



Presented by Ambler Borough

# Home Town News

Issue 2003-1



## Mascaro is New Trash Hauler

J. P. Mascaro & Son has won a competitive bid process to haul the Borough's trash to the Trash-to-Steam plant. Mascaro's 3 year price was 537,500. This will increase the quarterly residential charge for trash by \$6 to \$66/quarter. There are several changes that residents need to be aware of:

- One bulk pickup item per week is allowed as part of normal Wednesday collection. This includes items such as sofas, mattresses, box springs and similar items. Rugs must be cut & tied in 3' lengths. No building materials, automotive parts, batteries.
- White items must be scheduled separately for pickup by calling 1-800-432-1616 or 610-272-2765. This includes water heaters, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners and dehumidifiers. All Freon must be removed from items and tagged as such.
- Leaf pickup on **Tuesdays!** Spring pickups occur April 15,22,29. Paper yard bags or unlined trash cans only.
- Do not place trash, bulk or white items at the curb until 7:30 pm the night before pickup.



mattresses, box springs and similar items. Rugs must be cut & tied in 3' lengths. No building materials, automotive parts, batteries.

## Mucho Grant-sias

The Borough is the recent recipient of two grants. Montgomery County has funded a Community Block Grant sidewalk improvement program for \$150,000. This will be used to rebuild sidewalks in an area around Greenwood, Park, Mattison and Lindenwold. The Borough's Engineering firm of Gilmore Associates was responsible for the writing of this grant. The second grant, from the Pa Historical and Museum Commission, is for \$5000 to preserve the ordinances and meeting minutes that date back to incorporation in 1888. Councilman Lou Orehek was responsible for this grant award.

## Inside this issue:

Environmental Corner	2
Public Utilities Updates	2
Main Street News	3
Borough Reminders	4
SAAC Visiting Speakers	4
Congressman Moves to Town	4

## Property Taxes Remain Same

Ambler Borough Council approved a 2003 budget that would remain within the revenues expected. An average 4% rise in police and staff salaries and expected lower Earned Income Tax (EIT) revenue due to the economic downturn made for a challenging budget process. Council voted to fund the Ricciardi Park improvements, estimated at \$300,000, from reserves (a rainy day fund). No reserves will be used to fund the day-to-day expenses.



would remain within the revenues expected. An average 4% rise

in police and staff salaries and expected lower Earned Income Tax (EIT) revenue due to the economic downturn made for a challenging budget process. Council voted to fund the Ricciardi Park improvements, estimated at \$300,000, from reserves (a rainy day fund). No reserves will be used to fund the day-to-day expenses.

### Did You Know?

The first Jersey cows were imported in 1861 by Eberhard Flues owner of Flues & Co, Ambler's 1st silk mill?



## Web Archives

The Borough's web site now has a section reserved for reference of Ordinances, Resolutions and important Borough correspondence. It is the intention of this writer to post all Borough Ordinances as time and funding permits. This information can be found under 'Archives' on the navigation list.

**STANDARD MAIL**  
**U. S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**AMBLER, PA**  
**Permit No. 43**

**RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES OF**  
**AMBLER BOROUGH**



Did you know that the largest industrial source of air pollution is electricity production? Most houses have continued to purchase their energy from traditional coal burning and nuclear power plants (PECO) after the deregulation of the energy industry years ago. You have options.

Wind energy is a clean, safe, renewable alternative to traditional energy sources. Solar, hydropower, and biomass energy are also readily available and increasingly affordable to Pennsylvania residents. These power sources are virtually inexhaustible and have minor impacts on the environment and on people's health now and in the future.

There are two websites that will let you compare different energy sources based on environmental impact and cost.

[www.powerscorecard.org](http://www.powerscorecard.org) and [www.cleanyourair.org](http://www.cleanyourair.org). The Power Scorecard is a tool to help you identify the cleanest power option. The other gives more information about energy production and compares energy sources by price. You can call the Clean Air Council for a mailed copy of the scores (215) 567-4004.

The Ambler EAC encourages you to visit these sites and consider switching your energy provider to a cleaner alternative. It is easy and we would be glad to help you (215) 591-1551.

## Master Water Plan Completed

Back in the spring of 2002 the Public Utilities Committee recommended a major study be undertaken to evaluate the Borough's water system. It focused on determining areas that were in need of improvement, vulnerabilities to terrorism and increase efficiencies for long term operation. Several items were obvious and are currently being worked such as the installation of radio-read water meters, a new billing system and a new water tank at Loch Alsh Reservoir. Other items such as new water mains, wells and backup generators for well pumps have been prioritized and will be worked as part of each years improvement plan.



## Plugged Storm Sewer Bypassed

A blocked storm sewer between the alley and Locust Street was bypassed with a new pipe after Borough officials determined the blockage could not be removed. The bypass will help reduce the flooding experienced in this part of town.

## AWWTP Passes Inspection

Ambler's Wastewater Treatment Plant was recently inspected by the Department of Environmental Protection. The DEP looked at record keeping, quality of laboratory testing, treated output effluent water and proper operation and maintenance of equipment. No violations were found. Congratulation to all who work at the plant!



