



Presented by Ambler Borough

Home Town News

December 2003-5



Borough Issues 2003 Bond

October saw the closure of proceedings that began January 2001 to issue \$4.5 million in general obligation bonds. Part will go to refinance an existing bond taken in 1993. Lower interest rates will allow a savings of \$102,862 on the old bond. Part is allocated for a new water tank at Loch Alsh Reservoir. The remaining is slated for water system improvements such as increased fire protection, a new well, radio read water meters and for costs incurred for water main replacement due to PennDOT work on Ft. Washington Ave, Madison Ave and Bethlehem Pike bridges. The bond will be paid off in 2025.



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The Votes Are In!



The November Election resulted in what many veteran

poll workers saw as a high turnout of over 1000 voters. Borough Council will have 5 of 6 members continue their work. Ward 1 will see Lou Orehek returning for another 4 years. Ward 2 will have John Pugliese representing them for 4 years, as well as Jerry Rath and George Pasceri for 2 years. Four year seats were won by Anita Pieri and newcomer Tony Isabella in Ward 3. Constable for Ward 3 was won by Angela DelPopolo. This is a 4-year term.



Borough Uses Internet Auction

In order to obtain the best possible interest rate on the 2003 Bond, Borough Officials gave the 'OK' to use an internet auction site as the method for taking bids.

Four financial institutions, Mellon Bank, Boening & Scattergood, Citigroup and Janney Montgomery Scott competed for the Bond. Seventeen bids were received as bidding was extended 5 times until Mellon Bank was declared the winner.

Water Customers Slated for Bond Repayment

The refinancing of the existing \$1.3 million bond taken in 1993 will continue to be paid from the Debt Service, Water and Sewer funds. The remaining \$3.2 million in new debt taken for water system improvements will be paid by money received (70% from outside the Borough) from the recent water rate increase. No property tax money is to used for this new debt. The water department once again stresses conservation. The new water rates reward conservation. Customers using less than 7000 gallons of water per month will actually pay less than previously.

Did You Know?

The 1st public school was started in 1882 by the Independent School District at Forest & North Spring Garden

No Property Tax Hike for 2004

As of the date this issue goes to press, the Borough savings account has been slated to balance any short falls in the 2004 budget. Officials are optimistic that expenses will come in under expectations and the dip into savings won't be deep.

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Environmental Corner

By Councilman Louis D. Orehek and Gilmore & Associates Engineering

Storm Water Runoff

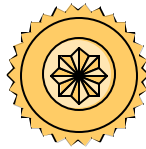
The Environmental Protection Agency has mandated each municipality create a community outreach program to educate residents on storm water management. This is the first in a series of articles to fulfill the requirements.

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream or river. Anything that enters a storm sewer system goes untreated into the water we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

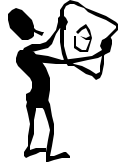
Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people. Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow which can destroy aquatic habitats. Excess nutrients (such as nitrogen from fertilizers) cause algae blooms which remove oxygen from the water. Debris such as plastic bags and six-pack rings can choke or disable aquatic life. Household hazardous wastes like pesticides, paint, and motor oil can poison the water.

Next issue - What can I do as a property owner?



Benigno Reaches 30 Years of Service

The next time you see “Big” Phil Benigno, congratulate him on this recent milestone. As Supervisor of the Water Department he has developed and nurtured one of the finest and most professionally administered organizations in the state. Borough officials consider him a tremendous asset to our town. Way to go Phil!



Montco Approves Redevelopment Plan!

The Montco Planning Commission approved the redevelopment plan for the Rail Corridor Area. This is a necessary achievement for the Borough. The Montco Redevelopment Authority is now authorized to prepare proposals to implement the plan. The Borough will work with County Agencies to accept, reject or modify the proposals. You can see the land use plan in the Borough’s on-line archives, www.ambler.pa.us/archives.asp.

Missed Leaves or Trash Pickup?

We can call in a second pickup for you IF you call or leave a voice mail at Borough Hall before 10am the very next day. Leaf pickup is Tuesdays Nov 11,18,25 and Dec 2 and 9. Leaves will not be taken with the regular Wednesday trash pickup. You must call by Wednesday 10am if your leaves were not taken with the Tuesday pickup. You must call by Thursday 10am if your trash was not taken with the regular Wednesday pickup. You are subject to a fine if your leaves/trash remain at the curb 48 hours after the regularly scheduled pickup.



Luminaries Tradition Continues

Information has been sent on this wonderful Christmas Eve event to all residents by their block captains. This year candles are \$0.45 and \$0.10 for a bag with sand. If you wish to participate you may contact Nancy Bower, 215-646-1217 by Dec 10.



Joint Grant with Lower Gwynedd

The Borough has agreed to file a joint grant with Lower Gwynedd to obtain funds from Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to develop Pen-Ambler Park. The consensus is that DCNR will look favorably on grant applications for projects which foster a spirit of cooperation between municipalities.



Ambler Main Street News

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

Making downtown Ambler your social, cultural, and business center!

