

Borough of

AMBLER

HOMETOWN NEWS

FALL/WINTER 2013



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Dear Residents & Friends:

Throughout the region, there are communities that have preserved their history, their character and their main street charm. Each is unique, yet all are wonderful places to live, work and play! Ambler is abundant with opportunities for everyone. Ambler is always exciting.



NEW SIGHTS – Ambler Boiler House, Bottom Dollar Food Store and, in the design stage, the new Ambler Savings Bank building. . .



NEW TASTES – 34 East Tavern, El Limone, Café Feliz, and, on the horizon and opening soon, The Lucky Well.



NEW SOUNDS – Ambler's Arts & Music Festival Committee already is making plans for the 2014 event.

We all love this community, and the people in it. Ambler is an amazing place to live.

Mary Aversa
Ambler Borough Manager





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How to Maintain an Eco-Friendly Lawn

A good lawn is made up of sun, seed, water and fertilizer. If classified as a crop, lawns would rank as the fifth largest in the country on the basis of area after corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay.

Early fall is the best time for sowing grass. The soil is warm, but daytime temperatures are moderate, making watering less of a problem, and the weeds won't grow. And although watering your lawn helps it to grow and flourish, doing so can flush the herbicides and fertilizer off your lawn, down into the street and where it can enter our local creeks and streams.

Homeowners and businesses can achieve an attractive lawn without the use of pesticides, which can be tracked throughout your home or establishment. Pesticide runoff can contaminate drinking water supplies with chemicals toxic to humans, pets, and living organisms in our streams.

Organic fertilizers are a viable alternative. Pesticides that are put on your lawn can be tracked into your home and carpet. Organic fertilizers release nutrients slowly over time to provide long term nutrition, improve soil condition, and encourage soil life. For example, Corn Gluten Meal is an alternative product with proven success as an herbicide that will kill many weeds, including crabgrass, before they emerge.

How do you get a healthy lawn and yard that is friendly to our drinking water and streams?

- Maintain a dense, healthy cover of turf grass. In addition to looking good, research shows that this dense cover of turf grass reduces runoff and helps storm water infiltrate into the ground.
- When you mow, mulch your grass clippings and leaves into the lawn. Clippings and leaves contain nutrients that help to feed your lawn.
- Keep clippings and leaves out of the street, gutters and storm drains where they can continue to pollute streams.
- Mulching helps prevent weeds where turf is absent. Use a 3-inch deep layer of mulch. Mulch keeps soil moist, prevents erosion, and smothers weeds
- Mix peat moss or compost into soil before planting to help the soil retain water. Use terraces and retaining walls to reduce water runoff from sloped yards.
- Apply fertilizers when the grass has greened up and is growing in the spring. Don't apply fertilizers after the grass has stopped growing in the fall. Organic fertilizers should be applied at least twice a season, around Memorial Day and around Labor Day.
- Mow at a height of 3 inches or higher. The higher grass develops deeper roots, making it less susceptible to drought. Tall grass also helps to crowd out weeds by shading the soil.
- Do not apply fertilizer near streams or other waterways, where it could run into the water after a rain storm. Do not fertilize when rain is expected. It will wash the newly applied fertilizer into the streams.
- Consider planting areas along a stream with a meadow, perennial or wooded buffer.





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Winter Pollution Prevention Practices



The Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association is working with municipalities to improve the local environment and quality of life in the Wissahickon Watershed by raising awareness about stormwater runoff pollution prevention. Stormwater pollution is a major source of water pollution in urban and suburban streams. The Watershed encourages homeowners and residents to follow these simple practices at home during the winter weather months to prevent stormwater pollution:

- **Shovel snow** to remove it from paved surfaces before applying snow melt and deicing products. Keep gutters and drainage paths clear to prevent eventual snowmelt from icing.
- **Pile shoveled snow downslope of paved surfaces** to prevent icing conditions on pavement as snow melts and refreezes. Shovel snow onto lawn and garden areas so it can soak into the ground, and do so before applying salt and deicing products so as not to damage vegetated areas.
- **Limit the use of toxic deicing products** on sidewalks and driveways since they can readily flow into storm drains and streams as snow melts. When these products dissolve they can seep into groundwater and flow into streams where they impair water quality, diminish soil fertility, damage plants and harm aquatic life.
- **When possible avoid products containing chloride (Cl)**, including salt. Cl is a pollutant in fresh water streams, rivers and lakes where fresh fish and aquatic organisms are not adapted to salty or saline conditions. Use environmentally-friendly alternatives such as clean clay cat litter, sand or fireplace/stove ash.
- **Take a 'snow day' and work at home** or postpone errands to avoid trips on the road. Give the Highway Departments time to clear roads safely, possibly without the need for excessive treating due to decreased traffic volume.

- **After the snow melts**, sweep up all residual sand, grit or litter to prevent accumulation in the streets and to prevent clogged storm drains/culverts. This helps limit sediment pollution in the streams.

