



Presented by Ambler Borough

Home Town News

February 2004-1



'Open Space' Vote Allocates Borough \$838K

November voters overwhelmingly approved (77.6%) a county referendum for open space. This has resulted in the Borough qualifying for \$838,812 in open space grants. Since the Borough has limited open land to preserve, other options include improvements to current open space, restoration of floodplains, and development of community trails that connect to the county's trail network. The Borough would still need to match up to 20% of the requested funding.

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Ordinance on Peddlers and Canvassers



December saw new rules for protecting homeowners who wish to avoid peddlers, hawkers, solicitors and canvassers. In short, solicitors ask for donations, hawkers/peddlers try to sell something, canvassers enlist support for/against a particular issue or ideology. All except canvassers must register with the Borough. All must obey "No Soliciting" yard or door sign postings. The Borough will maintain a "No Visit" list. You may call to be added to the list. The Borough web archives have all the details.

Parking? Look for a Sign!



No prayers to the "Parking Angel" needed here! In cooperation with Ambler Main Street and the Police Department, Borough officials gave the approval for new parking signs in the attempt to educate and direct visitors and patrons to available parking off

Butler Ave. Signs with a map similar to what is shown here will be placed at Lindenwold, and East and West Butler Ave. Other signs will direct approaching drivers into individual metered lots. At 25¢ an hour, it's the best deal around.

Ambler's Property Tax Rates

The 2004 Property Tax rates have not increased and are in cents based upon \$100 of assessed value:

General Purpose	1.907
Street Lights	0.264
Fire Protection	0.231
Debt Service	0.183
Parks & Rec.	0.250
Total	2.835

Did You Know?

In 1935 Ambler's first public sewer system replaced 1000 cesspools then in use.



ASB Lot Steps Studied

The steps leading from Ambler Saving Bank to Race Street are being monitored and their condition reviewed. Although still considered safe, some repairs have been made and a long term solution (repair, replacement, demolition) is being determined.

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

**RESIDENTS &
BUSINESSES OF
AMBLER BOROUGH**



Environmental Corner

By Councilman Louis D. Orehek and
Gilmore & Associates Engineering

Stormwater Run-off

In our last edition, we discussed the subject of storm water run-off and how it can affect the environment. In this issue we wish to discuss some of the solutions to minimize or eliminate the runoff and associated pollution from residential properties and our daily activities.

Permeable Pavements, Rain Barrels, and Grassy Swales

Traditional concrete and asphalt doesn't allow water to soak into the ground. Permeable pavement systems allow rain and snowmelt to soak through, decreasing stormwater runoff.

Residents can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito proof containers. The water can be used later for lawn or garden areas.

Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop areas or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains.

Lawn Care and Pet Waste

Excessive applications of fertilizers and pesticides to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. Also, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and leach nutrients and organic matter to streams.

- Don't over-water your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When necessary, however, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts.
- Use organic mulch and safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or place it in storm drains or streams.

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Violators can be fined \$300.

Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local bodies of water .

Next Issue: What can be done on commercial, construction, and automotive sites to reduce runoff pollution.

Improved Recycling Program

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) presented several options to Council for larger recycling containers and the means for distributing them. The current square, 12-gallon "Ambler Recycles" containers are considered too small for the needs of most residents. It is the general consensus of the EAC that a larger 18-gallon container would foster more recycling. Money received from trash-related litigation will be used to purchase the containers.

It costs \$88.53 per ton to dispose of trash. The Borough receives money from the state for every ton it recycles. It is a win-win situation when residents fully participate in the mandatory recycling program.



Parks Considers Recreation Director

The Parks Committee is considering participating in a "Circuit Rider" program whereby municipalities share a full-time Parks and Recreation Program Director. Many details still need to be worked out but this could be a great boost for our Parks Program and for our kids.



Program Doesn't "STOP"

The faded-sign replacement program has resulted in 67 new street and traffic signs thus far. Exposure to the elements causes the reflective material on the signs to slowly wear away.

School Signs Go Green

The road crew has begun installing Hi-Visibility (lime green) School Crossing signs. Lime green reflective strips for the sign poles will be installed when the weather breaks.



Pothole Reporting

You can fax, call or e-mail reports of potholes to the Borough Office. Potholes@borough.ambler.pa.us



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!

"Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world."