"We plant seeds that will flower as results in our lives, so best to remove the weeds of anger, avarice, envy, and doubt, that peace and abundance may manifest for all."

--Dorothy Day



Thursdays are Starlight Nights

Most stores in Ambler are remaining open until 8 PM each Thursday Night. Shoppers will find special features such as discount coupons for shopping on Thursday nights, weekly complimentary refreshments and snacks at certain stores for customers, carolers and live music outside of participating stores during holidays and special events. Even weekly drink specials at participating restaurants and bars! Say "No-Way" to the mall and shop downtown. For more information call Bernadette Dougherty, the Main Street Manager (215-641-1070) or check out our website at www.amblermainstreet.org

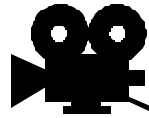
No Place Like Home

Ambler...right down the street...is the place to have a great meal, see a "Ritz-type" movie, get your clothes cleaned, take in a live show, get your nails done, buy a car, pick up a gift, re-sole your shoes, buy someone special some flowers, relax in a coffee shop, buy/listen to music, discover a 100 year old hardware store, get a haircut, have your car repaired, pick up some cool eye glasses, refinish/furnish your home... we have it all !



Upcoming Events

All Thursdays Open Late!



Wednesday December 3

Christmas movie and sing-along
Movie Theater from 6:30-

9:30PM Sponsored by Ambler Main Street, Ambler Symphony and Ambler Theater (seating limited...reserve early \$15/person)

Thursday December 4 Santa comes in by train 6:30 PM then visit with Santa at the Movie Theater



Saturday December 6 Annual

Holiday Parade 1:30-3PM along Butler Avenue. George Carey, parade chairman 215-362-7360

Sunday December 7 Ambler Choral Society Holiday Concert, 3pm Trinity Episcopal Church, adults \$10, kids \$5.



Wednesday December 31st

Second Annual New Year's Eve cocktail party at the Ambler movie theater 6:00-9:00 PM.

Just Opened or Opening Soon!

Cricket...unique gifts for home and for friends Main & Butler. Wood *N* Wearables...gifts by PA artisans 12 North Main. Open Dialog...fine stationery store 11 East Butler. The Shanachie (sha-na-key) It means storyteller in Gaelic! ...an Irish restaurant/pub (opening across from Movies 2/04)

Presented by Ambler Borough

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Councilman Louis D. Orehek, Editor & Publisher



Children's Concert

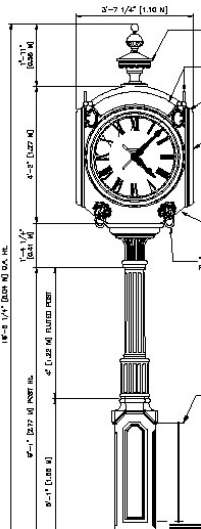
January 24 will showcase Mozart played by talented 9 year old pianist Ellen Morris. The concert starts at 1:30pm at WHS.

Donations will be taken at the door.



Reminders from the Manager

- Please remove snow around fire hydrants. The fire department appreciates your efforts.
- Christmas trees can be placed at the curb for regular Wednesday pickup.
- Weekly street sweeping will stop December 30 for the winter. Parking restrictions will not be enforced.
- The blowing or placing of grass, leaves, or snow in the street is not permitted.
- Pick up of "white items" including stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters, etc. must be scheduled with Mascaro at 800-432-1616.



Town Clock Update

I've been asked to give an update on the Town Clock to be located at the SEPTA station. A 2002 TEA-21 grant and private donations by family and friends of Bonnie Kroll are funding the clock. So why isn't the clock installed? SEPTA is planning a complete renovation of its Ambler Station. Included in the plan are locations for Ambler Main Street to place a clock and a kiosk for posting local information for train passengers. Once the design is finalized (Fall '04), steps can be taken to install the clock and kiosk.

What's at SAAC?

The Senior Adult Activity Center events are at 11am; 45 Forest Ave; 215-619-8863

Dec 8—Beauty Specialist to discuss newest winter colors and give tips on makeup application.

Dec 11—Dietician to speak on "The Diabetic Diet." You can still enjoy food for the holidays.

Dec 12 & 19—Forum on depression, its symptoms, and common signs.

Dec 12—Free hearing evaluations.

Dec 18—Diabetes Testing, 2 hour fasting required; 10:30am



Cub Scouts Collecting Toys-for-Tots

Ambler Pack 164 will be collecting new unwrapped toys along the Holiday Parade

route. Your generous gift to this worthy charity will make a world of difference to those less fortunate children who may not otherwise receive a gift on Christmas morning.

Events at the Library

Race Street; 215-646-1072.



Story Hour with Miss Michelle

Tuesdays 4:30pm

Wednesday, Thursday 10:30am

Dec 15 Holiday Sing-A-Long with Miss Michelle 4:30pm

Book Group Thursday, Dec. 11th at 1:30 p.m. discussing "The Hours" by Michael Cunningham.

Dec. 18. Holiday Sing-A-Long with Miss Michelle 10:30am

Library will be closed December 24 and 25.

For more information <http://www.wvpl.org>