Refer to Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (<http://www.wvwa.org/>) and Ambler Borough (<http://www.boroughofambler.com/other-web-resources/>) for more information.



FOR THE LATEST IN 'WASTE-LESS LIVING' AND FOR INFORMATIVE ECO-MYSTERY ARTICLES SUCH AS "I BROKE A CFL. NOW WHAT?" VISIT WWW.EARTH911.COM. EARTH911 FEATURES DIY ARTICLES FOR HOME & GARDEN, FOR WORK [HOW ABOUT 'FUEL-SAVING APPS FOR YOUR COMMUTE'], AS WELL AS ON FOOD, HEALTH, STYLE AND A&E.



10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly



For more information, visit
www.epa.gov/nps or
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

ON TOUR THIS FALL

The Ambler 100 Rain Gardens Campaign

The Ambler 100 Rain Gardens Campaign will be rocking and rolling this fall with our first annual Rain Garden Tour to be held on Sunday, October 20, 2013 beginning at 1:00 PM. The two-hour guided walking tour will feature six rain gardens in the Borough, planted in the last year. Homeowners will be present to share their experiences and the tour leader will provide an overview of the campaign and answer any questions. A map of all the rain gardens in the Borough will be available should participants wish to travel to other parts of the Borough to view additional Campaign rain gardens. Tour participants are invited to RSVP to Amblereac@gmail.com by October 15th. Or, join us at 1:00 PM at 338 Tennis Avenue to begin the tour. Refreshments and door prizes will round out the afternoon.



A Rain Garden At Work

The rain gardens help to manage stormwater from rooftops and driveways. Each garden captures the rain during a storm event and holds it temporarily before soaking into the ground. As a result, the rain water is reused onsite rather than running off to the street, ultimately reaching the Wissahickon Creek. Rain gardens help to reduce stormwater volume and potential pollutants from damaging our local creeks and affecting water quality. Rain garden also add beauty to your property and attract birds and butterflies to flowering native plants.

To join the Ambler 100 Rain Gardens Campaign, please contact the EAC at Amblereac@gmail.com. Please visit www.stormwaterpa.org/raingarden for a short video featuring the Ambler 100 Rain Gardens Campaign!

Join the Ambler 100 Rain Gardens Campaign

After a successful launch of the campaign in the Fall of 2012, homeowners across the Borough are signing up for Ambler's Environmental Advisory Council rain garden campaign. To date, volunteers have installed seven rain gardens. Another six rain gardens are planned for the fall of 2013. We are seeking more interested homeowners and volunteers for the spring 2014 installation season. Please contact Amblereac@gmail.com for more information.

The EAC successfully garnered a \$5000 grant from the Water Resources Education Network (WREN), a PA League of Women Voters program. The grant enables the EAC to offer great incentives to homeowners interested in building their own rain garden. The EAC provides site evaluations, design assistance, and offers a range of native plants at no or little cost to the homeowner. The EAC also provides volunteers to help dig and plant the rain garden, if desired. The average size of the Ambler rain gardens is 200 sq. ft.



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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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NOTES FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT - Chief William Foley

SENIOR SAFETY

SECURE YOUR HOME AGAINST FALLS:

Over 1½ million seniors are treated in emergency rooms each year for fall-related injuries. More than 1/3 of adults over age 65 fall each year. Among seniors, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths.

- **WALKWAYS** - Clear pathways inside and out & make sure they are even and well-lit. Clear clutter from the floor and make sure carpeting is secure to the floor.
- **DOORS** - Be able to see visitors before you open the door. Have or install a garage door opener.
- **STAIRS** - Stairs should have railings. Keep each staircase well-lit.
- **BATHROOM** - Use bath rugs with rubber mats. Walk-in showers should be equipped with skid protectors on the floor and grab bars on the walls. Make sure the bathroom door can be unlocked from the outside.
- **LIGHTING** - As we age we need more light to see properly. Add lights where you need them, including in stairways and halls. Place nightlights where you traffic regularly.
- **DEVELOP A PLAN** - Develop a home modification plan for independent senior living.



OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Do not give out any personal information over the phone to anyone you do not know or trust.
- Consider putting yourself on a no-call list. Ambler Borough maintains a 'No Solicitation' list that prohibits door-to-door sales at your address. Contact the Borough Receptionist, Tara, to be placed on the list.
- Buddy systems allow your friends and family know where you are and what you are doing.
- Acquire a medical alert device so you can get help if you get injured and cannot get to the phone.
- Let the police department know if you live alone.

MAIL SCAMS & LOTTERY WINNER NOTIFICATIONS!



