



Presented by Ambler Borough

# Home Town News

December 2004-5



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## 9.38 Inches



That's the amount of rain measured at the South Main Street wastewater treatment plant from the remnants of Hurricane Jeanne on September 28. In the last five years Ambler has received five major

storms ranging from 50 to 1000 years. This most recent storm statistically should occur once every 1000 years. Municipal officials declared a state of emergency in order to quickly start repairs in areas damaged by the flood waters. Waters devastated many low-lying properties in town and destroyed creek repairs made after Tropical Storm Allison in 2001.

The Borough met with County Commissioner James Matthews and requested the county put more effort into the completion of the study of a 100- year-storm stormwater solution, to buy-out and demolish a limited number of Borough homes in these flood-prone locations, and



Creek Damage at Ridge Avenue

to expand or construct new upstream water detention basins to meet current stormwater standards.

Upstream development has increased the rate at which rain water flows into the creeks causing the creeks to overflow their banks at their lowest point, which is Ambler Borough.

The Borough is also meeting with Upper Dublin officials to discuss the results of a stormwater study performed on the SR309 Expressway reconstruction. This study shows there will be an increase in the rate and amount of water flowing into creeks that flow into the Borough. It is the position of the Borough that even the smallest increase is unacceptable given the current conditions.

## Demolition Ordinance Finalized

With much lively discussion in previous meetings, the final version of a demolition ordinance was received with not much more than an 'OK' from residents present at the work session. This shows that all parties who worked to bring this ordinance to a vote wanted the most reasonable solution to the potential problem of losing some of the Borough's history to future generations. Briefly, if a building built before 1910 is to be torn down, it must first be photographed and a short historical report, a sketch plan, and a copy of the deed must be submitted.

**Did You Know?**  
The American Revolutionary era Gilkonson's Tavern now houses Costa's Deli.

## **P** Additional Parking Sought

Council tasked the Solicitor with proceeding to acquire the driveway directly behind Borough Hall. Parking is very tight as vendors, contractors, and residents attempt to conduct business on a daily basis. This property would add 8 badly needed parking spaces.

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

**RESIDENTS &  
BUSINESSES OF  
AMBLER BOROUGH**



## Environmental Corner

By Homer Elliott, Co-Chair EAC

Proper pruning makes a huge difference in the health of your plants. Here are several tips to do it correctly.

Select the right plant for the site. Proper pruning begins with selecting the best plant for the planting. Choose a non-invasive plant adapted to site conditions for a healthy plant that will need less pruning due to pests, diseases, and stress. Choose a plant whose ultimate size is not too big for the location or that will grow into electrical wires. Look up your plants before you buy and make an educated decision.

Have the right tools for the job. Three essential tools to accomplish a wide range of pruning are 1) bypass hand pruners, 2) Loppers, and 3) the pruning saw. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the branch width the tool can cut. Choose well made tools that won't tear branches.

Sterilize your tools between plants or after removing diseased parts. Use a mild bleach solution or alcohol.

Prune at the right time of year. To prune for blooming or fruiting only prune immediately following blooming. Don't prune "bleeders" such as maples or birches in the fall or winter. For most other trees late fall and winter are great because structure is visible and disease and pests are minimized.

Remember the rule of thirds. For healthy plants with a few exceptions never remove more than a third of the living portion of a tree or shrub in a given year. Pruning in gradual steps is best.

Let the natural growth pattern of the plant inform your pruning. Especially important with trees but also with the long term health of shrubs is to prune at the outside edge of the branch collar and not to flush cut. The branch collar is the wider, more tapered portion of the branch where it meets the trunk or another branch.

Pruning is a visual process. From time to time step back to admire your work. Before you remove any healthy parts of the plant remove all dead and diseased growth. From there visualize how you can accomplish your task and improve structure such as removing crossing branches. Prune with as few cuts as possible that will reach your goal.

Always prune back to another branch or, in the case small stems, to a well developed bud. The branch or trunk remaining should be at least a third the diameter of the branch removed.



## Grant App for Yard Waste

Council approved a state Recycling Technical Assistance grant application prepared on its behalf by the EAC. This grant would pay a consultant to help us determine the pros and cons of a corrugated cardboard recycling drop-off site, a year-round yard waste collection, and a review of our bid specifications for the next waste hauler contract. As always, the less we send to the trash-to-steam plant, the smaller our trash bill.

## 1,981 New Recycling Bins

Through the heroic efforts of the EAC, Borough staff, and Boy Scout Troop 540, all residents now have larger bins and an information flyer to help them fill the bins properly. The new bins were funded by state recycling grants and money awarded from landfill litigations. Many thanks to the scouts and their leaders for their time and community spirit.



## Fixing What Needs...

The Borough has completed the first of three phases to video tape, and to seal or repair 81000 feet of sanitary sewer pipe under Borough streets. This is part of a major effort to reduce the amount of rainwater entering the pipes and unnecessarily being treated at the sewer plant. In these days of increased environmental consciousness, local municipalities are under closer watch by federal and state agencies to properly maintain these systems.



