching Band, Rebound Gymnastics, A Touch of Dance, and The Nancy Royce Studio of Dance. New this year will be performances by winners of the Matawan-Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Matawan Idol singing contest.

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Council appoints new Township Manager

The Aberdeen Township Council has announced the appointment of **Joseph Criscuolo** as Township Manager, effective September 8. He takes the reins of the day-to-day operations of Aberdeen's government from longtime Public Works Director **Jim Lauro**, who served as Acting Township Manager since early this year. Lauro will return to his normal duties in September.

An accomplished executive with over 27 years of corporate and government management experience, Criscuolo most recently served as Assistant Business Administrator of neighboring Old Bridge Township, one of the largest municipalities in

Middlesex County with a population of 65,000, 300 full-time employees and a budget of \$50 million. In this diverse position, he was involved in budget preparation, negotiation of collective bargaining contracts, organization and management of the township's personnel, and management of capital projects. He also coordinated Old Bridge's Community Development Block Grant and COAH Housing Rehab programs.

During his tenure, Criscuolo managed a variety of capital projects, including the remodeling and expansion of the township's animal shelter, senior centers and municipal complex; sports lighting and synthetic turf projects; improvements to the township's parks, beachfront, and ice arena; as well as various public safety projects. He also was involved with ongoing improvements to local curbs, sidewalks and roads; worked with



Joseph Criscuolo

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Braving the rain for music and classic cars



Raindrops failed to dampen the spirits of guests at Aberdeen's Doo-Wop Night on July 17. Over 250 people were on hand for the evening of 50s and 60s music on the lawn at Town Hall, as well as a classic car show in the parking lot. For more photos, see page 5.

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Senior Housing Sitework Progressing

There's light at the end of the tunnel on Church Street.

In the wake of recent developments in the lengthy process of securing New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approvals and associated grants related to the clean-up of

by all seniors in the Township.

Based on the recent developments with DEP, Aberdeen (which currently owns the two sites) is expected to formally turn the parcels over to PRC for final environmental remediation in the second quarter of 2009, according

to **Tim Gillen**, a partner at Township Engineer CME Associates.

"While nothing is ever certain in these projects, the remediation process should take a minimum of six months," explained Gillen.

"Using that



Construction on Church Street site could begin by fall 2009.

the former South River Metals property and adjoining former Matawan Borough Public Works site, construction could commence as soon as fall 2009 on the Senior/Active Adult Housing community planned for the 15-plus-acre tract.

As previously reported, developer PRC Group of West Long Branch plans to transform the sites into a community offering 90 affordable rental apartments and 60 condominiums in several multi-story buildings, along with a swimming pool and clubhouse for the complex's residents. Additionally, under its Memorandum of Understanding with Aberdeen, PRC has agreed to pay for the construction of an approximate 3,000-square-foot community center on the site for use

timetable and assuming that Planning Board approval is granted during the summer, PRC could conceivably start construction by fall 2009."

Key among those recent developments was the DEP's determination that Aberdeen is eligible for a pair of grants totaling approximately \$463,000 covering the next phases of environmental investigation and planning on the two sites through the state's Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund. DEP's grant recommendations have been forwarded to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for review. The grant recommendations were issued based on documentation submitted by CME's environmental division, Icon Engineering.

"We're now developing workplans that address DEP's areas of concern, protocols for remediating the sites, and cost estimates," Gillen noted. This is all part of the effort to get the sites ready for the final remediation work. Icon is expected to submit that information along with a report on its soil sampling activities to DEP around January 2009. The agency's review and approval of the final remediation plan is expected to take approximately 90 days.

These latest development follow the completion of interim environmental investigations and remediation work at the South River Metals site (funded by prior grants), highlighted by the demolition of that property's burnt-out structure and removal of the building's asbestos. ●

SENIOR SPECIALS

The Recreation Department's annual series of day trips for residents 55 and older will continue with a trip to **The Tides** in North Haledon, N.J., on Thursday, 10/30. Tickets are \$38 and include one-hour open bar, lunch, a "Hula-Ween Luau" Hawaiian Style Halloween Party and bus transportation. Register by 9/23. Call (732) 583-4200, ext. 129 for information.

George Hausmann Senior Center Schedule

<i>Mondays</i>	
Yoga	9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Country Line	
Dancing	11:00 a.m.
<i>Tuesdays</i>	
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.
<i>Wednesdays</i>	
Strength Training	9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.
Gentle Yoga	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Aerobics	11:15 a.m.- Noon
<i>Thursdays</i>	
Crafting Class	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Aerobics	11:15 a.m. – Noon

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

Jim Lauro to be honored

The Matawan Italian American Society will honor longtime Aberdeen Public Works Director **Jim Lauro** as its Man of the Year at the organization's 43rd Annual Columbus Day Dinner Dance on October 18th. Lauro has been an employee of Aberdeen Township for 41 years.