--Joel A. Baker



Upcoming Events

Main Street Manager at Work



- Met with sales reps. from area newspapers to help set up advertising schedules for Ambler businesses in 2004.
- Recruiting additional volunteers to help with various projects in 2004, such as marketing, publicity, strengthening existing businesses, special events, etc.
- Met with interested retail businesses concerning store hours, advertising, condition of storefronts and sidewalks.
- Finalizing two grant proposals for Department of Community and Economic Development.

- Saturday February 14th 9AM start. Ambler Main Street working on creative ways to encourage runners (all 400 of them!) to stay in town after the run.
- February 29th Ambler Movie Theater is one year old and their having a party on . Call 215-348-1878 for more information.
- Annual April Fool's Party April 6th 5-8PM to be held at Knopf Motors.
- Reserve your seat now for the 5th anniversary gala at Act II Playhouse scheduled for April 21st . Call 215-659-0482 for information.
- Annual Auto Show May 16th noon-5PM.

New Business Opening



La Cava (means wine cellar) scheduled to open mid-February at 60 East Butler (formerly Paugh's Party People). Owner Carlos Melendez is very excited to open his upscale Mexican Restaurant in Downtown Ambler. It will be a BYOB.

Did you know Ambler Main Street hosts ten different events each year? We are always looking for "a few good men and women" to volunteer their time and talents. Perhaps your family or business would like to help out? If so, please e-mail Volunteer@amblermainstreet.org.



Businesses are open late on Thursdays.

It is always a faaaaaabulous idea to become a member of Ambler Main Street especially during the month of February!! Help us to keep things jumping in our wonderful town.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Annual Membership; Resident \$35; Landlords \$200

Please send your tax-deductible gift to:

Ambler Main Street

PO Box 36, Ambler, PA 19002

Business membership based on number of employees

0-5 \$200 16-20 \$500

6-10 \$300 21-25 \$600

11-15 \$400 26-30 \$700

31+ \$800

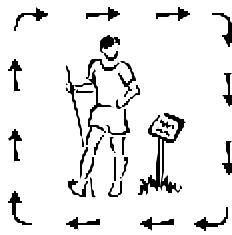
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Reminders from the Manager

- When a snowstorm arrives, please move vehicles off the street to allow the plows to efficiently remove the snow.
- Low tree limbs can damage the street sweeper. Remove those that overhang streets and sidewalks.
- The blowing or placing of grass, leaves, or snow in the street is not permitted. The fine is \$25 plus the cost of cleanup.
- 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.
- Please keep areas around fire hydrants clear of snow and ice. This will save the fire department valuable time during a rescue.



Walking Trail Requested

In the latest round of Transportation Equity Act Grants (TEA-21), the Borough has requested money for a walking trail and historical mural. The trail will wind its way throughout the Borough along existing sidewalks. Sidewalk markers, corner ramp improvements and historical kiosks will designate the trail. Plans call for the path to connect to the county's Rails-to-Trails path along the Wissahickon Creek. Also, proposed is a historical mural depicting Mary Ambler, the train wreck, and the victims she cared for.

What's Happening at SAAC?

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

Feb 13-Free hearing evaluations: 9-11am.

Feb 17-How did Ambler get its name? Who were Keasbey and Mattison? Come learn the fascinating history of our town.

Feb 18—"Healthy Bladder Habits": What is incontinence? What are the causes? What are your treatment options. Abington Urological Specialists will present information.

Feb 20,27-"Improving Your Memory": This popular program helps participants to identify their memory "gaps" and suggest multiple ways to deal with those gaps.

March 1,3-"55 Alive": AARP sponsored driving class. \$10 per person. 10am-2:30pm.




Events at the Library

Race Street; 215-646-1072.

Story Hour with Miss Michelle:
Tuesdays 4:30pm
Wednesday, Thursday 10:30am

Feb 18 Book Bites: 12:30pm.
Tell us about new books you read.



Feb 12 Book Group at 1:30pm. This month's book, The Dogs of Babel by Carolyn Parkhurst.

Feb 24 Mermaid Art Class for Kids. 7pm. Advanced registration required.

The library will be closed President's Day, February 16.

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

2004 Football Signup

"The Ambler Whitpain Trojans Youth Football Association's registration will be held on April 24 and May 8, 9-11 am at the Whitpain Township Building, and May 1, 9-11 am, at Ambler Borough Hall. Boys and girls ages 5 and over can sign up for football or cheerleading. For more information, visit the Trojans website at awtrojans.com "