## Park Rededicated

Ricciardi Park was rededicated in October after extensive renovations were made. Ricciardi Park was named after lifelong resident James Ricciardi in honor of his 33 years of service to the Borough as a Councilman and Council President. The park was formed on the site of the former Ambler Junior/Senior High School after it was demolished in 1978. In 2003, Council committed \$300,000 for improvements to the park. The rededication ceremony was attended by almost 100 residents, local officials, and the Ambler Symphony.





# 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!

*You gotta dance like nobody's watching, dream like you will live forever, live like you're going to die tomorrow and love like it's never going to hurt.*

—Meme Grifster



## Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, Dec 1 Holiday "Sing Along" and a Movie at The Ambler Theater at 6:30. Proceeds benefit Ambler Symphony, Ambler Theater and Ambler Main Street!-- \$15.00 --
- Thursday Dec 2—Santa Arrives By Train 6:30pm; SEPTA Station.
- Saturday Dec 4- Holiday Parade 1:30pm. Snow/Rain date is Sunday Dec 5.

### Main Street at Work



- Oktoberfest was a huge success with over 5000 people attending, much to the glee of the 78 vendors and store owners. Special thanks goes out to the volunteers, police, fire police and road crew.
- The Borough was the focus of a major article in September's edition of Montgomery County Town & Country Living magazine. Look for the story on our website.
- New businesses are coming to Ambler! Look for Reed's Beads and "Everything for a Dollar" on Main Street, The Free Shop (trendy clothes) on Butler Ave and Shanachie Irish Pub.
- The design committee gave a presentation on the types of façade grants available to members.
- Main Street programs are now being advertised in local college newspapers.
- AMS is in the process of redesigning and enhancing our website.



Thursday nights are "Starlight Nights." All stores are open til 8pm through Christmas.



Santa arrives by train on Thursday, December 2 at 6:30. Santa will lead the parade of children from the SEPTA station to the Amble Theater. Santa will then listen to each child as they make their holiday gift requests. Activities will also include tree ornament making. Popcorn will be served.

Ho, ho, ho! Oh what fun it is to be an 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**

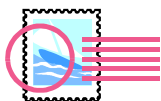
**Business membership based on number of employees**

0-5     \$200     16-20     \$500

6-10     \$300     21-25     \$600

11-15     \$400     26-30     \$700

31+     \$800



The annual fall membership campaign has begun with a mass mailing to all of the businesses in

Ambler. This will be followed by a residential mailing. Your membership is **IMPORTANT**.

Presented by Ambler Borough

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## Reminders from the Manager

- Residents have 24 hrs after the snow stops to remove snow & ice from their sidewalks and a 36" wide path is required.
- Do not place furniture in the street to save parking places.
- Please remove snow around fire hydrants.
- After a large snow fall, corner property owners are asked to clear a path to the street.
- Contact the Borough Manager if you have concerns about work being done by Borough crews.
- Property owners are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining their sewer lateral up to the sewer main.
- Quiet Hours are between 10pm and 6am.
- Christmas trees will be collected with the regular trash.



## FBI Academy Accepts Officer

Police Chief Rocco Wack informed Council that officer Bill Frank has been accepted by the FBI National Academy to receive intensive law enforcement training. He will take classes in

Leadership Development, Behavioral Science, Law, Communication, Forensic Science and Health/Fitness. The FBI accepts less than 1% of all applicants to this 11-week session. Among other qualifications an applicant must be of excellent character and enjoy a reputation for professional integrity. Chief Wack is also a graduate of the Academy.



## Symphony Children's Concert

Ambler Symphony's tuba soloist Brian Brown introduces another musical tale from the Tubby the Tuba series. It's a concert filled with fun and special surprises! For the young and young at heart. Saturday, January 22 at the WHS; 1:30pm. Donations accepted at the door. For more information: [www.AmblerSymphony.org](http://www.AmblerSymphony.org)



## Events at the Library

209 Race Street; 215-646-1072.



Musical Story Hour with Guitar by Miss Michelle:

Tuesdays, 4:30pm

Wednesday, Thursday  
10:30am.

Book Group : Thursday,  
December 9 at 1:30 pm.

Puppet Show: December 21,  
7pm; Segal Puppet Theatre  
presents North Pole fun.  
Hilarious puppet show for all  
ages.

Clown & Magic Show: Jan  
26, 10:30. For preschoolers.

Holiday Sing-Along with Santa.  
Wednesday, Dec. 8, 10:30am.  
We bought Santa a First Class  
ticket to visit us!

Baby Sitting Course: 5 Sessions  
Kids 11-14, Begins Jan 18, \$20  
Call to pre-register.

Tea and Scones Series:  
January 18: Tooting: *Pigments  
of Imagination* presented by  
Shirley Swaab.

The library will be closed Dec.  
23, 24 and 25.

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