



# ABERDEEN UPDATE

Spring 2007

The Official Newsletter of Aberdeen Township

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

## New municipal budget has no tax increase

The Aberdeen Township Council has held a public hearing to consider a proposed \$14.0 million fiscal 2007 municipal budget with no tax increase. The budget will be considered by the Council on May 15, following a hearing on amendments, which have no effect on the projected zero percent tax increase.

"We were able to keep the municipal tax rate unchanged from fiscal 2006 primarily because sound financial management generated a 6% increase in miscellaneous revenues, including higher investment income resulting from the planned investment of reserves," says Councilman **Nick Minutolo**. "Additionally, revenues benefited from increased collections of various fees, due in part to the implementation of credit card acceptance for payments of court fines and municipal fees."

Councilman **Vincent Vinci** notes that the expense side of the proposed budget seeks to maintain or improve the level of all resident services, while continuing efforts to enhance the maintenance and quality of the township's recreation facilities.

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## Let the birthday celebration begin!

It was a day filled with music and memories as hundreds of Aberdeen Township residents came together to celebrate the municipality's Sesquicentennial (150th) birthday on April 29th. Guests partied from day into night at back-to-back events: Birthday Bash and Choir Fest.

Throughout the afternoon, between 400 and 500 residents came to Town Hall to mark the milestone with a number of activities including an open house tour, exhibit of historical photos, and activities for children that included a scavenger hunt and a 'touch-a-truck' program with storytimes and discussions led by staff from the Matawan Aberdeen Public Library. Members of the Township Council were present along with township employees who manned their desks to speak with residents touring the departmental offices.

In keeping with the historical aspect of the day, a special video was shown in the Council Chamber throughout the afternoon in which Mayor **David Sobel** and four of his predecessors discussed how Aberdeen had changed while they were in office. Joining Sobel on the video were former Mayors **David Lipman**, **Burton Morachnick**, **Brian Murphy**, and **Thomas J. Powers**.

At a special ceremony, winners of the students' historical essay contest were presented their awards - a \$200 savings bond from Columbia Bank. Winners of first place prizes in the three grade groupings were: Kirsten Malta, a fourth grade student at Lloyd Road School; Courtney Kosztur, an eighth grader at Matawan Aberdeen



L. to R.: Mayor David Sobel, Councilman Owen Drapkin, Mrs. Monmouth County Elizabeth Preston, Deputy Mayor Wilhelmina Gumbs, and Councilman Nick Minutolo were joined by children of all ages in singing Happy Birthday and blowing out the candles.

Middle School; and Adam Lewental, a junior at Matawan Regional High School. (For full details on the contest winners and runners-up, visit [www.aberdeennj.org](http://www.aberdeennj.org))

Of course, no birthday party would be complete without cake and Aberdeen's celebration was no exception. Members of the Council joined with the township's youngest residents to blow out 150 candles that adorned two huge cakes provided by Stop & Shop.

The day's events culminated with the sounds of Choir Fest, as groups from area houses of worship performed for the community in a program conceived by Councilman **Joe Raymond**. Choirs from St. Benedict Roman Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, Matawan United Methodist Church, St. Clements Roman Catholic

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## Senior homes coming to Aberdeen



Councilman **Nick Minutolo** (l.), Deputy Mayor **Wilhelmina Gumbs** and Township Manager **Stuart Brown** visit the now-demolished South River Metal site on Church Street. The PRC Group of West Long Branch recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Township to redevelop the property into a senior citizen community comprising 90 affordable rental units, 60 market rate condominium units and various recreational amenities. PRC also agreed to build a new, separate Senior Center for township residents on the site, replacing the existing George Hausmann facility on Noble Place. A sales trailer is expected to be operating on the site by the end of this year.

## New Budget (from page 1)

“Recreational improvements include the project at Fireman’s Field that incorporates additional parking as well as field improvements,” he says. “Other fields and basketball courts will also be improved. In addition, we will continue our aggressive program to maintain and improve the quality of township roads.”

Concurrently, the Council and the township’s professionals have worked to control and reduce a number of other costs, while maintaining or improving services by pursuing shared services in a number of areas.

“As one example, we reduced the cost of bus service for summer recreation programs by \$10,000 by leasing bus services from the Board of Education,” Vinci reports. “Privatizing of grass cutting for our parks and other public spaces in 2006 also delivered substantial savings.”

Minutolo adds: “We have also been working hard to minimize the impact of such budget items as state-mandated pension increases through efforts to control expenses in other areas. For example, we have kept employee health care costs in check through aggressive oversight of our self-insured plan along with proactive efforts to improve employee risk factors. Included in the effort to enhance risk factors was a smoking cessation program funded by a grant from the American Cancer Society.”

