

*Borough of*

# AMBLER

## HOMETOWN NEWS



SPRING/SUMMER 2013



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### *Dear Residents and Friends:*

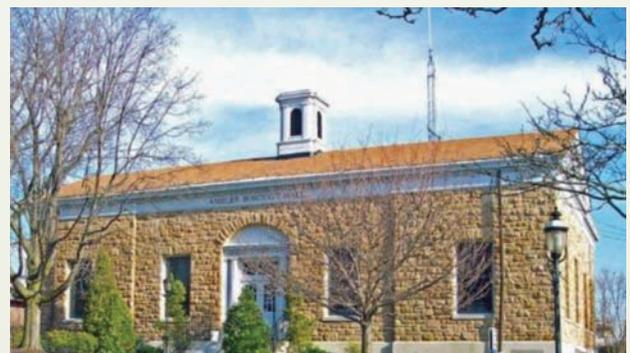
The Borough of Ambler is a hard-working, friendly community founded on harmony and commitment. Modern-day Ambler originated from a small settlement established in the 1700's known as Gilkey's Corner, located at Bethlehem & Butler Pikes. Today, the Borough consists of approximately 2,100 structures and 14.7 miles of Borough-owned roads and 0.75 miles of state highway. The 2010 U.S. Census cites the Borough's population as 6,417.

In the early 1800's nine mills operated in the area – seven grinding mills, one fulling mill and one silk mill. Power was taken from the Wissahickon, Rose Valley and Tannerie Run Creeks. In 1870, the Montgomery County Agricultural Society bought 35 acres off S. Main Street running to Bethlehem Pike and for a dozen years ran a weekly agricultural fair that attracted as many as 16,000 people who came to view animals, farm products and new machinery.

The North Penn Railroad opened steam train service from Philadelphia to Gwynedd on July 2, 1855. The new train station was called Wissahickon back then because of its nearness to the creek. The cover of this issue of Hometown News features Ambler's new SEPTA train station which was dedicated last summer.

Ambler Borough is consistently working to improve our community. We look forward to the return of a Farmer's Market near Ambler Train Station and the construction of a new food market. Ambler's continued revitalization is attributed to the commitment of our community's elected officials, volunteers, civic organizations and stakeholders. Together, we can make Ambler a perfect place for families to live, work and play.

*Mary Aversa*  
*Ambler Borough Manager*



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# COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

## AMBLER BOILER HOUSE - ADAPTIVE REUSE SOLUTIONS

The Ambler Boiler House has completed its impressive transformation, from abandoned Brownfield site, to a clean, green and LEED-Platinum-certified state-of-the-art office space and transit-oriented development. Part of a \$16 million adaptive reuse project spearheaded by Summit Realty Advisors, the adaptive reuse project has created approximately 42,000 square feet of office space and that will accommodate a total of 6 to 8 tenants. Summit received project funding from the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Montgomery County Commissioners, the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency and The Reinvestment Fund.

The building has incorporated cutting-edge green design and adaptive reuse techniques, while preserving many of the original details and components of its late 19th century structure. The project exemplifies the optimism and revitalization occurring within Ambler Borough.

The location of the project is considered ideal because of its proximity to the SEPTA rail station, and to existing roadways and available utility services. This transportation link will encourage more commercial development, public transportation, and merge the site into the existing downtown Ambler business district.



The design intent of the project was to restore the existing structure, while carefully preserving its distinguishable exterior features. Another goal was to obtain LEED Certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). Several sustainable design principles have been incorporated into the project including Brownfield redevelopment, transit-oriented development, geo-thermal heat pump system, retention of existing structural systems, recycled rainwater irrigation system and recycled material content. The challenge throughout the design of the project was to marry the existing industrial shell with contemporary, sophisticated interior office design.

In the spring of 2011, the Boiler House project kicked off with an extensive remediation program. Working closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and using state grants and loans, Summit followed a site-specific remedial action plan leading to the complete clean-up of the site. Core & Shell construction of the building was completed in September 2012 and tenant finish construction is now underway. The first tenant has already taken occupancy in the building with additional tenants to follow through the first half of 2013. For more information, contact Brittany Fessler, Summit Realty Advisors, LLC (ph) 484-532-7830.

## TEMPLE U. DIVISION I BIG EAST BASEBALL HOME GAMES

Temple University's Baseball, Softball and Soccer teams play their home games right here on Temple's Ambler campus – these are the main campus teams comprised of Temple U athletes. Coach Ryan Wheeler is getting the word out that Temple U's Division I Big East Baseball Team plays baseball each spring at Skip Wilson Field on the Temple Ambler campus. The facility is a great complex to catch some solid, fundamentally sound and competitive baseball. This season's home games include Saint Joseph's, Lehigh, La Salle, Villanova, George Mason, UNC Charlotte & Massachusetts. Why not take the family to a game and have a chance to see some future Major League players! Skip Wilson Field is conveniently just around the corner off Butler Pike – and, best of all, the games are FREE. The Facebook page is Temple University Baseball and web page with game schedule is [www.owlssports.com](http://www.owlssports.com)

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“Throughout history, there have been those who exceed expectations.”

The Board of Trustees of Ambler Savings Bank would like to thank all of our customers for a prosperous 2012. We could not have achieved our success without your loyalty, and we wish you a prosperous 2013.

May 2013 will mark the 139th year of continuous operations for the Bank. We know that doesn't happen without great customers.

*Thank You*

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**TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHT OUTAGES** – If a traffic or street light is out, please notify the Borough receptionist Tara Jones at 215-646-1000 Ext '0' or E-mail Tara at [receptionist@borough.ambler.pa.us](mailto:receptionist@borough.ambler.pa.us) . For streetlight outages, please try to obtain the pole number. This will help us to more quickly relay the information to schedule a repair.



**POTHOLES** - If you would like to report a pothole, broken playground equipment or damaged Borough signage please call the Public Works answering machine at 215-628-9409 and leave a message. Or, if you prefer, contact the Borough receptionist and she will relay your message to the garage.

**STREET SWEEPING BEGINS** – Street sweeping begins **Monday, April 1st**. Heed the street signs as ‘No Parking’ on specified days and hours will be enforced. **Tickets are \$12.**

## WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS



### WATER USE GUIDELINES IN THE EVENT OF DROUGHT

As summer approaches, the Ambler Borough Water Department would like you to be aware that the Water Department follows established guidelines for drought determination and declaration to provide for an equitable distribution of limited water supplies and to assure that sufficient water is available to preserve public health and safety within the Water Department service area. With data collected by the Department’s SCADA computer system, daily water demand can be closely monitored. Obviously, seasonal variability in water usage comes into play, with the summer months demonstrating the most water demand. The public is always advised to be alert to notification by the media and on the Borough’s website and Gateway Signboard as to the conditions and concerns of water availability.