PLEASE BE AWARE of stepped up activity in regards to **LOTTERY WINNING AND RANDOM DRAWING CONTESTS**. These scams generally originate overseas or in the island nations. Notifications reveal that you have been chosen from thousands of people to receive a cash reward. In some cases they may even send you a check that might be for thousands of dollars. You are given instructions to cash the check and keep the money. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE** and banks will not honor these checks. The scammer's idea is to open the door and gain your confidence through a series of attempts to persuade you to cooperate with them - they intend to gain your personal information and account numbers - they will obtain this information if you endorse that check! **SEEMINGLY ALL IS ON THE UP AND UP BUT IT IS THE FARTHEST FROM THE TRUTH.** When you receive these notifications via mail or

computer do not acknowledge that you received the notice. **DO NOT REPLY** or investigate yourself because they will then be able to get your particular Email or mailing address and will bombard you with additional personal attempts. **DO NOT GIVE** them your telephone number or fill in any questionnaire. **Contact Ambler Police (Non-Emergency: 215-646-1000) if notices persist other than receiving an occasional notice.**

**EBNER'S AUTO**
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NOTES FROM COMMUNITY AMBULANCE

Community Ambulance Association of Ambler has received a grant from the University of Pennsylvania Health System HeartRescue Project. The grant funds are earmarked to offset the costs to provide CPR and AED training to groups and organizations within our coverage area. Depending on the number of interested groups, classes will be offered at either a reduced cost or at no cost. The program will run through June 2014, or until the grant funds are depleted. *To schedule classes, please contact CAAA's Training Coordinator, Ron Wilson, at 215-643-6517, ext. 8.*



NOTES FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT



CARBON MONOXIDE – The Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide (CO) is present in low levels in the air – formed from any non-electric flamed fuel device found in the home, including furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, grills and water heaters. If these devices are not vented properly, the carbon monoxide will escape into your home. The CO results from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil, gasoline, kerosene, propane and wood. Carbon monoxide poisoning is the leading cause of accidental death in America.

In-Law Suite Homeowners Take Note – Apartments above Garages

HELP PREVENT THE BUILD-UP OF CARBON MONOXIDE IN YOUR HOME:

- Install carbon monoxide detectors. You should have a CO detector installed in the basement near the heater.
- Never run a vehicle or generator indoors, even if the garage doors are open.
- Never leave your vehicle running when it is parked in snow.
- Have your furnace, water heaters, stove or other gas-burning devices inspected regularly.
- Have your chimneys inspected by a professional.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Open a window slightly whenever using a kerosene or gas heater.
- Only use barbeque grills outside – never in the home or garage.

TAX TIPS FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

- Your Wissahickon School District taxes are due by August 31 if you want to save 2%.
- Your Wissahickon School District taxes are due by October 31 if you want to avoid a 10% penalty.
- If you pay your Wissahickon School District taxes through three installments, the first coupon was due by July 31, the second coupon by September 15 and the third coupon by October 31. PLEASE DON'T FORGET!
- You will receive a Homestead reduction of a couple hundred dollars off your Wissahickon School District tax bill if your home is your primary residence and if you complete and mail in a form at the Montgomery County website <http://montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/1162>. No computer...just call the County at 610-278-3761 for a Homestead reduction form.
- You will receive a receipt for your tax payment if you send in a self-addressed stamped envelope.
- More questions? Call your Tax Collector Bernadette Dougherty at 215-643-3255.



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NOTES FROM WISSAHICKON FIRE COMPANY - Chief John Leadbeater



October 6 – 12

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - Open House at the Fire House

Monday, October 7th at 5:00 pm

245 East Race Street

REMEMBER: EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1 • NON-EMERGENCY DIAL 215-646-1266

General Home Safety Information

1. Plan and practice escape routes **BEFORE** there is a fire. Hold fire drills at least twice a year.
2. Decide on a designated meeting spot **OUTSIDE** of your home for family members evacuating the home.
3. Know at least two unobstructed exits (including windows) from each room in the house (where possible).
4. Keep **ALL** combustible materials and flammable liquids **AWAY** from furnaces and water heaters.
5. Obtain **TOT FINDER** decals and affix them on outside windows of children's rooms and to the bottom corner of interior doors to children's rooms. You can also use these decals to mark the location of bed-ridden family members.
6. **ALWAYS** get out of the house first if you suspect a problem. **THEN** call 911.
7. Store gasoline in an **APPROVED METAL CONTAINER** with a spring-loaded flapper on the spout.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT NEWS



The Borough of Ambler's wastewater treatment continues with the trickling filter media replacement (\$1.2 million) in nitrification tower filter T-1 as referenced in the last issue of Home Town News. Ambler WWTP also conducts maintenance on process units such as the anaerobic digesters which digest sludge that is pumped in on a daily basis. The picture shows the walls of one of the digesters which is 37 feet in diameter and 29 feet deep with a capacity of 234,450 gallons. This digester is one of five digesters in the plant that are cleaned out and rehabilitated every 5-7 years (\$155,000 each).

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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. For streetlight outages, please try to obtain the pole number. This will help us to more quickly relay the information to schedule a repair.

