



ABERDEEN UPDATE

Fall 2008

The Official Newsletter of Aberdeen Township

www.aberdeennj.org

Environmental Board aims to boost recycling

Continuing efforts to increase recycling levels in Aberdeen, Frank Huza, Vice Chairman, and Michele

Devanny of the Aberdeen Township Environmental and Shade Tree Advisory Board addressed the Township Council's August workshop meeting with a presentation that demonstrated how much income could be generated if greater numbers of residents participated in the recycling program.

In early 2007, Aberdeen contracted with Future Sanitation

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The Environmental Board's Chairman Emeritus Adeline Arnold talked with Aberdeen Day attendees about the Board's efforts to expand recycling throughout the town.

Need for community center questioned

Aberdeen offers array of recreational options

From a full range of youth sports leagues spanning all seasons to open gym programs for teens and adults, to after-school and summer recreational programs, and to exercise and cultural programs for senior citizens, Aberdeen residents of all ages can choose from an array of indoor and outdoor activities. (See page 2 for a partial listing.)

"At a time when a petition is being circulated around town calling for the construction of a community center, we thought it was important to remind our residents that virtually all of the activities that would be offered in that proposed facility are currently

available right here in Aberdeen's public and private facilities, or in nearby municipalities," said Mayor David Sobel. "A community center providing a gym, pool, skating rink and various other activities all under one roof is certainly an admirable concept. And if the petitioning group can find the land for such a facility and the financial backing from the YMCA or another organization to pay for the land acquisition and construction, the Aberdeen Township Council would welcome such a project.

"However, in the event a sponsor is not lined up, the Council cannot commit to burdening existing or

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Annual 5K Run



A record number of runners headed down Church Street at the start of the race, while Family Fun Run attracted people of all ages on two feet or three wheels. (See story on page 6.)

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County offers new recycling options for computers and more

Maybe Kermit the Frog thought it wasn't easy being green, but here in Monmouth County, it's easier than ever because of the many recycling sites provided by the County and township for the safe disposal of electronics and certain types of chemicals.

Consumer electronics and computer equipment contain potentially hazardous metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury that may cause problems if disposed of improperly. For that reason, these items cannot be thrown away with the regular garbage pick up and should be brought to one

of three convenient sites in Monmouth County. For Aberdeen residents, the closest location is at the Hazlet Township Public Works/Recycling Yard located on Leocadia Court, east of Laurel Avenue (between Middle Road and Route 36). The center is open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 8:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Call the Hazlet Township Department of Public Works at (732) 787-3636 for more information.

These items can also be brought to the Monmouth County Reclamation Center in Tinton Falls or the Freehold

Public Works/Recycling Yard.

Here in Aberdeen, residents can bring items such as used motor oil, batteries, and anti-freeze to Aberdeen's recycling facility on Lenox Road off of Cliffwood Avenue, Monday through Saturday 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Items containing metals (refrigerators, air conditioners, washers, dryers, water heaters, bed frames, etc.) are also accepted, along with regularly recycled items such as newspapers, mixed paper, bottles, cans and plastics. Also, mulch and compost can be picked up at the Aberdeen yard. ●

A sampling of activities around Aberdeen

Youth Sports Leagues

Matawan-Aberdeen Babe Ruth

(732) 566-7450

Matawan-Aberdeen Pop Warner

(732) 583-4750

Aberdeen-Matawan Soccer Assoc.

(732) 583-5813

Husky Indoor Soccer

(732) 566-0154

Matawan-Aberdeen Wrestling Club

(732) 583-1655

Matawan-Aberdeen Youth Basketball

(732) 290-9086

Aberdeen's Parks

Aberdeen maintains an excellent parks system for the pleasure and use of its residents. Please call the Department of Parks & Recreation at 583-4200, ext 129 or visit www.aberdeennj.org, click on the "community" link on the homepage and then select "parks" for a complete list of parks and facilities available at each location.

Cliffwood Beachfront

Aberdeen's beachfront area offers opportunities for fishing, boating or just relaxing, while the adjoining park features an outdoor roller rink.

Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District

The school district offers students the opportunity to participate in a variety of varsity, junior varsity, freshman and intramural sports in the Middle and High Schools, as well as numerous clubs. Please check with your school for full details.

Tab Ramos Sports Center

This private indoor facility offers leagues for men, women and/or children in the following sports: basketball, field hockey, flag football, lacrosse, roller hockey, and soccer.



The Recreation Department offers a number of programs for children and adults at local schools, including an Elementary Skills and Tumbling class at Lloyd Road School.

Strathmore Lanes

In addition to open bowling, leagues are available for people of all ages—even a fun, non-competitive program for 3-year-olds.