A Drought Watch alerts the public to potential future drought related problems. This is when the Water Dept. calls for voluntary water conservation. A Drought Warning indicates imminent drought conditions and potential water supply problems. This is when we call for mandatory water conservation. A non-essential use ban restricts water usage for lawn watering; non-commercial washing of cars; washing of streets, sidewalks or driveways; ornamental water use; watering of golf courses or filling of pools; and use of fire hydrants for any purpose other than emergency. Should it be necessary to invoke a water rationing plan, each dwelling unit may be required to reduce total water consumption by 15%. Penalties for non-compliance which are determined by Borough Council may include excess use charges or notification and termination of service.

### PUBLIC NOTIFICATION FOR WATER ISSUES

In the event of a water quality emergency we need to get in touch with our water customers. We do this through Swiftreach, our phone dial notification system. Please maintain updated contact information. You may do this by accessing the Swiftreach icon located on the Borough’s website homepage, by calling the Borough or sending an E-mail to [erussell@borough.ambler.pa.us](mailto:erussell@borough.ambler.pa.us).



### 2012 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE WATER REPORT

Ambler Borough Water Department each year publishes an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act designed to inform customers about the quality of the water delivered to you every day. DEP now allows water systems to post their CCR on-line instead of mailing out hard copies. The 2012 Consumer Confidence Report will be available mid-June on the Borough website at [www.boroughofambler.com/public-utilities](http://www.boroughofambler.com/public-utilities). Printed copies of the CCR also will be available at Borough Hall.

### PAY WATER BILL BY CREDIT CARD OR E-CHECK



The Borough of Ambler Water Department is pleased to announce that for your convenience credit card payments for water bills are now accepted at the receptionist’s window in the Borough Hall Office (8:00-4:30 M-F). As of February 1st customers have been able to pay their water bills with Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express – personal check and cash also are accepted. A convenience fee will be charged to customers using credit cards. We also now accept credit card and E-check payments on-line (a convenience fee will be applied). Simply click on “Pay Your Water Bill” on the Borough’s Home Page at [www.boroughofambler.com](http://www.boroughofambler.com). As a reminder, you may drop off water payments (checks only) in the 24/7 Lock Box located on York Street next to Borough Hall. The box is located on the left side of York Street just a few feet beyond the Borough Hall parking lot.



### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



In 2003 most municipalities in Pennsylvania were required to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge storm runoff from the municipality owned storm sewer system (known as MS4). Ambler Borough received their NPDES-MS4 permit in 2004. Since that time Ambler has complied with the requirements of the permit, which includes tasks such as:

- Enacted a new stormwater management ordinance,
- Inspect every stormwater outfall that discharges to the local streams and creeks for signs of pollution,
- Encourage the public to participate in stormwater related activities,
- Provide educational materials to the public and business owners,
- Review construction plans and permits for stormwater related concerns, and
- File an annual report with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) documenting the permit related activities that occurred during the year.

This past fall most Pennsylvania municipalities including Ambler were required to submit applications for a new NPDES-MS4 permit. Ambler's application is currently under review by the PADEP. When approved, the new permit will be similar to the current permit with the exception of new permit conditions regarding pollution limits. When the new permit is issued, Ambler Borough will be required to reduce specific pollutants in stormwater runoff in compliance with standards set for the Wissahickon Creek Watershed. These pollutants include sediment (soil) and nutrients (fertilizer).

Ambler was required to submit a plan with the recent application addressing pollutant reduction from roadways and other property owned by the Borough. The Borough owns approximately 100 acres or 20% of the land within the Borough limits. The remaining 80% of the land in the Borough is owned by the residents and businesses. Ambler's efforts will reduce the amount of pollution that enters our waterways. However, it can only address 20% of the problem. In part, residents and businesses can help address the remaining 80% by implementing simple best management practices. Some suggestions include:

- 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.
- 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.

*Please visit the Other Web Resources section of Ambler's website at <http://www.boroughofambler.com> for additional information regarding the Borough NPDES MS4 permit and other stormwater related issues.*

### CLEAN AND GREEN AMBLER

#### Reduce RECYCLE Reuse

The Ambler Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has purchased five new ClearStream™ recycling bins! The ClearStream™ bins--with a clear bag, can-sized openings and signage--make it easy to go green at Ambler community events. The EAC chose this model of recycling for its ease in transport, set-up, service and storage. **Look for the ClearStream™ bins at the next Ambler community event and pitch in!**

In addition to recycling, we can all support pollution prevention by reducing waste and reusing our 'stuff'. The new waste concern is food! Food is now the single largest type of waste going to our landfills and incinerators. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 33 million tons of food waste ends up in landfills or are combusted each year. When food is discarded in landfills methane is produced, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Americans throw away up to 40 percent of their food for an average of 20

pounds per person per month. Much of this wasted food is actually surplus--wholesome, edible food that could have helped those in need.

Residents and businesses can reduce food waste by limiting food purchases to what we are able to eat and finishing leftovers before buying more food. In addition, freezing or preserving produce before it goes bad, donating canned or other untouched, safe food to those in need, and composting food scraps can reduce the amount of food entering the waste stream.

For more information about composting, visit Penn State's Extension website at: <http://extension.psu.edu/backyard-composting/how-is-compost-made>.





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## AMBLER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT NEWS

Ambler owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant that serves all of the Borough and the Townships of Lower Gwynedd, Whitpain and Whitmarsh (also Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority owns Upper Dublin Township's collection system). Operating and Capital costs are shared by each of the municipalities based on their purchased capacity and connected population. In an effort to continue to meet discharge permit limits, the Borough, plant staff and plant engineer (Environmental



Engineering & Management Associates, Inc.) upgraded the first nitrification tower filter in 2012 and plan to do the same this year on the second nitrification tower filter. The process in the tower filters removes the ammonia as nitrogen in the wastewater prior to disinfection. The capital cost for each filter was budgeted at \$1.2 million dollars with cost shared by each municipality. Annual inspections are conducted by DEP relating to the operation and maintenance of the plant.