STREET SWEEPING – Street sweeping ends Friday, November 29th.

STORMY OR WINTER WEATHER – Please help us keep curbs and storm drains clear of debris in anticipation of severe storm. Be sure to clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours after snow stops. Please clear fire hydrants and street corners. Do not blow snow into the street.



Ambler Main Street is so thankful for the support of our members, without them, our community events would not be possible. Please be sure to show your support by patronizing these fantastic businesses!

A big thank you to:



AMBLER MAIN STREET MEMBERS

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Armario
Tattoo Galaxy
No Bare Walls Framing Studio
Ambler Eye Associates
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Ambler Main Street proudly presents:

www.AmblerMainStreet.org



Ambler Farmers' Market ~ Saturdays, through October

www.AmblerFarmersMarket.com

First Fridays in Ambler ~ Friday, October 4th

www.FirstFridaysinAmbler.com



OKTOBERFEST ~ Saturday, October 5th

This is an Ambler event not to be missed! Live music, great food and drinks, fun for the entire family.

Halloween Stroll ~ Saturday, October 26

Small Business Saturday ~ November 30

Do your holiday shopping in Ambler and show your support for our local small businesses!



Holiday Parade ~ Saturday, December 7

Santa by Train ~ Thursday evening, December 12

Also, Ambler Restaurant Week returns in January!

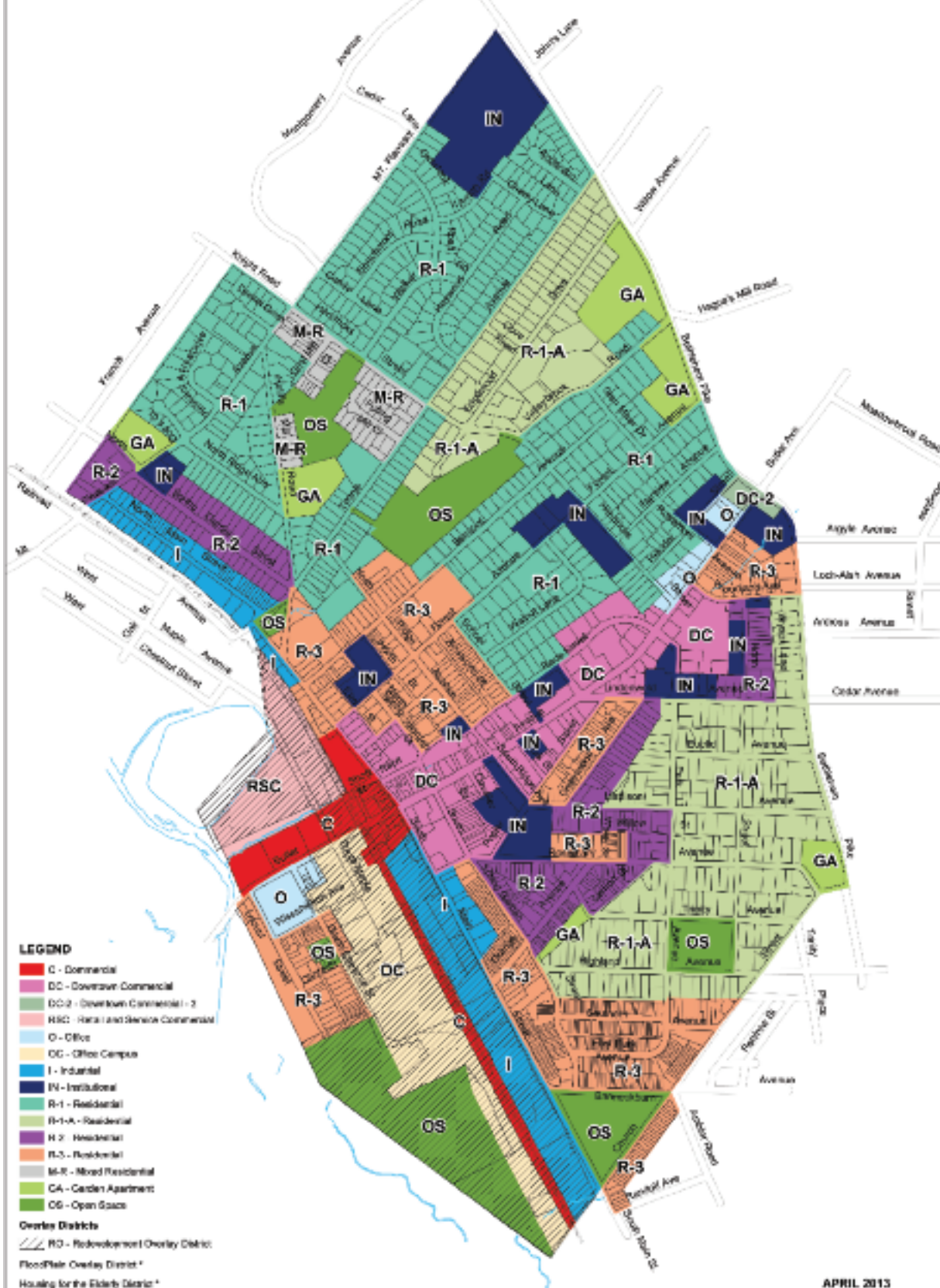
Ambler Main Street is a non-profit organization comprised entirely of volunteers, if you would like to get involved, let us know!

info@amblermainstreet.org

Or, please visit our website to make a donation. Thank you!

