



Presented by Ambler Borough

# Home Town News

April 2007



## New Developments Proposed for Ambler's Rail Corridor



The Crossings at Ambler (condo lofts) and The Boiler House (offices) are to be located far behind the BP gasoline station on Butler Avenue and Maple Avenue. Station Square (townhomes) will be sited near Knight Park on South Main Street.

## News from Council President

**"Parks and Recreation** Preliminary plans are underway to provide an indoor facility that can be used for the Knight Park YMCA program. For this year we are planning to move the summer program from Knight Park to the Mattison Avenue School. The school will provide a safer environment and still be a convenient location for area residents to bring their children. Look for details coming soon for signing up. Flyers will be sent home from school with details. Only children of Ambler residents can participate.

The residents that live near Pickering field will have some relief from parking and traffic congestion. Ambler Junior Baseball will stagger start times for games. Traffic studies have been done and are being evaluated by our police department. At the same time baseball and related activities for children will continue for the 2007 season. Trees and shrubs will be added this spring to beautify the field. People are working together for the common good!

**Public Safety** Did you know that most child abductions occur near school bus stops? The public safety committee in coordination with the police is looking into a program where citizens can get involved in watching out for our children leaving bus stops and walking home from school. A watchful community is a huge deterrent for possible predators. Let's send a message that we are watching our children in Ambler. Look for further details to come in 'Operation Angel Watch'."

Anita O'Hara Pieri



Did you know?  
119 years ago, Ambler became a borough.  
(September 7, 1888)

♦ **ALL residences and buildings MUST have addresses clearly marked in front, with at least 3 inch tall numbers, so that emergency crews can read them from the street.**



## Inside this issue:

Environmental Corner	2
Recycling, Tree News	2
Main Street News	3
Borough Reminders	4
Music, Seniors, Library	4

- ♦ **Street Sweeping** resumes Monday April 2nd.
- ♦ **Spring Leaf Pickup**  
Place your yard waste out on these Monday nights:  
Monday April 9  
Monday April 16  
Monday April 30

Pickup happens on Tuesdays. Store leaves in cans or brown paper recycling bags. No plastic.

- ♦ **Fall Leaf Pickup**  
Set leaves out on Monday nights:  
November 5, 12, 19 and Dec. 3

## Knight Park Summer Camp

Register from 5pm to 7pm on the following Wednesdays:  
Borough Hall on Wednesday, May 9  
Knight Park on Wednesday, May 30

## Borough Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 31  
Begins at 10AM, Borough Park,  
Raindate is Saturday, April 7.

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

**RESIDENTS &  
BUSINESSES OF  
AMBLER BOROUGH**



## Environmental Corner

### Ambler's Storm Water Management Program

#### 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.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

9am to 3pm on 5 Saturdays No Latex Paint, Propane Tanks

Info: 610-278-3618 www.wsaemc.org Try Recycling or HHW.

April 21 Indian Valley Middle School, Harleysville

May 26 Hatboro-Horsham High School

June 30 Norristown Area High School

August 11 Perkiomen Valley Middle School, Collegetown

October 27 Lower Merion Transfer Station, Narberth



Bring **Automotive Products** like motor oil; **Household Products** like cleaners, fluorescent tubes; **Paint Products** like oil based paints, thinner; **Miscellaneous** like pool chemicals, dyes, computer equipment, cell phones, cameras, copiers, fax machines, scanners, mercury devices.

### Community Tree Planting

Saturday, April 14

Planting of 65 shade trees is scheduled from 9am to noon. Meet at Knight Park: 8:30am. Trees help clean the air and water, slow runoff, and cool the air in summer, resulting in energy savings. They add

beauty, help to stabilize hillsides and stream banks, create a pleasant environment for shoppers, and increase property values. To help plant these trees call 215-591-1551.



### Best Tree Care Practices

**Choose** the right tree for the right place. Check wires overhead. **Call PA One Call** and get results before digging. **Water** new trees thoroughly once a week if no rain. **Mulch** to retain moisture, forming a donut shape of 2-4" depth, not a dome. Consult a fully insured certified arborist to **prune**. Arborists know expert ways to remove dead, diseased or rubbing branches, leaving a raised area (collar) near leaders. They avoid a round off or "topping", which tends to damage the tree and cost more in the long term. **Avoid paving** on or compacting tree roots. After 2 years **remove stakes and cords** that may scar trees.



## Ambler Main Street

[www.amblermainstreet.org](http://www.amblermainstreet.org) 215-641-1070

Volunteers always welcomed! Please join us.

Daytime, nighttime, anytime...Ambler!



## Coming Events

### **National spotlight on Ambler**

Downtown Ambler will be in the spotlight when Philadelphia hosts the American Planning Association's National Planning Conference from April 14 through 18. Noted as one of three 'distinctive downtowns,' Ambler will be part of a mobile workshop called "Keeping Downtowns Vibrant." Participants will tour Chestnut Hill, Keswick Village, and Ambler on Monday, April 16 to discuss different lessons learned in each distinctive downtown. Bernadette Dougherty, Ambler Main Street Manager, is a speaker.

### **\$25 First Thursdays in Ambler**

"The Taste of the Town" progressive dinner includes a taste of an appetizer at one restaurant, a taste of one or two items for an entrée at another, a taste of dessert at a third culinary establishment, and a movie at the Ambler Theater. Drinks and gratuities are not included.