## AMBLER'S RAIN GARDENS CAMPAIGN

Contact the EAC and Join!



The Ambler Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) kicked off their multi-year Rain Garden Campaign in October 2012 with the installation of three residential rain gardens. Volunteers, homeowners and EAC members designed, built and planted rain gardens on several properties in Ambler Borough. And now, several rain storms later, the rain gardens are performing well. Once the native plants become established, these rain gardens will add beauty and function to these properties.

Why are rain gardens important? Stormwater runoff from urban areas increases flooding and may carry pollutants from streets, parking lots and even lawns into streams and lakes. Treating this polluted runoff leads to costly municipal improvements in stormwater treatment structures. Rain gardens, however, are less costly and more efficient at managing stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways and sidewalks associated with residential properties.

We are seeking interested homeowners to help us meet our goal of 100 Rain Gardens in the Borough! Interested homeowners can benefit from a variety of assistance and incentives for their rain garden, including:

- the EAC and partners will provide a site evaluation to determine the feasibility of a rain garden on your property;
- the EAC, through grants and sponsors, will provide native plants, mulch, stone and downspout extensions to support the installation and functioning of the rain garden;
- the EAC will assist in getting volunteers to help create the shallow depression, slope and berm which define a rain garden and, if you'd like, planting assistance as well; and,
- the EAC will provide Rain Garden workshops (attendance is mandatory) in the fall and spring throughout the Campaign, providing homeowners with the information needed to calculate the appropriate size and design of a rain garden.

What does the homeowner need to do? First contact the EAC at [Amblereac@gmail.com](mailto:Amblereac@gmail.com) with an expression of interest. An EAC member will get back to you with additional information. Once we contact you, you will then need to:

- provide property access to our technical partners to determine soil suitability;
- participate in a Rain Garden Workshop – the first workshop is March 23, 2013;
- read and agree to a Homeowner's Partnership Agreement;
- prepare a draft garden design and choose plants from a select list of native perennials;
- involve with other site preparation prior to your scheduled installation date.

The Ambler Rain Garden Campaign supports the Delaware Estuary and the Rain Gardens for the Bays Campaign. For more information, please visit [www.raingardensforthebays.org](http://www.raingardensforthebays.org).



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## WISSAHICKON STREAM CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 a.m.

Each year the Ambler Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) partners with Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) to bring volunteers down to the water. Due to high winds, stormwater runoff, flooding, and general recreational use our waterways collect debris and litter which may harm aquatic life, affect water quality and diminish the aesthetic quality of our streams.

Join the EAC in WVWA's 43rd Annual Creek Clean Up of the Wissahickon Creek and its local tributaries. Ambler volunteers will focus clean-up efforts on the Rose Valley and Tannery Run tributaries. Trash bags, gloves and other equipment will be provided. Volunteers should wear suitable clothing and shoes.

To volunteer, pre-register with EAC member Susan Johnson at [Amblereac@gmail.com](mailto:Amblereac@gmail.com). We will meet at the parking lot of Trax Restaurant at 9 am on Saturday, April 27. This event is suitable for all ages, so bring the whole family!



Following the cleanup, WVWA and Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW) invite all participants to attend the "Talkin' Trash" picnic at the Fort Washington State Park Mill Road Pavilion from 1:30am – 1:00pm.

## PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

**POLICY FOR USE OF PUBLIC PARKS** ~ Ambler Borough Council is working with the Police Chief to prepare a policy for the use of all of Ambler Borough's Parks. If you would like to hold an event at one of our parks, please contact the Borough receptionist to 'reserve a date' and become aware of any requirements and your responsibilities as host of an event.

### AMBLER AREA-KNIGHT PARK SUMMER CAMP

June 24th to August 2nd

Registration for the Ambler Area-Knight Park Summer Camp will be held at Borough Hall on Wednesday, May 8th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Please bring proof of residency. Camp will be held June 24 – August 2 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Parents may drop off children at 8:45 am. As of this publication date, drop off location has not yet been determined. Further details will be available during camp registration. Cost of camp is \$30 per child per week. Free Friday night swims at the YMCA are included.



### MOVIES IN THE PARKS

Borough Council's Parks & Recreation Committee will be scheduling three Movies in the Parks family events for this summer. Movies will be shown at Pickering Field, Ricciardi Park and Knight Park. Movie showing will begin at dusk. Be sure to bring your own snacks. Check back with the Borough's website and on the Gateway Sign at Ambler Savings Banks for movie titles, specific park information and scheduled dates.



### PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In 2013 the Public Works Department will be replacing the swing set at Ambler Borough Park. They also will be resurfacing the walking track at Ricciardi Park and pouring new concrete steps at the rear gate of the multi-purpose court. New park signs are being fabricated for Pickering Field and Knight Park.

## In Our Community



### SEPTA PRESERVES BUS ROUTE 94 – New Service Schedule

As a result of the loss of county funding, SEPTA held public hearings last Fall to consider discontinuing weekday evening and selected Saturday and Sunday trips on Bus Route 94 which connects Montgomery Mall and Chestnut Hill, serving Montgomery County Community College and Ambler. Based on public comments of riders, businesses, institutions and local governments, SEPTA re-evaluated the proposal and determined that Bus Route 94 service will continue. The new service plan which became effective February 17th retains trips that serve the needs of evening shift workers and Community College students. The last nighttime trips from Montgomery Mall and Montgomery County Community College are retained at or near the current time, allowing workers who close stores at the mall or who have evening classes to retain service. Some evening trip times are modified to allow for more efficient use of SEPTA buses and financial resources. Sunday service is scaled down to reflect retail opening and closing times, with limited midday service.

New Route 94 schedules are available at [www.septa.org](http://www.septa.org).



## WISSAHICKON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY 'A Center for Lifelong Learning'

209 Race St., Ambler. Mon-Thur 10 am – 9 pm and Fri-Sat 10 am – 5 pm.  
Please visit us at [www.wvpl.org](http://www.wvpl.org) or contact us at 215-646-1072 or 215-643-7775.

### MISS MICHELLE



Miss Michelle, children's librarian and singer/songwriter at the Wissahickon Library, has a new radio show on [www.montcoradio.com](http://www.montcoradio.com) Thursdays at 10:30 am. Click onto "Montcoradio, Where Music and Minds Meet" in red

on the right, and you can hear the show. Lots of children's music and the best stories around for kids. Listen to "Miss Michelle's Story Time" in the comfort of your home or school. We bring story time to you!