AMBLER BOROUGH ZONING DISTRICT MAP

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania



* Refer to the Zoning Ordinance for District Locations

Note: This map is for informational purposes and is not a legal document.

APRIL 2013

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WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

PROTECTING DRINKING WATER

Everyone Can Play a Part in Protecting Drinking Water

MEDICINES: The Right Way to Throw Away

Medicines that are disposed of improperly can not only be a safety hazard to the community, but can adversely impact our drinking water sources. Do not flush unwanted medicines – both prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can harm the environment. If you need to throw away any medicines you no longer want, please do so the right way.

Here's how:

1. Remove and destroy all labels from medicine bottles or use a marker to cross out your name, the doctor's name and Rx number.
2. Remove the lid from an empty coffee can or other container.
3. Add coffee grounds or kitty litter to the container. Do not overfill.
4. Open the medicine bottle and dump the pills, tablets or liquid into the same container.
5. Place a lid on the container to seal it.
6. Throw the sealed container into the household trash.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) coordinates National Drug Take Back Days when you can drop off unwanted prescription drugs at safe and convenient locations. The next scheduled Take Back Days are to be held Saturday, October 26, 2013. Refer to the Borough website after October 1st to locate collection sites near you.

SPILL RESPONSE: What a "Water Supply Area" Sign Means for Motorists

As you drive around the state of Pennsylvania, you may have noticed "Water Supply Area – Spill Response Dial 911" signs on major highways and heavily used local roads. These signs are intended to alert motorists to the presence of a drinking water supply area. Source water, which is the untreated water from creeks, streams, lakes, rivers, wells, springs and reservoirs, is collected by a water system and once treated, becomes the community's drinking water. Source water is susceptible to contaminants caused by an accident or a spill on a roadway. It is essential for emergency personnel to respond quickly to a spill event. Motorists can help protect our water supply by quickly reporting spills along the roadways to 911.

How can you help keep drinking water clean and safe?

- Call 911 immediately if you see an accident or a spill on a roadway. Let them know if there is a spill involved.
- Call the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at 866-255-5158 immediately if you observe a chemical spill.
- Never pour oil on the ground or in a storm drain. Dispose of used motor oil at a garage that will recycle it. Check your vehicle regularly for fluid leaks.
- Properly dispose of hazardous household waste. Visit www.earth911.com or call 1-800-CLEANUP.

WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS: Every year the Water Department publishes its Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, designed to inform customers about the quality of the water we deliver to you every day. The 2012 Consumer Confidence Report is available on the Borough website.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT DISCOLORED WATER: Water can become discolored due to a fire hydrant being opened or in the event of a water main break. In the event this happens, DO NOT OPEN THE HOT WATER SIDE OF YOUR FAUCET because this will bring the discolored water into the hot water tank. Run the COLD water side of your faucet only for several minutes. Continue to repeat this process until the water runs clear. If the problem persists, contact the Water Department at 215-646-1000 Ext. 110 or 111.

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. Please access the Swiftreach icon located on the Borough's website homepage or call the Borough or send an E-mail to erussell@borough.ambler.pa.us.



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Fax: 215-643-2737
Cell: 215-498-1729
175 Rosemary Ave.
Ambler, PA 19002

A photograph of a red sports car, likely a BMW, parked on a road.

WATER BILL CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Online credit card and E-check payments are now accepted for water bills. Please visit the Borough's homepage at www.boroughofambler.com and click on "Pay Your Water Bill." A convenience fee will be charged to customers using credit cards. You may also pay in person with personal check, cash or Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. 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 lot.



WATER LINE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Ambler Borough now offers a lateral water line protection plan to our Ambler Borough Water residential customers.

Did you know that the pipe that carries water from the curb to your house is on your property -- and the pipe is owned by you? If a leak or break in this line occurs you are responsible for the cost of the repair.

With coverage from the Water Line Protection Plan, if anything happens to your water service line from the point at which it crosses the outer vertical wall of the residence to the point at which it reaches the property boundary, we'll take care of it. The Plan is offered to residential customers, specifically single family dwelling and residential properties with four or fewer units on the same water meter with 5/8" to 1" water service lines.

The cost is \$100 for a one year's protection and covers repair or replace costs for up to two repairs per year, \$3,500 per break maximum, capped at \$7,000 per year. The offering date is effective one month from enrollment in the plan with your verification/acceptance by Ambler Borough as a qualifying water customer. A one year contract will be issued upon your acceptance.