Councilman **Joe Raymond** concludes: “The Council and our profes-

sionals will continue to pursue all opportunities to keep controllable expenses in check, including the exploration of additional shared services, while maintaining or improving services to our residents.” ●

## HEALTH UPDATES

**Handwashing Basics.** According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, handwashing is the most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick. Soap combined with a scrubbing action for 20-30 seconds helps dislodge and remove germs. It’s not necessary to use a special antimicrobial soap – regular bar or liquid soap is sufficient. If water isn’t available, use an alcohol-based (at least 62% alcohol) sanitizer to get rid of germs on your hands.

**Reach Out for Life** is now in Monmouth County. ‘Reach Out for Life: Somebody Needs You,’ is a program of Susan G. Komen for the Cure in partnership with multiple State of N.J. agencies and African-American community groups to educate women about breast cancer and sponsor screenings. For information, visit [www.reachout4life.org](http://www.reachout4life.org) or call 2-1-1. A specially trained operator will ask a few questions and connect the caller with a care manager who can identify a local mammogram center, make an appointment and serve as a guide for any necessary follow-up.

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

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Matawan-Aberdeen Public Library will offer the following *children’s* programs in June, July and August:

■ **Father’s Day Craft**, Registration for the Father’s Day craft will take place on 6/2, with the session held on 6/13; **Crafty Kids**, ages 2 – Pre-K, meets from 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.; **After School Kids**, Kindergarten - 4th grade, meets from 4:15 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

■ **Summer Reading Club.**

Registration begins on Tuesday, June 26 and continues through August. For children preschool through 6th grade, there will be weekly crafts, raffle prizes and games. Although reading for the club is done at home, there will be afternoon movies and other special events held at the library.

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

- 5/14 Medical Hypnosis: An Aid to Managing Diabetes
- 5/15 Blood Pressure & Body Fat Testing, noon – 2:00 p.m.
- 5/16 U.S. & Canada Lighthouses
- 5/17 Tired No More
- 5/23 Simplify and Make Your Life Work for You
- 5/31 The Pros, Cons and Updates on Reverse Mortgages
- 6/4 Wills, Trusts & More
- 6/7 Metabolic Typing
- 6/11 Hypnoses for Personal Change
- 6/13 Animal Right Alliance
- 6/14 Book Club Meeting, “Digging to America” by Anne Tyler
- 6/21 Glucose Screening & Hearing Test, 10:00 a.m. – noon
- 6/27 Physical Therapy
- 6/28 Right on the Money: Creating a Monthly Budget

■ **Reading Club.** Teens and adults are not left out of the summer fun. Anyone can join the Adult version of the Summer Reading Club. Every book read entitles the reader to a raffle ticket to win weekly prizes. For more information, call the library at (732) 583-9100 or visit [www.lmxac.org/mata](http://www.lmxac.org/mata).

## Arnold to retire from environmental board

After 35 years as a member of the Aberdeen Township Environmental and Shade Tree Advisory Board, **Adeline Arnold** has retired from the organization whose purpose is to monitor environmental issues in the community and provide guidance and information to the Township Council.

Environmental issues affecting residents, the board reviews the environmental aspects of site plans for proposed developments, conducts a twice yearly clean-up at Cliffwood Beach, and the annual Family Fishing Contest organized by vice chairman Frank Huza, which is held to foster benign use of the beach. The group also works with local organizations, including an area Mom's Club and Girl and Boy Scout troops on various planting projects.

An example of the group's work can be found right on Route 34. According to Arnold, in 1992 the group applied for and received a grant from the Small Business Administration to plant trees on the divider strip along Route 34 across from Burger King. Less visible examples include a 2004 project to label

storm drains in the areas of the municipality near the Gravelly Brook. Most recently, the group received a grant from Verizon for materials to build an osprey nest in Cliffwood Beach, which was constructed by the Aberdeen Department of Public Works.

Commenting on Arnold's efforts Mayor **David Sobel** says: "Through her tireless work on the Environmental and Shade Tree Advisory Board, Adeline set a standard for volunteerism in Aberdeen Township. Those of us who have interacted with her on the Council, Planning and Zoning Boards were impressed with her knowledge of the environment and commitment to preserving trees and open space, helping residents enjoy Aberdeen's beach and other natural assets, and promoting environmental safety for generations to come. Adeline's wisdom and fairness will be missed, but we hope to benefit from her continued involvement in special projects." ●



With new osprey nest in the background, Mayor David Sobel (r.) presents plaque of appreciation to Adeline Arnold, as Director of Public Works Jim Lauro looks on.

An Aberdeen resident since 1964, Arnold was among the first members appointed by the Council to the newly-created board in 1972. For 22 of her 35 years of service, she served as chairman, and at one time, as its secretary. Although retired from the board, she plans to help out with special projects.