## Water Department Seeks Rate Increase

The Borough of Ambler Water Department is filing a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to increase water rates as of April 8, 2003. The Borough has requested a rate increase of \$350,856 per year. If the Borough's entire request is approved, the total bill for a typical domestic customer using 20,000 gallons per quarter would increase from \$50.45 per quarter to \$74.25 per quarter, or by 47%. The rates requested by the Borough may be found on the Borough's web site [www.ambler.pa.us](http://www.ambler.pa.us). All customers will receive notice in the mail. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Borough must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. The PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request or may reduce existing rates.



# Ambler Main Street News

P.O. Box, Ambler, PA 19002; 215-641-1070; Fax:215-628-2280; www.AmblerMainStreet.org

## Supporting a downtown for Ambler, Upper Dublin, Lower Gwynedd & Whitpain

*"Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?"*

Benjamin Franklin

### Main Street Manager at Work





- Attended Community Revitalization meeting for East Greenville/Pennsburg to talk about Main Street Programs.
- Continue to meet with theater owners about the progress on the theater and its new projected date of 2/21/03.
- Met with a possible business owner to replace Burchett Tile when they move to Spring House in March.
- Attended a BID meeting at the SAAC to work on the final equation for the BID assessment.
- Met with the Business Development committee to work on advance promotions one week before each one of our events. We will "test" this idea out 2/10-2/14 in anticipation of Valentine's Day.


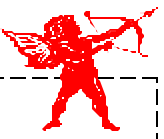


Act II Playhouse was recently awarded a \$133,000 grant from The William Penn Foundation. The funds will be used toward increasing the theater's organizational capacity and artistic quality by supporting the addition of four staff positions, increased artist salaries and fees and updating its lighting system.



### Activities in Ambler

- Starting March 11, Schrodinger's Girlfrend opens a four week run at Act II Playhouse, 56 E. Butler Avenue. A hilarious farce, a gentle blend of Albert Einstein and Groucho Marx promises to be different than anything you have seen at ACT II. It will continue until April 6.
- February 15, The Frost Bite 5 Mile Run 
- March 8, WHS Indoor Guard and Drum Show; 11am. Gym. Tickets \$6 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 students 

Remember many of the coupons in Ambler's Holiday coupon booklet  are good all the way through March...use them! To pick one up just stop by the Ambler Borough Office. 

Your **support** in February is Heart Felt!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership; Resident \$25; Landlords \$165**  
Send to: Ambler Main Street  
PO Box 36, Ambler, PA 19002  
Business membership based on number of employees

0-5	\$165	16-20	\$330
6-10	\$225	21+	\$550
11-15	\$275		

Presented by Ambler Borough

122 East Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA 19002

Phone 215-646-1000

Fax 215-641-1355

Email: HomeTownNews@borough.ambler.pa.us

Web: www.ambler.pa.us

Councilman Louis D. Orehek, Editor & Publisher



## Reminders from the Manager

- The March Council meeting will be held at the Race Street Firehouse on Tuesday March 18 at 7:30 pm.
- Place trash at curb no earlier than 7:30PM the day before pickup and return cans by 8:00PM after collection.
- Earned Income Tax (EIT) is due April 15. Ambler Borough assesses 1.0% of earned income of which half goes to Borough and half goes to the Wissahickon school district. Forms can be picked up at Borough Hall or call Central Tax 610-940-1770.
- Low tree limbs can damage Borough vehicles. Remove those that overhang streets and sidewalks.
- Ambler has a zoning regulation that does not allow private vehicles to be parked on a homeowner's lawn.
- When a snowstorm arrives, please move vehicles off the street to allow the plows to efficiently remove the snow.
- Property owners are obligated to maintain their sewer line in crack & root free condition

## \$1Million for Fire Arms Training

Police Chief Rocco Wack, as President of the County Police Chiefs Association has obtained a \$1 million grant to build a firing range at the Montco Fire Academy. Nice job Chief!

---

## What's at SAAC?

All events are at 11am; 45 Forest Ave; 215-619-8863

Feb 10—Attorney to discuss bankruptcy details and credit fixes.

Feb 11 — Ballroom Dance Classes, 8 weeks; Tues 2-3:30 or Thurs 6:30-8pm. Learn Swing, Cha-Cha, Tango, Waltz...



Feb 14—Free hearing evaluations by Acoustic Labs. 9-11am

Feb 14— April Barber from Lincoln Center for Family Services discusses "He said!, She said! How to better communicate with family and friends". Part 1.

Feb 17— Beauty Specialist to teach proper makeup application

Feb 21— Part 2 of April Barber's discussion "He said!, She said!"

---

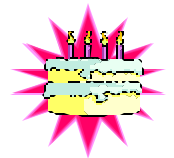
## Borough Honors Centenarian

Evelyn B. Wright was born on January 26, 1903.

She was recently recognized by the Mayor and Council for her many awards and honors including "Teacher of the Year" and "Evelyn B. Wright

Playground". Evelyn is the Borough's oldest living resident.

She is a life-long Ambler resident. The Mayor presented her with a "Key to the Borough".



---

## Congressman Moves Office Here

US Representative Joe Hoeffel has opened an office at 20 E. Butler Ave. His office number is 215-540-8444

---

## "Art in the Storefront" Opening

The "Art in the Storefront" gallery in Ambler opened a new exhibit at 41 E. Butler Ave. This show features Robert F. Miller of Upper Dublin. Robert uses a classic approach in his 'Pennsylvania' and 'New Jersey Shore' landscapes done in oils and acrylics. All works are available for sale directly from the artist.