### Ambler Branch Events

- Children's Story Times** (Tues. @ 10:30am & Thurs. @ 4:30pm)
- Art with Benita, for preschoolers** (2nd Sat 10:30 am)
- Lego Club** (3rd Mon. 4:30pm)
- Art with Laura, for students in grades 3-6** (4th Sat. 10:30am)
- Homework Help** (Weekdays 3-5pm, for middle/high school students in Science & Math plus GRE for adults -- schedule at 215-646-1072)
- Beading Group** (1st & 3rd Mon @ 1pm)
- Book Discussion Group** (2nd Thurs @ 1:30pm)
- Tea & Scones Speaker Series on art, gardening, travel & history** (Tues @ 6:30pm-check website for dates)
- Movies with Meaning** (1st Mon Oct-May, email [lisahawkins410@comcast.net](mailto:lisahawkins410@comcast.net) to join)
- Dinner with the Author Series** – check website for dates, authors & books.
- Teen events** – check the website;
- Teen Advisory Board** – email [youth@wvpl.org](mailto:youth@wvpl.org) for info.
- Family History Research** email [conniebriggs@comcast.net](mailto:conniebriggs@comcast.net) to schedule an appointment.
- Science in the Summer in June**, check website when registration begins.
- Summer reading Club** for children & adults starts June.

### AMBLER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – 'Jack Moore, Conductor & Music Director'

P.O. Box 221, Ambler. Please visit us at [www.amblersymphony.org](http://www.amblersymphony.org)

Founded in 1951, the Ambler Symphony brings beautiful music to our community and provides an opportunity for local musicians to perform on stage. There are over 50 musicians in the Ambler Symphony under the direction of Jack Moore. Concert tickets are always available at the door. For general or subscriber information contact the Orchestra at [admin@AmblerSymphony.org](mailto:admin@AmblerSymphony.org).

**Friday, April 12, 2013**

**Wissahickon High School at 7:30 pm**

*Dmitri Shostakovich, Cello Concerto No. 1*  
*Robert Cafaro, cello*

*Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Symphony No. 7 in E-flat*

Philadelphia Orchestra cellist Robert Cafaro joins the Ambler Symphony for Shostakovich's virtuosic Cello Concerto No. 1. Tchaikovsky's "7th" is also on the program. A work that the composer began as a symphony, and later became his piano concerto No. 3. In the 1950's, Russian composer and musicologist Semyon Bogatyrev reassembled the music as a symphony.

**Friday, May 31, 2013**

**Wissahickon High School at 7:30 pm**

*Benjamin Britten, The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

This concert will feature Britten's work to introduce the instruments of the orchestra - to young and old. The program will conclude with popular favorites, and a salute to Broadway!

**Wednesday, June 5, 2013**

**Hope Lodge Outdoor Concert on the Lawn at 7:00 pm**

A delightful early evening of music on the lawn at Hope Lodge Historical Homestead in Fort Washington.

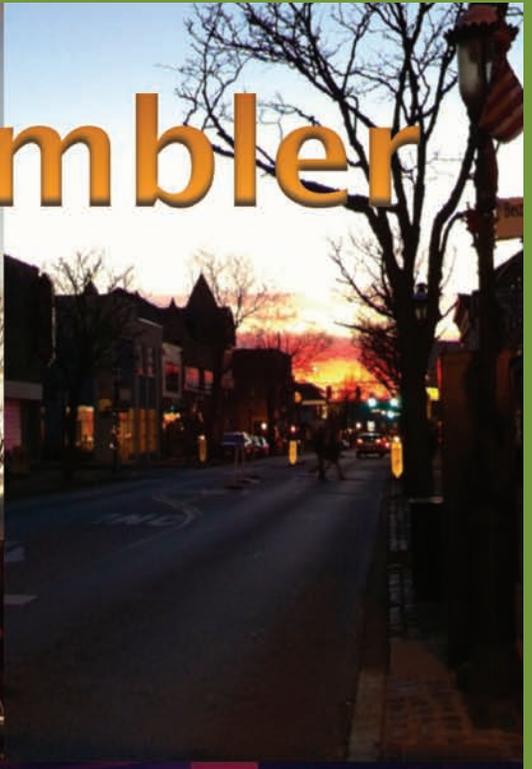
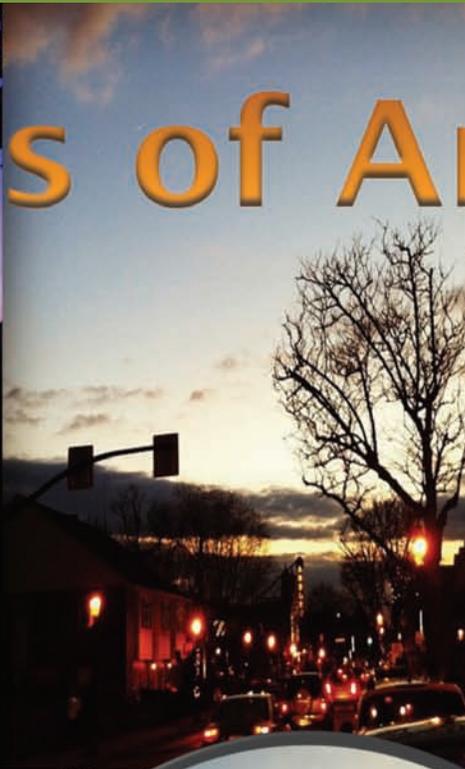
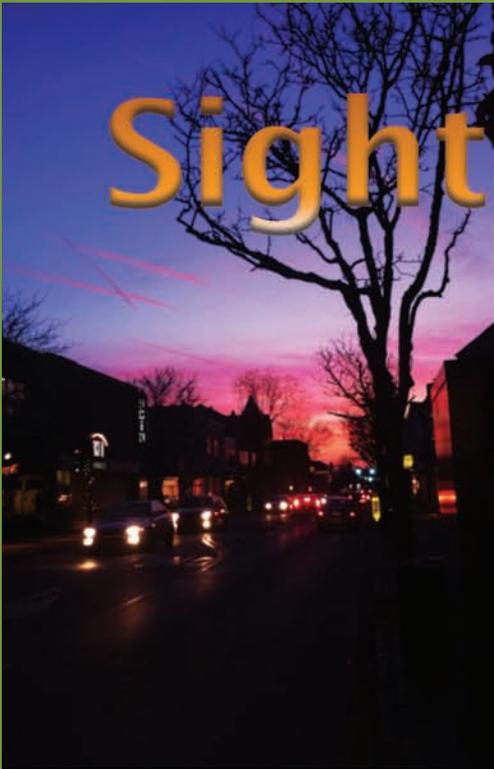
### MATTIE DIXON COMMUNITY CUPBOARD – 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors'

150 N. Main St., Ambler. Contact us at 215-628-3002. Please visit us at [www.community-cupboard.org](http://www.community-cupboard.org)

The mission of the Community Cupboard is to provide money, food, clothing, furniture and household items for people in need and to connect people in need with programs and agencies that can help meet their needs. Additionally, the Cupboard develops and advocates programs which strengthen families in stress. Donations are accepted Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Distribution hours are Mondays from 9:30 am until 11:30 am, and Thursday evenings and by appointment for emergencies. Photo ID with current address is required.