The event will take place at the Jacques Reception Center, 500 Palmer Avenue in Middletown.



Jim Lauro

For more information, contact **Faye Straniero** at (732) 566-3520 or **Rose Scalzo** at (732) 566-0285. ●

Hurricane Preparedness Tips

People who live in coastal communities should create a plan for what to do if a hurricane strikes. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recommends the following:

Listen to Local Officials – Learn about emergency plans that have been established by state and local government and listen to the instructions from emergency management officials.

Get an Emergency Supply Kit – Include items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered radio, flashlights and batteries and an ample supply of cash to last until power returns. Prepare a portable kit to keep in your car with items like prescription medications and medical supplies; bedding and clothing; bottled water, a battery-operated radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit, flashlight; and copies of important docu-



Chief John Powers (I.) shows supply kit components to Councilman Vincent Vinci.

ments, such as driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, etc.

Make a Plan - Make a family emergency plan in case your family is not

stressed that emergencies necessitating evacuations can occur at a moment's notice, citing the recent tornado watch that was issued by the National Weather Service for Monmouth County. "Fortunately, the watch expired without incident, but should a tornado or similar type of emergency occur, this registry would be an invaluable resource in helping to ensure an organized and safe evacuation of residents requiring assistance," he said.

Registration is voluntary, free and easy. It can be completed online at www.registerready.nj.gov, by calling toll free 2-1-1 on your phone, or through the mail by printing the Register Ready form (forms are also available at Aberdeen Town Hall, the George Hausmann Senior Center and the Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library) and mailing it to the Aberdeen Office of Emergency Management, One Aberdeen Square, Aberdeen, N.J. 07747. Residents can also call (732) 583-4200, ext. 218 or 217, to request a form. Those needing help or assistance with registration, translation or TTY/TDD services, can call 2-1-1.

For more information on the Special Needs Registry, contact Chief Powers at (732) 583-4200, ext. 221 or send an e-mail to oemspecialneeds@co.monmouth.nj.us ●

together when disaster strikes so you will know how to contact one another and reunite. Plan places to meet, both within and outside of your neighborhood. Designate an out-of-town contact to communicate among separated family members because it may be easier to make a long-distance

phone call than to call across town. Identify places to go in an emergency. If you do not have a car, plan alternate means of evacuating. If you have a car, always keep a half tank of gas in it in case you need to evacuate. Plan how to care for your pets. Take your pets with you, but remember that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters.

Be Informed - Take a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class. Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a hurricane such as hurricane watch (a hurricane is possible in your area) and more urgent hurricane warning (a hurricane is expected in your area).

Prepare Your Home - Cover all of your home's windows with pre-cut plywood or hurricane shutters. Bring in outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else not tied down. Keep trees and shrubs well trimmed so they are more wind-resistant. Turn off utilities as instructed. Turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed. Turn off propane tanks. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water to ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets.

For information on how to plan and prepare for hurricanes as well as what to do during and after a hurricane, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hurricane Season 08, NOAA Hurricane Outlook, American Red Cross, or the National Hurricane Center websites. ●

Special Needs Registry

Aberdeen residents who require special assistance evacuating during an emergency are advised to sign up with the NJ Special Needs Registry.

The Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management is assisting state agencies in developing the state-wide registry to collect information that emergency responders will need to help locate and evacuate people with special needs if there are no family members or caregivers to assist them. It will also aid emergency planners in the development of shelter plans for residents with special needs.

Those who should register include people who may find it difficult to get to safety with family or friends or to a public shelter during an emergency evacuation because of a physical or cognitive limitation, language barrier or lack of transportation.

All local emergency management offices as well as the state and county, have access to the registry, explained **John Powers**, Aberdeen's Emergency Management Coordinator and Chief of Police

Locally, Aberdeen's Office of Emergency Management prepares and maintains the Township's Emergency Operations Plan. Chief Powers

Groups team up for beachfront improvements

The Environmental & Shade Tree Advisory Board teamed up with a number of local groups for a series of activities designed to spiff up and showcase Cliffwood Beach Park in time for the summer season.

On April 19th, a total of 61 Boy and Girl Scouts and their leaders from Cub Packs 66, 87, Boy Scout Troop 92, and Girl Scout Troops 312, 467, 1516, 1718, 1729, 1737, 1927 took part in the Environmental Board's Spring Beach Clean Up. Over a ton of litter and debris was removed from the beach and disposed of by the Aberdeen Department of Public Works.