Arnold explains that she became involved in environmental issues after reading Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. The book, published in 1962, is widely credited with launching the environmental movement by alerting a large audience to the environmental and human dangers of indiscriminate use of pesticides. She also credits the first Earth Day in 1970, with prompting greater interest in the environment.

The Environmental and Shade Tree Advisory Board is comprised of five members, two alternates, as well as two non-voting positions open to Matawan Regional High School students. In addition to monitoring envi-

## SENIOR SPECIALS

The Recreation Department's annual series of day trips for residents 55 and older will run through late fall. The trips listed below have registration deadlines in May and June.

**Renault Winery/Atlantic City** – Tuesday, 6/19. Tickets are \$21.00 and include family style lunch at the winery in Galloway Township followed by a visit to a casino. Register by 5/22.

**Platzl Brauhaus** – Wednesday, 8/22. Tickets are \$38.00 and include a barbecue lunch, casino style games, live music and dinner. Register by 6/26.

Future trips are planned to the Tropicana in Atlantic City, West Point and Radio City Music Hall. Call the Recreation Department at (732) 583-4200, ext. 129 or 171 for more information.

### George Hausmann Senior Center Schedule

#### *Mondays*

Country Line 11:00 a.m.

Dancing

#### *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. – 10:45 a.m.

Aerobics 11:15 a.m. - Noon

#### *Thursdays*

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.

## Aberdeen P.D. sets drug & gang hotline

The Aberdeen Township Police Department has established a special hotline for the reporting of narcotics and gang-related information. Residents are encouraged to call the hotline at (732) 566-1318 with any information on possible narcotics or gang-related activity. All information will be kept confidential.

Emergencies and criminal activity in progress should be reported through 9-1-1 or to the police department at (732) 566-2054.

## Celebration (continued from page 1)

Church, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, the New Light Baptist Community Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church (represented by two choirs), and Temple Shalom participated in the program, which was held in front of a packed house at Temple Shalom.

"This was a very entertaining evening for attendees and participants alike," says Deputy Mayor **Wilhelmina Gumbs**. "Beyond the entertainment value, this showcase event pointed to the diverse fabric from which Aberdeen Township is built."

"Attracting hundreds of residents of all ages, Birthday Bash and Choir Fest were a great beginning to our nearly year-long celebration of our town's past, present and future," sums up Mayor Sobel. "We look forward to seeing even more faces at the events scheduled for the remainder of this year."

*The April 29th events and others to be held throughout the year are made possible with generous support from the following sponsors:*

**PREMIERE LEVEL** - Columbia Bank, Rogut McCarthy Troy, LLC, and Smart Carpet.

**PLATINUM LEVEL** - Aberdeen Township Volunteer First Aid Squad, CME Associates, Coppola & Coppola Associates, McDonalds of Aberdeen, and New Jersey American Water.

**GOLD SPONSORSHIP** - Amboy National Bank, Bayshore Health and Fitness, The Doctor's Office, Lambertson's Landscaping Inc., Matawan Aberdeen Public Library, and Sonnenfield and Troccia Architects, P.A.

**SILVER SPONSORSHIP** - Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co. #1, Eosso Brothers Paving, Patti Naparstek, Re/Max Champions-PattiSells.com, Senator Joe Kyrillos, Assemblywoman Amy Handlin, Assemblyman Sam Thompson, and Parness & Associates Public Relations. ●

## The Celebration Continues

Aberdeen's 150th Anniversary celebration will continue through November, culminating with the Holiday Fest Sesquicentennial Wrap Up on November 29. The complete schedule of activities appears below:

<b>MAY 12</b>	Fishing Contest/Beach Fest/Movie Night at Cliffwood Beach
<b>JUNE 28</b>	Movie in the Park
<b>JULY 19</b>	Doo-Wop Night
<b>AUG. 9</b>	Concert in the Park
<b>SEPT. 15</b>	Aberdeen Day at Matawan Regional H.S.
<b>OCT. 28</b>	Aberdeen Haunted 5K
<b>NOV. 29</b>	Holiday Fest Sesquicentennial Wrap Up

All events to be held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

For more information please check the Aberdeen Township website: [www.aberdeennj.org](http://www.aberdeennj.org) as the date for each event nears.

## Efforts in place to make teens safer drivers

In the wake of recent fatal accidents, a spotlight has been placed on New Jersey's efforts to make teenagers safer drivers.

"The tragic accidents in Freehold and several other Shore area communities have been a wake-up call for parents, schools, police and, hopefully, teens, to promote safe driving," says Aberdeen Chief of Police **John Powers**. "New Jersey's Graduated Drivers Licensing program is specifically designed to gradually build the experience of new drivers prior to issuing them an unrestricted license. But it is up to all parties involved in the process—most notably parents and the teens themselves—to ensure that the rules are followed. Led by High School Resource Officer **Darryl Richardson**, our department has accelerated its efforts to educate students on the rules and enforce them."