Recreation Dep't Indoor Athletics

The Aberdeen Recreation Department is currently offering the following programs through Spring 2009. There is no registration deadline. Registration forms are available at Aberdeen Town Hall, 1 Aberdeen Square.

Men's Open Gym

Matawan Reg. H.S.

Mondays (ages 18+)

Thursdays (ages 30+)

7:00- 9:30 p.m., \$30

Men's Open Soccer

(Ages 18+)

Lloyd Road School

Mondays 7:30- 9:30 p.m., \$30

Instructional Basketball

(Ages 8-14)

Lloyd Road School

Mondays

6:00-7:30 p.m., \$15

Cheerleading & Elementary Skills

(Ages 5-10)

Lloyd Road School

Mondays

6:00-7:30 p.m., \$15

High School Open Gym

(Matawan H.S. students only)

Matawan Reg. H.S.

Wednesdays

7:00-9:00 p.m., no charge

For more information, call:

(732) 583-4200, ext.134

George Hausmann Senior Center Schedule

Mondays

Yoga 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Country Line

Dancing 11 a.m.

Tuesdays

Qigong 9-9:45 a.m.

Tai-Chi 10-10:45 a.m.

Aerobics 11-11:45 a.m.

Wednesdays

Strength

Training 9-10 a.m.

Gentle Yoga 10-11 a.m.

Aerobics 11:15 a.m.-noon

Thursdays

Crafting 9:30-10:30 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. ●

Youth Basketball League in its 20th year

As the fall chill comes on, and the baseball or softball spikes are hung up, approximately 240 youngsters are lacing up their sneakers and heading to gyms at district schools to participate in the Matawan-Aberdeen Youth Basketball (MAYB) program.

Founded 20 years ago, the league offers recreational and travel programs for kids in five age groups: 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, 13-15, and 16-17. Boys and girls compete through age 12. Past that age, programs are offered for boys only.

Operations of the league are currently led by Aberdeen resident **Gene Hickey**, a 10-year league veteran who has served as a coach, commissioner and now president. He is joined by three additional board members in coordinating league activities. Registration begins in early October, team selections (drafts) are held in late October, followed by practices and games from November through February. Teams practice once a week and play a 10-game schedule, followed by playoff and championship games—which the league tries to televise on local access channel 15. Although the season runs for four months, for Hickey and his board, it is a year-round commitment.

Hickey started playing basketball as a kid in Jersey City and credits the man who organized the league, Ray Heinahan Sr., for his involvement



League president Gene Hickey works with 10- to 12-year-olds during practice at Matawan Aberdeen Middle school.

today. “Ray was a friend to kids in the neighborhood and treated us like his own children,” he recalls. “He always encouraged us to do the right thing and stay out of mischief.” He recently saw Heinahan, who was pleased to hear that Hickey was carrying on the tradition. That tradition continues in the Hickey household, with both his son and daughter playing in the league.

Hickey credits the support of the Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District, which allows the league to use its facilities, along with the commitment of the recreation directors in Aberdeen and Matawan for making the program possible.

Commenting on Hickey’s role in

the league’s success, Aberdeen Recreation Director **Jim Colabelli** said, “Without people like Gene Hickey, programs like this would not flourish or continue. He’s an asset not only to the program but to the town as well.”

Reflecting on his involvement with the MAYB, Hickey observed: “The most satisfying moments come from seeing the look on a child’s face when they make his or her first basket.” He also enjoys running into former players around town and being greeted with ‘Hi, coach.’ Attesting to his love of the game, Hickey added: “I plan on staying involved with the league as long as the community needs me. I am there for the kids.” ●

Environmental board (continued from page 1)

to provide trash, recycling and bulk-pick-up services. The new contract gave Aberdeen control of its recyclable materials, meaning that the township maintains possession of its recycling and directs where it goes. Previously, the carting company took all recycled materials and realized all income from their sale. Under the new contract, Aberdeen realizes all proceeds from the sale of recyclables. In 2007, the township received nearly \$15,500 in income from 765.09 tons of recycled newspapers, bottles and cans, while also saving almost \$55,000 in landfill charges that would have been incurred for that tonnage. However, Huza and members of the Environmental Board

strongly believe that the township could realize far greater revenues if more residents participated in the expanded recycling program.

The Board made its case by presenting two “typical” Aberdeen households: a family of four and an empty nester, and compared and contrasted the recycling activity of both. Based on the results of these two homes, if Aberdeen’s 6,166 single family homes participated fully in recycling, the Township would have collected 5,327 tons of recycled materials (compared with 765 in 2007) that would generate an additional \$91,240 in recycling income and savings of \$328,464 in landfill charges. The savings are based

upon current tipping fees, published town recycling rates, and the market price of recycled paper.