# Sights of Ambler





Every single one of these photos tell a story, and have a significant meaning behind them. They show the uniqueness and beauty Ambler holds within. As you can see from the photos, Ambler has both an exciting night life as well as having a large variety of things to do during the day including many restaurants to eat lunch, walks through the park or even catching an early movie at the Theater. Our town welcomes all and is a place where everyone can feel themselves.

These beautiful photos were taken and put together by Nicole Isabella and Bridget Vecchione for our Senior Graduation Project at Wissahickon High School. We were thrilled to have had this experience and enjoyed every second of working together to make these pages possible. We are hoping that in the future we will be able to do something again that has to deal with us working together, and acknowledging the beauty of our home town, Ambler. It was a pleasure.

Pg.1: Left to right-  
Main street during sunset, bagpipers at Holiday parade, Ambler movie theater, Caffé Maida, Council members and mayor in front of the Ambler Borough, Ambler skate park, Ambler Train station.

Pg. 2: Left to right  
Mermaid art studio, Main street night life, beautiful sunsets though town, San Francesco festival at Saint Josephs Church.

# In Our Community

## SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES CENTER (SAAC)

**'Live Full. Live Well. Live Long.'**

45 Forest Avenue, Ambler. Contact us at 215-619-8863.

Please visit us at [www.montcosaac.com](http://www.montcosaac.com)

The mission of the Montco SAAC is to involve, enrich and empower adults 50 years of age and better to live as independently as possible in our communities. Enrich your life, enhance your health, social life & mind and enjoy yourself by participating in our

### 'BOOMER EVENTS'

You are invited to join us  
**Saturday, April 13, 2013**

for the Annual Walk for Meals on Wheels on the campus of Montgomery County Community College.

Please visit

**"Outrunning Senior Hunger – One Meal at a Time"**

on our website and click on the event link.



## PLANT AMBLER

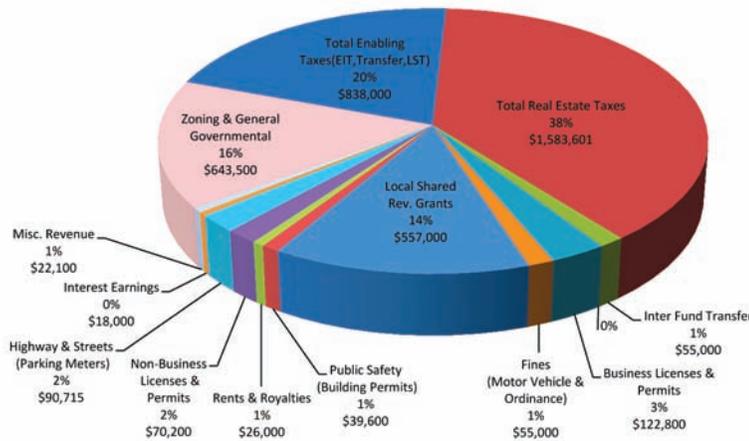
**'How Does Our Garden Grow?'**



Please contact us at 215-643-4929 for information about joining or donating.

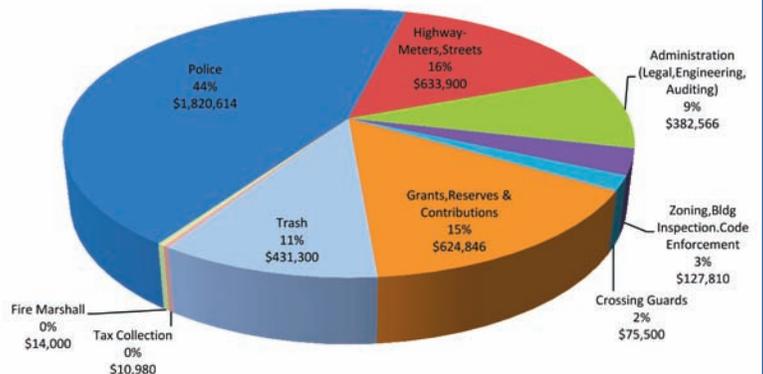
Plant Ambler is a group of volunteers who plant flowers throughout the Borough's business district. Volunteers plant the gardens, water, weed and clean out trash from the garden sites. Flowers are purchased through the financial support of community donors. The group is always seeking new members for the planting season.

Projected Revenue \*: \$4,121,516



## BOROUGH OF AMBLER

Budgeted Expenditures: \$4,121,516



## 2013 REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

\*Real Estate Tax Millage was increased for 2013 from 6.300 mills. A property assessed at \$171,800, for example, will realize an \$83 annual increase in the tax bills.

# NOTES FROM AMBLER BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

## PREVENTING IDENTITY THEFT

### Steps Toward Preventing Identity Theft



Preventing identity theft is a matter of being pro-active and always being vigilant. Your goal should be to limit other people's access to your information – or they will steal your life.

Identity theft costs banks and credit card companies over \$5 billion annually. Identity theft affects over half a million consumers every year. An average consumer victim will spend \$1,500 and 175 hours to unravel the mess created by identity theft. Remember, it will be your responsibility to correct credit card errors and restore your identity should identify theft occur.

While there is no foolproof prevention, there are common sense approaches which will protect you from identity theft under most conditions.

