



Presented by Ambler Borough

Home Town News

August 2004-4



County Grant Nets Borough \$386,000

A cooperative effort by Ambler Main Street and Borough Council successfully obtained County Revitalization money. Projects include replacement of the mechanical parking meter heads with electronic heads, the expansion of Victorian street lighting in the business district, technical assistance to AMS for marketing and publicity efforts, continuation the façade improvement program and new equipment for Ambler Theater to help expand its scope of services. Some of the projects that didn't receive funding were a historical tour using electronic medallions on points of interest and pear tree replacement in the Borough parking lots.

2005 Budget Concerns All

Over the last 5 years, Council has started assembling the following year's budget in August as state law requires a final budget by year's end. This year the budgeting process began in March with the refund of \$200,000 in EIT taxes that were mistakenly given to the Borough. The EIT has essentially allowed the Borough to hold steady the real estate taxes, amid salary and medical insurance increases, since a ½ mill hike in 1997. Department budgets have been trimmed every year since the school district requested their ½% of the EIT tax in 2002. Balancing the concern of residents on fixed income with the need to raise additional revenue, the Borough met with state officials to discuss ways to increase the EIT beyond the current maximum of ½% in order to keep property taxes level. Currently the EIT increase is being discussed amongst legislators but will not be an available option for Ambler's 2005 budget process. Council is against raising property taxes but is also running out of options. Stay tuned.

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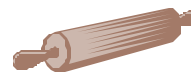
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Inlet Repairs

The Borough staff has been busy repainting street lines, curbs, stop bars, fire hydrants and crosswalks as well as replacing faded signs, straightening sign poles and repairing storm sewer inlets. Did I mention all the upkeep on the Borough park's many flowerbeds? When you see them, let them know what you think!



Mother-in-Law Can Stay



Council has adopted a new ordinance allowing Accessory Dwelling Units, better known as 'In-law Suites'.

Did You Know?
Police patrol almost 200 miles of Borough streets every day?



Historical Demolition Ordinance Proposed

Council is considering a demolition ordinance for buildings considered historical. Comments will be taken at the September 9 Council meeting. Contents of the ordinance can be found on the Borough's web site archives.

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

RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES OF
AMBLER BOROUGH



Environmental Corner

By Councilman Louis D. Orehek

The Recycling Reminder

We have seen in hard currency where it pays to recycle. In July, Borough residents set 277 tons of garbage out to be burned at the trash-to-stream plant. At a cost of \$83 per ton, that's a bill of about \$23,000. If this cost was reduced, the savings could be used for a multitude of improvements to the Boroughs' parks, streets and services.

Considering the Borough's current financial situation, residents would be wise to have their taxes spent in the most efficient and practical way. As an example, if every household moved an additional 2 lbs of glass/aluminum/plastic and 1lb of newspaper from their regular trash into the recycle bin, that could save \$10,000 a year. EVERYONE can recycle the Midweek Trend and Sunday Inquirer.

When placed with the regular trash, the disposal of yard waste is another huge expense. Our Environmental Advisory Committee is working on ways to make it practical for residents to keep the heavy grass clippings and leaves from reaching the trash-to-steam plant.

The Borough has been very successful in recent years in obtaining grants for improving neighborhood sidewalks and street lighting. Grants for these projects usually include a small financial match of 15%. That is, it costs residents \$1 for every \$6 spent on these improvements. That's a great bargain, but using that \$1 can mean postponing scheduled equipment purchases.

The bottom line is, recycling won't lower your property taxes but it will help to keep your property taxes as low as possible by allowing money to be spent wisely.

Larger Recycling Containers Available



A thousand new and larger recycling bins have been delivered to Ambler as a benefit of joining the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Consortium. Some households in the

Borough do not have an official recycling bin, and many households have more recycling each week than fits into one bin. The new bins will make it easier for more residents to recycle more material. Check our web site (www.ambler.pa.us) for the latest details on the distribution schedule and method.

Slogan Contest for Recycling Pamphlet



As a way to increase public awareness, public involvement, and have fun too, the Ambler Environmental Advisory Council is sponsoring a slogan contest. The purpose of the contest is to create a slogan that will represent Ambler's priority or pride about recycling. Anyone, of any age, is eligible. Submit your phrase, or a phrase with a graphic, to careen@localnet.com or bring it to the "EAC" mail box inside Borough Hall. Deadline: September 20. The winning slogan along with the winner's name will be printed on an educational brochure that will accompany every new recycling bin when it is distributed.