Cliffwood Beach was the setting for the Environmental Board's 15th Annual Family Fishing Contest and first ever Eco-Fest on May 17. Over 50 families signed up for the fishing contest, making it the most successful event ever, noted **Frank Huza**, vice chairman of the Environmental & Shade Tree Advisory Board. Prizes were awarded by the Aberdeen Township Recreation Department and Crabby's Bait & Tackle. The Bayshore Regional Environmental Board, under the leadership of **Joe Reynolds**, conducted fish seining and identification clinics, nature walks, kite flying and another beach clean up.

Later in the month, 36 volunteers from a major Wall Street firm rolled up their sleeves to prepare Cliffwood

Beach Park for summer. Graffiti was removed from the in-line roller hockey rink, with the facility completely cleaned and repainted. In addition, over 1,000 feet of dune fencing was replaced and repaired to help native plants and grasses flourish without being trampled. The playground surfaces were restored and the beach was cleaned with a half-ton of trash removed from the park area, Huza reported. ●



Volunteers helped prepare Cliffwood Beach Park for the summer during April and May, including repainting the in-line roller hockey rink and removing trash from the beach and park area.



Annual Family Fishing Contest at Cliffwood Beach had best turnout ever.

Planting trees to reduce energy costs

A recent survey by the Aberdeen Environmental and Shade Tree Advisory Board of homes in the Strathmore B section found that 63% of the shade trees originally planted in front of the homes by builder Levitt & Sons have been removed because they had poor branch strength and a relatively short life. With energy costs continuing to rise, the Advisory Board is urging homeowners to consider planting trees and bushes to help lower energy expenses.

Well-placed trees and bushes can reduce the energy a home uses for cooling by up to 25%, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Deciduous trees, those that drop their leaves in the fall, help the most by

blocking the summer sun, while allowing the sun to warm the home in winter. Evergreen trees and shrubs offer year-round shade and block winds, which reduce heating costs.

To increase the efficiency of air conditioning units by 10%, plant trees and shrubs to shade the outside unit

but place them at least 18 inches away so they do not block the vents on the compressor.

Plant trees on the northeast-southeast and northwest-southwest sides of homes. Do not plant directly to the south unless you live in an area where it is always hot. Ideally, plant at a distance from the house that is equal to two to five times the height of the mature trees. ●

Aberdeen Day

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In addition, Aberdeen Day will feature a classic car show, children's rides and activities, a crafts fair, as well as exhibits by area non-profit organizations, local businesses, and the town's DARE and CERT programs.

Applications are available for vol-

unteer groups, youth organizations, businesses, crafters, entertainers and food vendors interested in participating. Volunteer and youth organizations, entertainers and businesses distributing literature participate free-of-charge. To apply, call the Recreation Department at (732) 583-4200, ext. 134, 173 or 129. ●

Doo-Wop Night strikes a happy chord for big crowd



This year's Doo-Wop Night drew an estimated 250 to 300 revelers of all ages to Town Hall on July 17 for tunes by Special Request, dancing and a classic car show with over 70 vehicles.

Volunteer Profile

Local couple helps recreation events succeed

What do Aberdeen Day, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Aberdeen summer concerts have in common? At these and all events presented by The Aberdeen Township Recreation Department, Recreation Advisory Board members **Joe and Mary Ann Pauciello** are sure to be found doing whatever is necessary to make the event a success.



Joe and Mary Ann Pauciello take a breather while helping out at Doo-Wop Night.

Joe and Mary Ann serve as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the nine-member board that meets monthly to review the Township's recreation programs and advise Recreation Director **Jim Colabelli** on new program or event ideas and park improvements. In addition, they devote countless hours helping to carry out these events.

Throughout the year, the department presents a variety of events and

programs, including the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Movie Night at Town Hall, Summer Concerts, Aberdeen Day, and Halloween Costume Contest, along with ongoing athletic program evenings at Lloyd Road School and Matawan Regional High.

Joe's involvement with recreation in Aberdeen dates back to the 1960s before there was a township recreation director or advisory board. "Basically, it was just me and one other man going around town setting up basketball courts," Pauciello recalled. Today, he and his wife are two of the board's most devoted members, attending every meeting and volunteering at all events.

Joe retired in 1991 as a tire inspector for Goodyear, while Mary Ann worked in Shop Rite. Along with their work on the Advisory Board, both are active in other local organizations, including the Aberdeen Seniors Club. Joe also used to be a member of the First Aid Squad. Today, along with volunteer work, they keep busy spending time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"The Pauciellos are at every event volunteering their time from beginning to end," noted Colabelli. "They're at Aberdeen Day from 7:30 in the morning to closing, helping wherever needed, whether it's setting up tables, parking cars, or providing

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library will offer the following adult programs in September. Registration is required for the programs but not for the movies.