- **STEP 1. Guard your Social Security Number** – it is the prime target
- **STEP 2. Monitor your credit report from one of the credit reporting bureaus:**
  - \* Equifax 800-685-1111 [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
  - \* Experian 888-397-3742 [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
  - \* TransUnion 800-916-8800 [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
- **STEP 3. Buy a shredder and use it** – a cross-cut shredder is best
- **STEP 4. Watch what you put in your trash** – safeguard personal information
- **STEP 5. Remove your name from marketing lists**
- **STEP 6. Keep duplicate records** – copy both sides of wallet contents and safeguard
- **STEP 7. On the phone do not release personal information unless you placed the call**
- **STEP 8. Be aware of your surroundings using ATM cards, credit cards & pin numbers**
- **STEP 9. Monitor credit card, bank statement & financial accounts activity**
- **STEP 10. Mail payments from a safe location** – home mail boxes are not secure
- **STEP 11. Install secure-site firewall & virus protection software on your computer**

## PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDERS

### CALLING 9-1-1- FROM A CELL PHONE



The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety asks that anyone who calls 9-1-1 from a cellular phone in communities near the County border immediately state that “I’m calling from Montgomery County” when the call-taker answers the phone.

If the nearest cell tower to where the call is placed is across the border in a neighboring county, the call will be routed to the 9-1-1 centers in Philadelphia, Bucks, Berks, Chester or Delaware counties, depending on where the tower is located. The neighboring 9-1-1 centers will transfer the call to Montgomery County, but the time it takes to figure the actual location out, transfer the call and then supply the information about the incident again could make a difference in saving someone's life.

Stating “I’m calling from Montgomery County” at the outset will greatly reduce any delay in getting people the help they need. Using a landline to call 9-1-1 will result in the call automatically being routed to the proper call center.

### USE YOUR HEAD... WEAR A HELMET

As winter turns to spring, your child probably wants to take his or her bicycle, skateboard or scooter for a spin. Please take the following points into consideration before you allow your children to head out on their wheels. We want all of our residents, young and old, to protect themselves when heading out for a nice ride. Please use your head...and put on a helmet!



an estimated 75% of fatal head injuries and up to 45,000 head injuries to children who ride bikes each year.

- Each year, approximately 135 children die from bicycle-related injuries and more than 267,000 non-fatal bicycle injuries occur. Helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by 88%; however, only 15 to 25% of children 14 years and younger usually wear a bike helmet.
- A bike helmet is essential safety gear. Helmets could prevent

- Section 3510(a) of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code requires riders under age 12 to wear a helmet when operating or riding as a passenger on a bicycle. This law also includes passengers in a restraining seat attached to or trailer-towed by a bicycle. Violators may be subject to fines and costs.
- The cost of a bike helmet is minimal when weighing their benefit. While bike shops may carry more expensive models, discount retailers carry less expensive helmets that are equally protective.

## WISSAHICKON FIRE COMPANY

### 'Your All-Volunteer Firefighting Force'

The Wissahickon Fire Company protects the residents of Ambler Borough and Lower Gwynedd Township operating out of two fire stations with an all-volunteer department. Led by Chief John Leadbeater, the firefighting force consists of 85 volunteers who attend training every Monday night during the year from 7pm to 9pm. The apparatus fleet consists of 2 engines, a rescue engine, a 100ft ladder truck, a rescue truck, 2 boats and 4 support vehicles. In 2012, the fire company responded to 631 fire and rescue emergencies, an increase of 14 from 2011. With the dedication of these volunteers, our communities are assured the best protection available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Please support the Wissahickon Fire Company as we strive to protect every citizen with the most updated equipment and best trained firefighters in the region. Our annual fund drive, which you receive in the mail, supports the replacement of all our apparatus and the purchase of the best firefighting equipment on the market. Our annual Pasta Night in April continues to be a big hit in the community so come out and enjoy the fun in the fire station. Open house during fire prevention week in October teaches fire safety and kids enjoy a night with a firefighter.



## COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

### 'Excellence in Pre-Hospital Care'

Community Ambulance Association, Ambler is a non-profit organization that provides emergency medical services to the communities of Ambler Borough, Lower Gwynedd Township and Upper Dublin Township. Founded as a small volunteer organization in 1941, we help people in their time of need. Over the years, the demand for our services has increased so that we now supplement our volunteers with career staff to handle the volume of calls for service. Our original facility was located on Main Street in Ambler Borough. In 2003 we moved to our current larger facility on Butler Pike in the area of the Rt 309 Expressway.

We now respond to almost 3,000 emergency calls each year. We maintain a fleet of modern ambulances equipped with all of the equipment necessary to provide the high level of service that our community expects and deserves.

Our operating funds are provided by several sources: contributions from our municipalities, an annual subscription/membership drive, insurance billings and grants and donations from the community. Our annual



subscription/membership drive for 2013 began last September. If you did not receive an application or would like another copy, please call our business office (215-643-6517 x2) and request a copy.

Our annual drive is vital because it provides us with essential funds to help with the purchase of our ambulances and equipment, and it provides a benefit to you if you require our services. Any out-of-pocket balance remaining after insurance reimbursement is reduced by half for our subscribers/members.

This year, for the first time, we also are reaching out to our local business community for tax deductible contributions by launching our 2013 Business Campaign. As a thank you for these donations, we will provide a receipt and recognize the contributing businesses on our sign board and/or website. To join this campaign, please call our Executive Director at 215-643-6517 x211. In closing, we certainly hope that we never have to see you for an emergency but rest assured that we are ready to respond immediately, and provide "Excellence in Pre-Hospital Care" when you need us. Thank you for your support.

## REMEMBER: EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1

### CODE ENFORCEMENT NEWS

**HIGH WEEDS AND GRASS** - With the increased awareness of mosquitoes and the diseases that they potentially carry it has become critical to maintain a well groomed lawn at a certain height, 6 inches or less. Excess weed and grass growth promotes an atmosphere that mosquitoes and other unwanted insects thrive in. Let's help keep Ambler beautiful and safe by maintaining lawns at acceptable heights. Homeowners whose lawns exceed 6 inches are subject to a fine.

**YARD/GARAGE SALES** - Spring is on the way and along with yard clean-up many residents undertake basement and garage clean-outs -- these projects frequently create the need for yard/garage sales. A Borough permit is required if you intend to hold a yard sale. Please contact the Borough receptionist and stop by Borough Hall to obtain a permit. Signs are not permitted on utility poles.

**REFUSE STORAGE** - Refuse and garbage is to be stored in durable rust-resisting, non-absorbent, watertight and easily washable containers, which shall have close-fitting covers and adequate handles. Refuse/garbage should be placed in appropriate containers when set out for trash collection. While the Borough has provided residents with blue recycle roll-carts, it is the resident's responsibility to supply refuse/garbage containers. Garbage should not be stored outdoors in plastic bags.

**WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION TIPS**

West Nile Virus typically flares up in the summer and continues into the fall. When dealing with West Nile Virus, prevention is your best bet. Take the following common sense steps to reduce your risk of contracting the virus:



- Use Insect Repellent on exposed skin when you go outdoors. Use an EPA-registered repellent even for a short time outdoors.
- Wear Protective Clothing to reduce the chance of mosquito bites. Weather permitting, wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors.
- Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours since the peak biting time for many species of mosquitoes is between the hours of dusk to dawn.

- Drain Standing Water because mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Remove all stagnant water, including ponds, wading pools, old tires and birdbaths as these may become primary breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- Install or Repair Screens to prevent mosquitoes from coming indoors. You might offer to help a neighbor whose screens are in bad shape.
- Organize a Neighborhood Cleanup Day to pick up items that might contain water and encourage people to keep their yards free of standing water.

*Montgomery County is responsible for spraying of mosquitoes if conditions warrant.*

**WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS**

**HOUSTON ROAD WATER TANK**

Last fall the Ambler Borough Water Department undertook the recoating of Houston Road Water Tank, located near the Wissahickon Middle School. The \$500,000 project involved draining the 1M gallon tank, sandblasting, priming and coating the interior and priming and coating the exterior. In all, 920 gallons of special paint were used. Steel water tanks require recoating every 15 or 20 years. Three years ago the Broad Axe Tank was recoated. Loch Ash Tank, built in 2004, will require recoating in 2019-2024. The Ambler Borough Water Department thanks all of its customers for their patience during this undertaking.

*Thank You!*

*We thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and recognize each of them as contributors to our community. It is thanks to their advertising support that Hometown News has been produced at no additional charge to our Borough residents.*

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Boutique Owner

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C. 215-620-4207  
F. 215-641-4662  
60 E. Butler Avenue  
Ambler, PA 19002

[sewvintageboutique.com](http://sewvintageboutique.com)

# TRASH, RECYCLING & YARD WASTE

**Barnside Farm Compost Facility** reports that in 2012, leaf and yard waste tonnage received from this jurisdiction into their facility that was hauled by major haulers, contractors, landscapers and residents of Ambler is **54,908.75 tons**. Barnsides' compost is certified by the U.S. Composting Council.



## LEAF & YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Leaf & yard waste must be placed in unlined cans or brown paper recycle bags. Hedge and branch materials must be bundled and tied (1-inch diameter maximum, 3-foot length.) No grass clippings. All uncollected materials are to be stored on your property until scheduled pickup or may be dropped off at Barnside Farm Compost

Facility, 430 Dieber Rd., Schwenksville (call first 610-287-8880 or 610-888-7719). Collection dates are the 2nd Tuesday of each month, with additional dates in April & November.

### 2013 YARD WASTE COLLECTION DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

April 2	September 10
April 9	October 8
April 16	November 5
May 14	November 12
June 11	November 19
July 9	December 10
August 13	

## TRASH & RECYCLABLES COLLECTION

- Refuse/solid waste (trash) is to be placed in cans with lids which are provided by the resident.
- Recyclables are to be placed in blue rollcarts provided by the Borough – no sorting needed.
- Trash and recyclables are to be placed curbside no earlier than 4:30 p.m. Tuesday evening and no later than 6 a.m. Wednesday mornings.
- Contact the Borough receptionist Tara Jones by 10:00 a.m. the morning after trash pickup was scheduled if your trash or recyclables were not picked up. Tara can be reached at 215-646-1000 Ext. '0' or at receptionist@borough.ambler.pa.us. She will make every effort to reschedule pickup. If the hauler cannot make a return trip we ask you to remove your trash from the curb and store it until the following week. There will be no adjustment in quarterly trash bills in the event a weekly trash/recyclables pickup did not occur.
- If a collection day falls on a holiday, collection will be the day after.
- If a wheel or wheel assembly on your blue rollcart is broken, please contact Ruth at 215-646-1000 x111. The Borough has replacement wheels and will schedule to repair or replace the rollcart on site at no cost to you.
- One bulk item (mattress set, sofa, desk, etc.) is permitted each week. Call J.P. Mascaro & Sons at 1-800-432-1616 to arrange for 'white item' pickup.
- On January 24, 2013 The Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA) went into effect, imposing a disposal ban on televisions, desktop & laptop computers, computer monitors and computer peripherals. These items contain heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury. J.P. Mascaro & Sons no longer will take these items.
- For items containing FREON, visit the County's website for a list of companies that will remove Freon and dispose of your appliance for a fee -- [www.montgomerycountypa.org/recycling](http://www.montgomerycountypa.org/recycling) or call their hotline at 610-278-3618. At no cost to you, call PECO Smart Ideas (1-888-573-2672) for collection of working refrigerators & freezers.

Visit [www.montgomerycountypa.org/recycling](http://www.montgomerycountypa.org/recycling) for a complete list of 2013 hazardous waste and electronic waste collection sites and other County-related recycling news.

Visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) for informative articles on the latest in 'Waste-Less Living'.

**TIMOTHY J. EBNER**  
Owner

6 South Main Street (rear)  
Ambler, PA 19002  
(Driveway entrance on  
Butler Ave: Map on Back )

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Fax: 215-628-3910  
Email: [ebnersauto@juno.com](mailto:ebnersauto@juno.com)

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come near to you" James 4:8*

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*If it's service, it's us!*

# AMBLER MAIN STREET WILL BE IN FULL BLOOM THIS MAY!



## FIRST FRIDAYS IN AMBLER DEBUT FRIDAY, MAY 3RD!

Enjoy live music, a happening Kids Zone, wonderful shopping and great food in downtown Ambler.

[www.firstfridaysinambler.com](http://www.firstfridaysinambler.com)

## WELCOME THE AMBLER FARMERS' MARKET!!!

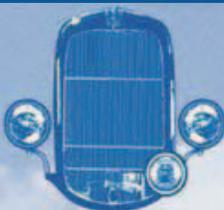
**THE MARKET WILL BE OPEN EVERY SATURDAY, 9AM-2PM**

in the SEPTA parking lot, adjacent to  
Trax Restaurant & Cafe.