**When:** First Thursday of every month. Ticket sales are between 6 PM and 7 PM.

**Where:** Ambler Movie Theater to purchase your tickets / 108 East Butler Avenue.

### **Auto Show**

See more than 200 quality cars displayed on Butler Avenue, complete with car show prizes and trophies for People's Choice, Top 50, Best of Show, and Sponsor trophies.

**When:** May 20, 2007 **Where:** Butler Avenue, from Lindenwold to Main Street.

### **Victorian Tea Party**

Hosted at the Artman Lutheran Home, the annual Tea Party is a perfect "ladies day out" sharing tea sandwiches and petits fours and a guest speaker with a hands-on mini project to create.

**When:** May 27, 2007 **Where:** Artman, 250 N. Bethlehem Pike.

### **Wissahickon Pops**

FREE outdoor concert by the school district's talented musicians.

**When:** 7 to 8 p.m. on July 24, 2007 **Where:** Ambler Savings Bank parking lot.

### **Dog Days of Summer**

Parade down Butler Avenue with your dogs, compete for prizes that include longest tail, best stupid pet trick, and best dressed. Proceeds support Pet Rescue Services.

**When:** August 18, 2007 **Where:** Butler Avenue, from Lindenwold to Cavalier Drive.

### **Oktoberfest**

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Oktoberfest will be our biggest event ever. Enjoy great music and German dancers, food, kids' rides, original art work, and fine hand-crafted items, with an expanded Musicfest.

**When:** September 30, 2007 **Where:** Butler Avenue, from Lindenwold to Main St.

### **More than 100 years in Business**

McFarland's bicycle and leather repair shop closes its doors after more than 100 years in business.

David W. McFarland's father, William McFarland, opened the leather repair store in 1905, and added bicycle repairs to its services. "I enjoyed coming to work everyday. I loved the shop," says David.

"And you'll still see me around Ambler. I have to keep coming back to walk around and see the people I know."



**Ambler Main Street**, a non-profit organization involving more than 100 volunteers, is dedicated to making "Downtown Ambler" a vital social, cultural and business center for Ambler and the surrounding area.

## Presented by Ambler Borough

122 East Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA 19002  
Phone 215-646-1000  
Fax 215-641-1355  
Email: HomeTownNews@borough.ambler.pa.us  
Web: www.ambler.pa.us  
Compiled by David Morgan

### Enrolling Your Child in Kindergarten

Wissahickon School District Dates--

If the child is 5 years old before  
September 1, 2007, go to:

Mattison Avenue School-April 18, 27



Lower Gwynedd School-April  
23, 26, or May 3. Info:  
215-619-8000 ext 3009.

## Reminders from the Manager

- ◆ **Call before you dig:** 1-800-242-1776. *PA One Call* locates underground utilities. Visit [www.paonecall.com](http://www.paonecall.com).
- ◆ **Quiet Hours:** 10pm to 6am.
- ◆ **Set trash out** after 4:30pm. Next day, collect cans by 8pm.
- ◆ **Grass** should be no higher than 6".

### Ambler Symphony

#### **2nd Subscription Concert**

Wednesday, April 11th, 8pm at  
Wissahickon High School Auditorium. Sibelius's *Violin Concerto*

with Paul Roby of the Philadelphia  
Orchestra, and Beethoven's

#### **Symphony No. 3. Pops Concert**

**(3rd Subscription)** Friday, May  
18th, 8pm at WHS. **Hope Lodge  
Concert** Wednesday, June 20th at  
7pm. Call 215-503-2256 or visit  
[www.amblersymphony.org](http://www.amblersymphony.org).

### WREN Grant Awarded to Ambler EAC

Homeowners who have property near streams may request free assessment of their trees and backyard landscaping. This project, Open Water Protection, is from a League of Women Voters grant. It will provide best streamside management practices to prevent flooding and erosion. Call for your free consultation: 215-591-1551.

### Senior Adult Activities Center

New on Monday nights at 7pm is Line Dancing. Come and enjoy exercise programs like armchair aerobics, Tai Chi, plus billiards and cards, Monday through Friday. The center is sited at the corner of Forest Ave. and North Spring Garden St. Please call 215-619-8863 for info or to volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program.



### Events at the Library

209 Race Street; 215-646-1072.



#### **Children Story Time with Guitar Music by Miss Michelle**

Tuesdays at 4:30pm; also Wednesdays at 10:30am (except 2nd Wed.); Thursdays at 10:30am. Get book bags (trucks, princess)!

Segal Puppet Theatre presents "Bartholomew Bear's Moon Misadventure" on **Tuesday, April 10** at 7:00pm. This version of Frank Asch's story "Mooncake" includes songs and action.

Summer Readers' Club registration begins on Tuesday, May 1.

**Adults** Beading Group 1st and 3rd Mondays at 12:30pm. Woman's Spiritual Journey on selected Mondays at 7:30pm to 9pm. Writers' Group every Wednesday 7pm-8:30pm. Daytime Book Group 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. Men's Book Group at 7:30pm same day. **Many groups enjoy our library!**

The Ambler Friends of the Library are contributing to a digital version of the *Ambler Gazette*, as well as the "Tea and Scones" speaker series. Join the Friends to support our library.

"The Houses of Fairmount Park" by Philadelphia Museum of Art on **Tuesday April 17**. Slides and lecture.

6:30pm Scones; 7:00pm Program.

Herb shed trip in May. **Lois McMullen, Head Librarian**