Water Line Protection Plan Application

Name: _____

Water Service Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Phone: _____ Check No. _____

Signature: _____

Mail completed application with check for \$100 payable to "Ambler Borough" to:

Ambler Borough

Attn: Water Line Protection Plan

122 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler PA 19002

PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDERS

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is Monday, October 31st and our little ghosts and goblins will be out in force knocking on doors for trick or treat. Halloween is a fun night for our children, so let's help keep them safe. Reflective costumes, florescent accessories, glow sticks and flash lights provide an extra element of fun and can easily be seen by motorists. As a reminder to motorists – masks and make-up may limit childrens' visibility, so please slow down, be cautious and anticipate that an excited child might dart out into the street. A little extra time for you to get where you are going can really make a difference. Let's all be safe and have a Happy Halloween.



SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTER DRIVING



Always buckle up.....Never drink and drive.....Stay home during a snowstorm unless travel is absolutely necessary.....Leave earlier to allow plenty of time to get to your destination.....Inspect tires and keep tires properly inflated.....Inspect wipers and wiper blades.....Keep your gas tank full.....Make sure vehicle defrosters are in good operating condition.....Replace windshield washer fluid with non-freezing type fluids that perform better.....Totally clear snow from the whole vehicle, not just the windshield.....Turn on headlights and flashers as needed especially during small squalls.....Turn on your headlights when windshield wipers are on.....Slow down and don't tailgate to avoid accidents, skidding and sliding.....Anticipate gusting winds and snowdrifts.....Avoid distractions such as cell phones, radio or climate control devices as well as eating and smoking.....Give snowplows plenty of space.....Watch for PennDOT information on electronic message boards and listen to weather radio for road conditions and traffic updates.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

WISSAHICKON VALLEY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (WVVA)

12 Morris Road, Ambler



The WVVA was founded in 1957 by a committed group of local leaders to address concerns of flooding by the Wissahickon Creek. The mission of the WVVA is to protect the quality and beauty of the Wissahickon Creek, to maintain open space and natural areas and to enhance all life in the Watershed. The Green Ribbon Trail is a natural 21-mile trail that follows the Wissahickon Creek from North Wales to the Schuylkill River. For 17 years, hikers, runners and outdoors adventurers have enjoyed autumn's splendor as they walk through this trail corridor the woods, meadows and field. The WVVA is a member-supported organization. Individuals, foundations and businesses all fund conservation efforts. Members provide support for land acquisition and maintenance. Visit www.wvva.org or call 215-646-8866 for membership and special event information.

Green Ribbon Trail Events



Take a WALK ON THE WILD SIDE – October 6th – and set out on the Upper Wissahickon Hike (5 or 8 miles, you decide) or go for the Challenge Hike (13 or 21 miles). Contact the Watershed for registration & fee information.

Take the GREEN RIBBON TRAIL CHALLENGE – November 2nd - trail runners undertake a 5-mile looped course. Race is capped at 300 runners, so contact the WVVA for registration & fee information.

WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

799 Skipack Pike at School Road, Blue Bell 215-646-6541



Founded in 1975, The Wissahickon Historical Society's purpose is to preserve the local historical buildings, artifacts and folklore of the historic Wissahickon Valley. The WVHS is headquartered in the historic 1895 Whitpain Public School building. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its unique architecture and for its role in education. The building houses a library and museum of local artifacts. Membership to the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society is open to all.

Tours of the Whitpain Public School 1895 building are on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 1 to 4 p.m., and by appointment. Volunteer member guides will be available to give tours. The Schoolhouse is usually staffed and open every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the library is open to the public by appointment.

The public is welcomed to attend the Fall Flea Market to be held at the 1895 Schoolhouse on October 12, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (raindate Oct. 13).



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

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.'

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

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. Donations are accepted Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Distribution hours are Mondays from 9:30 am - 11:30 am, and Thursday evenings and for emergencies by appointment only. Photo ID with current address is required.



WISSAHICKON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

'A Center for Lifelong Learning'

209 Race Street, Ambler. Mon-Thur 10 am – 9 pm & Fri-Sat 10 am – 5 pm.

Please visit us at www.wvpl.org or contact us at 215-646-1072 or 215-643-7775.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. When you show your library card to participating local businesses during the month of September, you will receive a discount or modest gift. Look for the posters listing businesses in the Ambler area. If you don't have a library card, stop in and walk out with a new card, it's easy.

Geek the Library.org is a new campaign going on through the fall and into next year. It's designed to show that the library is both helpful & valuable. Everyone has something they are passionate about, something they "geek." Whatever you geek, serious or fun, the public library supports you! Stop in, sign a Geek poster and be part of the campaign. Visit www.GeekTheLibrary.org or check the library's website www.wvpl.org.