- 9/4 Knitting Club, 7:30 p.m.
- 9/8 Movie: *The Bucket List*, 2:30 p.m.
- 9/8 Yoga Class, 7 p.m.
- 9/10 Balance: A Key to Adult Independence, 7 p.m.
- 9/11 Book Club Meeting, *Latitudes of Melt*, by Joan Clark, 7:30 p.m.
- 9/15 Wills/Living Wills, 7 p.m.
- 9/16 Computer Basics, 10 a.m.–noon
- 9/17 Essays for College, 7 p.m.
- 9/18 Financial Program, 7 p.m.
- 9/20 PSAT by Kaplan Test Prep, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- 9/22 Financial Program, 7 p.m.
- 9/24 Understanding Memory Loss, 7 p.m.
- 9/25 Introduction to Diabetes, 7 p.m.
- 9/29 Movie: *The Kite Runner*, 2:30 p.m.

The Library will also offer the following children's programs:

- 9/9 Fall Storytime Registration, 9 a.m.
- 9/13 Drop-in Crafts, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 9/17 Drop-in Crafts, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 9/20 Drop-in Storytime, 11:00 a.m.
- 10/2 Drop-in Storytime, 6:30 p.m.
- 10/11 Drop-in Crafts, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 10/15 Drop-in Crafts, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 10/18 Drop-in Storytime, 11 a.m.
- 10/31 Halloween Storytime and Parade for children to age 5, 10:30 a.m.

information to attendees. For the Easter Egg Hunt, Mary Ann puts the baskets together and at Halloween, she decorates pumpkins for the Costume Contest. Volunteers like the Pauciellos make these events even more fun and enjoyable for the community." ●

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
Janice Gallo Ext. 382
Tom Perry Ext. 384
Joe Raymond Ext. 385
Vincent Vinci Ext. 386

ACTING TOWNSHIP
MANAGER
732-583-4200

Jim Lauro 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

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New manager

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Middlesex County on improvements to county roads; and was involved with the construction of a new YMCA.

As part of the municipality's drive to achieve cost savings, he worked on Inter-Local Agreements with Middlesex County, the Old Bridge Board of Education, and with several neighboring communities.

Prior to joining the township in March 2004, Criscuolo spent 24 years at AT&T and Bell Laboratories, working in many areas, most recently as Program Manager/Principal Technical Staff Member, AT&T Learning Services, where he was responsible for technical and project management training worldwide. During his career at AT&T, he managed large projects and handled day-to-day operations of call centers, large networks and computer systems, including the management of over 100 employees. His numerous honors included being a member of the team that received the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 1994.

Away from the office, Criscuolo's numerous volunteer efforts include serving as a member of the Old Bridge Emergency Response Team, former Chairman of the Old Bridge Recreation Committee, and working on various projects for Old Bridge's Economic Development Corporation and Redevelopment Agency. He currently serves as Assistant District Administrator for Little League Baseball, is a former President of the Madison Park Little League, and has coached soccer and baseball.

"It is with mixed emotions that I congratulate Joe Criscuolo on his new job as Aberdeen's Manager," said **Michael S. Jacobs**, Old Bridge Township Administrator. "During the past four years I have relied on his extensive background in private industry and his community involvement to effectively meet the township's goals. His ability to plan and execute projects approved by the Mayor and Council made him a valuable member of our team. I wish him well in Aberdeen, but will miss him in Old Bridge."

Those sentiments were echoed by Old Bridge Mayor **James T. Phillips**:

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"The Aberdeen Council has made a wise choice. Joe Criscuolo will do a great job for the people of Aberdeen."

Criscuolo was selected by the Council from a pool of 30 candidates that was narrowed down to nine semi-finalists and ultimately to five finalists, who went through a series of interviews with the Council Search Committee and a number of department heads.

'The Aberdeen Council made a wise choice. Joe Criscuolo will do a great job for the people of Aberdeen.'

—Old Bridge Mayor James T. Phillips

"What impressed us most was Joe's numerous accomplishments while serving as Old Bridge's Assistant Business Administrator and his many successes while employed in the private sector," said Mayor **David Sobel**. "His employment history is replete with increasing levels of responsibility and a 'can-do' attitude. His integrity shined through each time we interacted with him. Though it took a long time to get to this point, we wanted to be sure that we made a decision which would make Aberdeen proud to refer to Joe as its new Township Manager."

Sobel added: "We would be remiss if we didn't mention the hard work that our entire town hall staff put in while we went through this recruitment process. In particular, we want to commend **Angela Morin**, our Chief Financial Officer; **Karen Ventura**, our Township Clerk, and, of course, **James Lauro** our Director of Public Works, who did a wonderful job as Acting Manager for the past six months. But for those who know Jimmy, that shouldn't come as a surprise." ●