The opening date will be announced as we get closer. Stay in the loop:  
[www.AmblerFarmersMarket.com](http://www.AmblerFarmersMarket.com)



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## 17TH ANNUAL AMBLER AUTO SHOW

Saturday, May 18th from 10am-3pm

~Rain date Sunday, May 19th ~

On Butler Avenue from Main Street to Lindenwold Avenue



## JUNE 14TH & 15TH

Please join Ambler Main Street and Ambler Rotary as we welcome the Ambler Arts & Music Festival, 2013!

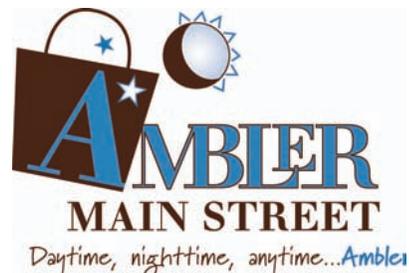
The MUSIC kicks off Friday night with special musical guests and the streets close Saturday to welcome the ARTISTS! The festival will feature a wonderful array of local art, including oils, watercolor, photography, sculpture, jewelry, wood working, and more! The musical talent will be diverse as well, something for everyone, offering music inside and outdoors as well stay tuned for more details...

[www.AmblerMainStreet.org](http://www.AmblerMainStreet.org)

## 2013 EVENT CALENDAR

May 3 ~ First Fridays begin  
(First Friday of each month through October)  
May 18 ~ Car Show (rain date, May 19)  
Early-Mid May ~ Ambler Farmers' Market  
(every Saturday through November)

June 14-15 ~ Arts & Music Festival  
July 21-28 ~ Ambler Restaurant Week  
August 3 ~ Dog Days  
October 5 ~ Oktoberfest (rain date, Oct 6)  
October 26 ~ Halloween Fun!  
December events TBA!





# Borough of Ambler Directory



**Ambler Borough Hall**  
 122 East Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA 19002-4476  
 215-646-1000 • Fax: Administration 215-641-1355 • Water 215-641-1921  
 Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (closed Federal holidays)  
 Website: [www.boroughofambler.com](http://www.boroughofambler.com)

**Mayor Charles “Bud” Wahl** [budwahl@verizon.net] • **Borough Manager Mary Aversa** [manager@borough.ambler.pa.us]

## 2013 AMBLER BOROUGH COUNCIL

### WARD 1

Peter A. Amento, Vice President  
 Thomas Kenney  
 Francine Tomlinson

### WARD 2

Patricia Strus  
 Claudio Zaccone

### WARD 3

Ed Curtis  
 Antonio Isabella, President  
 Salvatore Pasceri

## 2013 AMBLER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Public Safety Committee:	Mrs. Strus (Chairperson) & Mr. Curtis
Parks & Recreation Committee:	Mr. Curtis (Chairperson), Mr. Kenney & Ms. Tomlinson
Public Utilities Committee:	Mr. Amento (Chairperson), Mr. S. Pasceri & Mr. Zaccone
Finance & Planning Committee:	Mr. Kenney (Chairperson), Mrs. Strus & Ms. Tomlinson
Salary & Personnel Committee:	Mr. S. Pasceri (Chairperson), Mr. Amento & Mr. Zaccone

## LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY

**Representative Allyson Schwartz** (13th Cong. Dist.) • 801 Old York Rd, Suite 212, Jenkintown PA 19046 • (215)517-6572  
**State Senator Stewart Greenleaf** (12th District) • 711 York Road, Willow Grove PA 19090 • (215)657-7700  
**Honorable Todd Stephens** (151st District) • 515 Stump Road, North Wales PA 19454 • (215)368-5165

## PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

1st Tuesday	Council Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm (November meeting Wed., Nov. 6th) – Borough Hall
1st Thursday	Zoning Hearing Board (call for specific times) – Borough Hall
2nd Wednesday	Environmental Advisory Council – 7:00 pm – Borough Hall
3rd Tuesday	Council Meeting – 7:00 pm (May meeting Wed., May 22nd) – Borough Hall
3rd Thursday	Ambler Junior Baseball – 7:30 pm – Borough Hall
4th Tuesday	Planning Commission – 7:00 pm (except Nov/Dec held December 10th) – Borough Hall
Last Monday	NAACP – 7:30 pm – Borough Hall
Last Tuesday	Ambler Main Street – 5:30 pm – Borough Hall

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS – Police, Fire, Rescue, Ambulance 9 – 1 – 1**

## NON-EMERGENCY & DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Ambler Police – Chief William Foley  
 215-646-1000 (8 am - 4:30 pm); 610-635-4304 after hours  
 Wissahickon Fire Co. 215-635-4343  
 Fire Marshall Rich Lockhart – 215-646-1000 ext. 122  
 Community Ambulance 610-635-4341  
 Water Department Supervisor Philip Benigno  
 215-646-1000 X124 [pbenigno@borough.ambler.pa.us]  
 Water Billing – 215-646-1000 (Cheryl x110 or Ruth x111)  
 Water Emergency – 215-646-1000 follow prompts

Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor  
 Bruce Jones – 215-628-9457 [bjones@borough.ambler.pa.us]  
 Code Enforcement Officer Ron Myers 215-646-1000 ext 112  
 [rmyers@borough.ambler.pa.us]  
 Public Works Supervisor Bob Rocco 215-628-9409  
 (leave message or call 215-646-1000 '0' Receptionist)  
 Manager's Assistant Elizabeth Russell 215-646-1000 ext 114  
 [erussell@borough.ambler.pa.us]  
 Finance Mgr. Bernard Wojciechowski 215-646-1000 ext 107  
 [bwojciechowski@borough.ambler.pa.us]

## VOTER INFORMATION – Primary Election – May 21, 2013 / General Election – November 5, 2013

AMBLER WARD 1	-	WISSAHICKON FIRE COMPANY, 245 Race Street
AMBLER WARD 2	-	MONTCO SAAC CENTER, 45 Forest Avenue
AMBLER WARD 3	-	CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH, 16 E. Park Avenue

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**Bobbi Ann Helmich**

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Sun 7:15, 9:15 & 11:15 am Confessions Sat 4-5 pm

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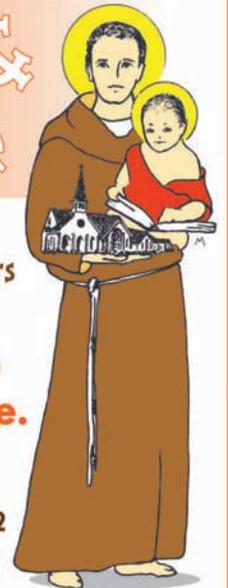
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