“Beyond the significant benefits to the environment, these findings make a strong economic case for increased participation in the mandatory curbside recycling program, which has been expanded to include mixed paper and cardboard,” said Huza. “We are working closely with the Council and Township Administration on methods to get all homeowners on board with the program.”

For further information on Aberdeen recycling requirements and disposal alternatives if you miss your curbside pickup, visit www.aberdeen-nj.org and click on “recycling” on the home page. ●

Recreation (continued from page 1)

future taxpayers with the debt on municipal bonds to finance the construction of a project of this magnitude—even one built for a non-profit organization that would be responsible for all ongoing operational costs,” the Mayor continued. “Moreover, any move to provide such support would be unfair to privately owned facilities in town that would effectively compete with this project on certain levels, whether it be the Tab Ramos Sports Center, our various fitness centers or the Strathmore Bath & Tennis Club whose

new owners are expected to soon present plans for transforming the site into a year-round recreational facility. By ‘choosing sides,’ we could also ultimately jeopardize the tax ratables those existing private facilities provide to the township.”

Township Manager **Joseph Criscuolo**—who helped spearhead the current development of the new privately funded Y in Old Bridge in his former role as Assistant Business Administrator for that municipality—elaborated on the potential cost to taxpayers in the event that bonds had to be issued to finance the proposed Aberdeen community center. Using existing tax rates and assessment levels, if the Township had to issue 10-year bonds to finance a total of \$10,000,000 (\$10 million), the owner of a home now assessed at \$150,000 would see their annual taxes for each of those 10 years increase by any-

where from \$218 at a 4.0% interest rate to \$251 at a 7.0% rate.

“Given the group’s proposal for a facility incorporating an indoor swimming pool and ice rink, the \$10 million price tag used in this scenario is certainly conservative,” Criscuolo



Yoga is one of several free activities offered at the Hausmann Senior Center.

noted. According to newspaper reports, the similarly equipped facility in Woodbridge cost \$16 million when built in 2001, with another \$1 million in improvements now planned. Meanwhile, building construction costs alone on the Y now going up in Old Bridge, which will not include a rink, are \$8.4 million, according to Cynthia Joy, Director of the Western Monmouth Y, which is backing the project. The Old Bridge Y is being constructed on 12.33 acres of park land.

“Assuming similar building costs here, plus an estimated \$1 million for the land and \$1 million to \$2 million for necessary infrastructure improvements, the Aberdeen center would easily cost more than \$10 million,” said Criscuolo. “Yet another factor to consider is whether the facility will be able to generate enough revenue to cover its operating and occupancy costs. At the Western Monmouth Y in Freehold, for example, operating and

occupancy costs are approximately \$11.6 million annually.

“It should also be pointed out that Woodbridge has a population of 100,000 and Old Bridge has 65,000 residents—well above the 18,000 people in Aberdeen. Simply stated, this is a very ambitious project for a town of our size,” Criscuolo continued. “Unless the group can get private funding, now is not the time to ask our taxpayers to be on the hook for long-term bonding on this project—all the more so when you consider the breadth of recreational opportunities right here in town.”

Indeed, the only major athletic components incorporated in the proposed facility currently not available in Aberdeen are an ice rink and indoor pool. Residents can now go to the Red Bank Armory Ice Complex or Old Bridge Ice Arena (five miles away from Aberdeen Town Hall) for open ice skating or youth hockey. Those desiring an indoor pool now go to the YMCAs in Freehold or Red Bank, or, when it’s completed, the Old Bridge Y (6.5 miles from Aberdeen Town Hall).

“We encourage our residents to avail themselves of the organized recreational opportunities offered



Cliffwood Beach Park, one of 13 Aberdeen parks, offers basketball courts, an inline hockey rink, a playground and bayside beach.

through the volunteer leagues (which receive financial support from the township), the open gyms, senior center, after-school clubs and teams, Summer Adventures program, or in private facilities,” said Sobel. “And those looking to do things on their own schedule can visit any of the 13 parks located throughout Aberdeen. As Nike suggests, ‘Just do it!’” ●

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library will offer the following adult programs in December:

- 12/8 Movie: *Step Brothers*, 2:30 p.m.
- 12/11 Book Club, 7:30 p.m.
- 12/18 Knitting Club, 7 p.m.

Scenes from Aberdeen Day

With sunny skies and warm temperatures, big crowds flocked to Aberdeen Day on Sept. 20 at Matawan Regional H.S.