In New Jersey, the road to obtaining a license can start as young as age 16. Sixteen-year-olds can obtain a student learner's permit and teens 17 or older, an examination permit, by visiting an MVC Agency, passing the knowledge test, passing the 6 Point ID Verification, showing proof of

enrollment in a driver training course, presenting a signed letter with parental or guardian consent (16-year-olds only) and paying the fee.

Once permitted, teens must practice supervised driving for at least six months. At 17, those successfully completing the six-month supervised driving period can take the MVC road test to obtain a provisional license.

After obtaining their provisional license, teens must practice unsupervised driving for at least one year. Following that period, those who are at least 18 may go to any MVC Agency to obtain the basic driver license.

Just as its name suggests, the provisional license has certain limitations, including:

- No driving between 12:01 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- Passengers must be from your household—only one additional person from outside your household is allowed.
- No use of cell phones, hand-held video games or any other hand-held electronic device.

"By limiting the distractions that can arise from having too many passengers in the car and placing restrictions on when teens can drive, the



Aberdeen P.D. High School Resource Officer Darryl Richardson speaks with students about provisional licenses.

Provisional License is a great tool for promoting safe driving by teens," observes Councilman **Vincent Vinci**, a retired member of the Aberdeen P.D. "However, parents and schools need to emphasize the need to follow the rules and the consequences for those who don't. At the same time, passengers—whether a household member riding with a 17-year-old or friends riding with an 18-year-old—should not be afraid to speak up if they see the driver speeding, talking on a cell phone or doing other unsafe things."

To learn more, "Safe Driving - A Parent's Guide to Teaching Teens," is available on the MVC website: [www.mvc.gov](http://www.mvc.gov). ●

# Scenes from birthday bash



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Aberdeen's 150th Birthday Celebration was filled with fun from beginning to end. (1 & 2) Library's 'touch-a-truck' program involved indoor and outdoor activities. Outside, children climbed in and on emergency vehicles while volunteers explained how they work. Inside, Mrs. Monmouth County Elizabeth Preston read to youngsters during storytime.(3) Guests enjoyed viewing historical photos placed around the building. (4) Kirsten Malta earned 1st place honors in essay contest's 4th-5th grade category. (5) Councilman **Tom Perry** congratulates high school essay contest winner Adam Lewental. (6) Middle school winner Courtney Kosztur receives award from Deputy Mayor **Wilhelmina Gumbs** (7) Many township employees, including utilities supervisor **Bob Brady**, assisted children with scavenger hunt. (8, 9, 10) Choir Fest brought standing room only crowds to Temple Shalom. Choirs from The New Light Baptist Community Church (8) and Temple Shalom (9) were among nine groups performing.

For additional photos visit [www.aberdeennj.org](http://www.aberdeennj.org)

## 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)

## Ball field improvements on deck in Township

With softball season in full swing, improvements are in the works for two of the township's ball fields.

At Oak Shades Park, Fireman's Field is scheduled to receive a new infield and lights, a new dugout and a higher fence along the first baseline to protect cars parked nearby. These improvements follow the recent paving work completed by Monmouth County to the parking area. The Township is working with the Turnpike Authority to add additional parking in the Garden State Parkway right-of-way.

Meanwhile, over at Ross Field in Cliffwood Beach, plans call for the infield to be reconditioned.

Start dates for the work at either field have yet to be determined; however, the project at Fireman's Field will be coordinated with the rehabilitation of Gerard Avenue. To accommodate the projects, scheduled games will be moved to other fields if necessary.

"Improvements such as these are

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necessary to ensure a safe playing environment," says Councilman **Owen Drapkin**, a softball player and coach of both men's and girl's softball for many years.

Additional work to maintain the community's playgrounds and basketball courts is now a part of the Township's recreational facility maintenance program. ●

## Aberdeen 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Then & Now



Archive photo shows Aberdeen's original fire company, the Matawan Township Hose & Chemical Co. 1, which was organized in 1918 in the Oak Shades section. This was followed in 1927 by the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co., which continues to serve the Cliffwood, Cliffwood Beach and River Gardens sections of the township. Later on in the 20th Century, the original company relocated to its new, larger facility on Lloyd Road and Church Street to better serve the Strathmore, Oak Shades and Freneau sections of the township. In 1977, the company was re-named the Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 to reflect the township's name change. Pictured in the current Lloyd Road facility are (l. to. r.): Fire Inspector **Rob Debold**; Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 Chief **John Mocchi**; and Councilman **Vincent Vinci**, a lifetime member and past Treasurer of the company.