Miss Michelle sings and plays guitar weekly for kids and care givers! She's written her own songs. She's been on the radio. Come hear Miss Michelle on Tuesdays at 10:30 and Thursdays at 4:30. Everyone hears fun stories, sings and has a good time.

Creative adult programs planned for the fall by Mrs. Lois McMullen include: Wednesday, September 18 @ 1 PM an art presentation on Warli and Other Indian Folk Art. On Tuesday night, October 15 @ 6:30 PM the program is Pride and Prejudice, Past, Present, and Future, focusing on Jane Austen. Tuesday night October 22nd offers Great Art & Great Stories. Tuesday night, November 19 the presentation is 2013 Herb of the Year: The Elderberry. The evening programs have Tea & Scones at 6:30 PM and the Program begins at 7 PM. Mrs. McMullen has an afternoon program in December. On Tuesday, December 17 @ 1:30 PM the Women of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts series continues.



Did you know that you can use www.wvpl.org to:

-  Borrow eBooks for your Kindle, Nook or tablet computer?
-  Borrow eAudio Books for your iPod, MP3 player or smart phone?
-  Search Consumer Reports online?
-  Learn a new language using Mango Languages?
-  View & listen to animated story books with the kids through Tumble Book Library?

AMBLER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - 'Jack Moore, Conductor & Music Director'

Founded in 1951, the Ambler Symphony Orchestra performs a spectacular mix of classical, modern, and pop music for the surrounding community. The symphony performs three Friday night concerts at the Wissahickon High School during their regular season. In addition, they take part in a community concert and carol sing-along at the Ambler Theater in early December, and an outdoor concert each June at the Hope Lodge grounds. They also provide a stage for some of the area's most talented young people in the Menges Scholarship Concert, held at the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church in late February of each year. At other points during the year the orchestra performs at Shannondell, while a brass quintet consisting of orchestra members can be heard at the Ambler Octoberfest and other local celebrations.

Over 50 musicians donate their time and energy to creating wonderful and exciting musical experiences for the Ambler area. Concerts are not limited to the best-known orchestral pieces, but have taken on a challenging and exciting repertoire under the music direction of Jack Moore. Many fans of the orchestra look forward to the Menges Concerts, as the performers, who are all in their teens, go through a rigorous audition process to gain the scholarship rewards and the opportunity to play a solo performance with the full symphony orchestra.

Tickets for all concerts are available at the door. The concert dates and descriptions are available by visiting the orchestra website at www.amblersymphony.org. The Orchestra currently has openings for all strings, percussion and French horns. See our website or contact the orchestra at PO Box 221, Ambler, PA 19002.

AMBLER CHORAL SOCIETY

In 1979, choir members from various Ambler churches joined in a performance of Handel's Messiah. Many of the singers decided to continue as a group and formed the Ambler Community Singers, which in 1996 was renamed the Ambler Choral Society. Mark Daugherty became the Artistic Director in 1985 and ACS continues today under his direction, performing many staples of the choral repertoire, including classical, musical theater and Americana.

The Ambler Choral Society season consists of two concerts each year at the Church of the Open Door, along with various public charitable appearances. Concerts during the current season will be held on December 1, 2013 and April 27, 2014. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from September through April, excluding December. *Anyone wishing to join may contact us at www.amblerchoralsociety.org and Ambler, Choral Society, PO Box 134, Ambler, PA 19002.*



'Conductor & Musical Director Jack Moore introduces the Ambler Symphony at the Kimmel Center.'

A FOND FAREWELL FROM THE FINANCE MANAGER

Back in 1988, I was an unemployed banker. I was fortunate enough to call Martin Brown at Ambler Savings & Loan in response to an ad for an Accounting Supervisor. He hired me and thus began a long relationship with the Borough of Ambler.

I spent 17 years at Ambler Savings. And they were fruitful years, spent working with all the various departments, and most of all, the friendly, professional people within the bank. I learned a lot about a small town bank and the friendly relationships established with customers, a hallmark of Ambler Savings.

The bank grew and progressed over the years, as did the town. The Renaissance began when the Ambler Theater was reborn. The remodeling and leadership of the theater brought a run-down movie theater into the 21st Century; and pulled the town of Ambler right along with it. Gone were the empty store-fronts and in their place, restaurants sprang up, a community playhouse was born, and most of all, a changed attitude in a re-awakened Ambler. Witnessing this revival and playing some small role has made me proud to work in Ambler for 25 years.

In 2006, I moved across the street to Ambler Borough. This further immersed me in the daily heartbeat of the community. As Finance Manager, preparing an annual budget caused me to consider many aspects of the income and expenses associated with a governing body. The Borough of Ambler is blessed with a Council and Borough Management, along with a dedicated staff. This 100% commitment by the employees is another one of the reasons why the Borough is flourishing.