What Can Be Recycled Curbside?

- All cans, **rinsed**. No lids please.
- All glass bottles and jars, rinsed. Please, no window glass, light bulbs or Pyrex.
- All plastic with the numbers 1 or 2 inside the recycling symbol, no lids.
- Newspaper, magazines, phonebooks, office paper and **clean non-corrugated** cardboard. Please, no pizza boxes.



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!

Our greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

—Confucius



Upcoming Events

Main Street at Work



• Manager, Bernadette Dougherty, received the PA Downtown Center's very first award for "Outstanding Program Manager". Congratulations B!

- PA Dept. of Economic Development approved a \$60,000 exit grant for AMS.
- The "DOWNTOWN AMBLER 2004" Brochure was included in the JULY issues of the Enterprise magazine. (An additional 14,000 Households just received information about Downtown Ambler.)
- The Board is considering additional Real Estate professionals to help market the businesses and properties in Downtown Ambler.
- A new Publicity Chairperson will be appointed to coordinate Press Releases about Community events in local newspapers, magazines and other media.



- September 26—Oktoberfest, Butler Ave, noon-5pm

The Firm of Kramer/Marks Architects has moved to Ambler. They converted a fine old, but badly deteriorated 125 year old Victorian home on South Bethlehem into a beautifully restored Victorian office space for them and the more than 20 employees. While they are a local company, they do work in many eastern states for Dunkin Donuts, Baskin Robbins, Pier 1 Imports, and other well known names.



Ambler Coffee Company has added alfresco dining to their popular location. It's not just coffee... come for a sandwich, snack, or delicious pastry with your coffee or other beverage.

The Shanachie (Story Teller) is progressing nicely toward its planned opening around September 17th. It is a beehive of activity converting the old Dollar Store across from the theater into an Authentic Irish Pub.



Expected in the fall will be Bridget's, a steak house, next to K C's Alley. Stay tuned;

Fall into a good thing by becoming a Ambler Main Street Member

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 |

Presented by Ambler Borough

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Councilman Louis D. Orehek, Editor & Publisher



Reminders from the Manager

- No building material is permitted in the trash.
- Putting grease down the drain is a major cause for sewage backing up into basements.
- Please clean up after your dog. It's a courtesy to your neighbors. It's the law! \$300 fine for violations.
- Yard Waste Collection for Fall. Tuesdays Nov. 9, 16, 23 and Dec. 7. Waste must be contained in biodegradable bags or unlined trashcans with no lids.
- Owners must conspicuously display the address of their properties.



No Asphalt Yard Here

The Planning Commission recently determined there were no regulations for preventing home owners from making one big driveway out of their entire property. Using inspection and aerial photography, they reviewed all existing properties. The Commission presented to Council their recommendations for impervious surface limits for R1 (45%), R1a (45%) R2 (60%) and R3 (75%) zoned residential districts. Council approved the new limits.



Electronics Recycled

Through September 6, Office Depot in Plymouth Meeting will be accepting for recycle a variety of electronics, including computers, printers, fax machines, cell phones and televisions 27 inches and smaller. You may contact them at (610) 260-0598 for more information.

What's Happening at SAAC?

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

Sept 13 "Memory Loss, Recognizing the Signs of Dementia"

Sept 14 "Carb Craze", Learn the ins/outs of carbohydrates

Sept 15 "Be Heart Smart". Discussion on heart disease.

Sept 22 "Keep the Beat". Exercises for couch potatoes.

Sept 22,29 "Care Giving Issues". Understanding your needs while caring for your spouse, parent or friend.

Sept 28 "What is a Heart Healthy Diet"

Sept 28 "Laughter Club"



Events at the Library

Race Street; 215-646-1072.

Musical Story Hour with Guitar
by Miss Michelle:

Tuesdays 4:30pm

Wednesday, Thursday 10:30am

Sept 21: 7pm. Pajama
Party, Hear autumn stories,
drink lots of chocolate milk,
eat cookies and wear your
pj's.