Clockwise from top left: People of all ages visited exhibits from community groups and businesses. Deputy Mayor Wilhelmina Gumbs and Councilman Joe Raymond enjoying the day's festivities. DARE Officer Daryl Richardson greets young visitor at the Police Dept. exhibit. Councilman Vincent Vinci (r.) with longtime resident Augie Caruso at Italian American Club booth. Matawan Regional High's Students Against Destructive Decisions club was among the many community groups taking part in this year's event. Councilman Owen Drapkin participated in local Girl Scout's initiative encouraging everyone to vote by signing "pledge to vote" poster. (For more photos, visit www.aberdeennj.org.)

Food available for those in need

As the economy tries to rebound and the holidays approach, Aberdeen Township wants to make everyone aware of the charitable organizations in the area that offer assistance to those in need of food and/or serve as drop-off points for the donation of food. This is only a partial list. Please check with your house of worship to see what services they offer.

The following organizations have food pantries open to the public:

United Methodist Church
478 Atlantic Avenue, Aberdeen
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Second Tuesday of the month:
6:30–7:30 p.m.

Matawan Community Food Pantry
201 Broad Street, Matawan
566-2663 or 290-7518
Last Saturday of the month, except
holidays

Providence Baptist Church Pantry
49 Kennedy Avenue, Cliffwood
290-8341
Every third Saturday of each month
and at all times for emergencies

Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry
10 East Front Street, Keyport, 888-1986
Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30 –11:30 a.m.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Keyport
Call (732) 290-1878 to request a food
delivery through the St. Vincent de
Paul Food Pantry

*The following houses of worship collect
groceries for donation to area food
pantries:*

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
95 Cambridge Drive, Aberdeen
First Presbyterian Church
883 State Route 34, Matawan
Temple Shalom
5 Ayrmont Lane, Aberdeen

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
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

5K & Family Fun Run draw over 200

More than 200 runners and their fans turned out on a picture perfect fall morning for the Second Annual Aberdeen Haunted 5K & Family Fun Run on Sunday, October 26.

The New Jersey Grand Prix Event was held on a USATF Certified Course through the Strathmore section. Prizes were awarded to first, second, and third place finishers in the male and female categories, and in the following age groups: 14 & under, 15-19, and 10-year increments to 70 and over. All Fun Runners received finisher ribbons.

The top three finishers in the men's division were Cliffwood Beach resident **John Smith** with a time of 15:48.2; **Rich Luettchau** of Middlesex, with a time of 16:19.9; and **Robert Dennis** of Little Silver, at 16:24.2. In the women's division, **Danielle Kays** of Keyport, took the top spot with a time of 19:58.4, followed by **Jennifer Gunn** of Matawan with a time of 21:18.0, and **Kayla Glynn** of Aberdeen who completed the race in 21:54.7.

Several Aberdeen residents placed first in their respective age group categories:

Katie Gerrity (15-19-year-old females), 24:44.2

Jeanna Santos (30-39-year-old females), 22:24.1

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Aberdeen, NJ

Lois Bass (40-49-year-old females), 25:30.5

Susanne Klein (70 & over females), 49:15.8

Proceeds from the event will provide funds for various causes, including the H.A.M. Therapeutic Recreation Program, public safety activities, and special events throughout the year.

The Aberdeen Haunted 5K & Family Fun Run was made possible with generous support from a number of sponsors, including Capital One Bank, Columbia Bank, Commerce Bank, CME Associates, Coppolla & Coppolla Associates, Sonnenfeld & Troccia Architects, Amboy National Bank, New Jersey American Water, and Garden State Fire & Security Alarm. Along with generous community sponsors, support for the event was provided by the Police Benevolent Association Local 163. ●

A reminder about snow parking rules

With the end of the falling leaves, comes the beginning of winter's cold and snow. The Aberdeen Police Department wants to remind residents about the Township's parking rules during snow storms.

Parking is fully prohibited on Township streets in the Strathmore section, as well as in the Heather Glen and Santa Fe Junction developments during snowfalls, until the streets are sufficiently plowed.

Alternate side parking rules are in effect during snowfalls on most streets in the Cliffwood, Cliffwood Beach, Oakshades, River Gardens and Freneau/Woodfield sections, as well as in the areas by the Train Station and High School. If snow falls on an even

day, parking is permitted on the odd-numbered side of the street. When snow falls on an odd day, parking is permitted on the even-numbered side. As noted, certain streets in these areas are subject to full restriction. Residents should check signs on their streets for confirmation.

Unoccupied vehicles in violation of these regulations are subject to a summons and removal by police.

"It is vitally important that residents adhere to these rules so the Public Works Department can quickly clear township streets to create safe driving conditions and make roads passable for emergency vehicles," said Chief of Police **John Powers**. ●