Being on solid ground, financially, has put Ambler above many other municipalities (cities too) in the state. No bailouts have been needed, and our Borough pension plan is well funded and up to date. So, even though it has been necessary to raise taxes over the years, the result is a viable local government. Residents of the Borough should appreciate a government entity that listens to its citizens. Progress has been made in all phases of service: water, street paving and lighting, road signs, parks and recreation, trash, waste water treatment, and the police department. And now we can look forward to the opening of a new Bottom Dollar Supermarket in the near future.

Ambler has been good to me and my family. Both of my employers have had a heart when family problems or issues needed to be resolved – and that is much appreciated. I thank everyone who has touched my life, for I am a better person because of these friends and associates. When I retire and leave Ambler at the end of December, it will be with a happy heart and a very fond farewell.

Bernie Wojciechowski
Ambler Borough Finance Manager

VOTING & ELECTIONS

GENERAL ELECTION 2013

General Election Date: November 5, 2013 • Registration Deadline: October 7, 2013 • Absentee Ballot Request Deadline: October 29, 2013

On Election Day, voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID to vote at the polls. Voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote, provided the voter otherwise meets the identification requirements for first-time voters. Preexisting first-time voter identification requirements are still in effect. Voters without proof of identification should continue to make preparations to obtain acceptable proof of ID. Residents may obtain both Registration Forms and Absentee Ballot Request Forms at the Ambler Borough Office reception desk. Please refer to the Directory page in this issue of Hometown News for a list of polling places or go to www.votespa.com and click on "Where is My Polling Place?" to obtain your polling location.



LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

On May 8, 2013 the PA Supreme Court unanimously upheld Pennsylvania's latest redistricting plan. The revised maps will take effect for the next statewide elections in 2014. Redistricting occurs once every 10 years. Because the maps were thrown out in 2012, this year state House and Senate candidates are running on maps from 2001. The redrawn maps faced challenges from state Senate Democrats and residents throughout the state. In its ruling, the state Supreme Court said the new maps comply with the state constitution. Further, the Court rejected the legislative Reapportionment Commission's original plan in January 2012, agreeing with objections that the maps split up municipalities.



ABOUT THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT

The Magisterial District Courts of Montgomery County serve as the initial tier of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System. Montgomery County maintains 30 courts with an elected Magisterial District Judge presiding over each of the individual courts. The District Courts maintain jurisdiction over criminal arraignments and preliminary hearings, summary criminal offenses, traffic offenses, municipal code violations, landlord / tenant suits and civil claims where damages do not exceed \$12,000. Magisterial District Judge Patricia A. Zaffarano presides over Montgomery County District Court 38-1-10. The District Court is located at 1301 S. Bethlehem Pike, Ambler, PA 19002.

RESIDENTIAL TRASH, RECYCLING & YARD WASTE



REFUSE & SOLID WASTE COLLECTION: All solid waste, recyclables & yard waste should be placed curbside no later than 6 A.M. the day of your scheduled pickup. Refuse/solid waste is to be placed in cans with lids provided by the resident. Litter and debris can attract unwanted pests. Also, litter and debris can clog storm drains. Keep trash and recyclables covered. PLEASE DO NOT LITTER.

RECYCLABLES COLLECTION: Recyclables are to be placed in the blue rollcart provided by the Borough. All items listed that are recyclable can be mixed together and placed in this cart – NO SORTING NEEDED. Recycle newspapers, inserts & junk mail, magazines, catalogs & envelopes, paper back books & phone books, cardboard & clean pizza boxes, office & school papers (including colored paper), boxboard (cereal, cake & cracker boxes); paper egg cartons, paper bags, aluminum cans & clean foil; tin & empty steel aerosol cans, empty glass jars & bottles, and all plastic containers labeled 1-7.

DO NOT PUT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THIS CART: NO garbage, NO plastic bags, NO food or tainted waste, NO polystyrene cups or plates, NO motor oil or hazardous chemical containers, NO plastic toys or sporting goods, NO electronics or batteries, NO compact discs or DVDs, NO foam egg cartons or ice cream containers, NO light bulbs, hangers or yard waste.

BULK WASTE COLLECTION: One bulky item (mattress, desk, etc.) per household is permitted each week. No Tires, No TVs or Computers. Call J.P. Mascaro & Sons at 1-800-432-1616 for "white" item pickup. For items containing Freon (refrigerator only) visit Montgomery County's website www.montgomerycountymc.org or call 610-278-3618 for a list of companies that will remove Freon and dispose of the appliance for a fee. At no cost to you, call PECO Smart Ideas (1-888-573-2672) for collection of working frigs & freezers (10-30 cuft). Please note, resident must be on site at time of scheduled PECO pick-up.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION: (including Christmas trees in January) Yard waste is collected the second Tuesday of each month, with additional weekly pick-ups spring and fall. Yard waste is to be stored on your property until scheduled pickup. Yard waste shall be placed in paper bags or unlined trash cans or may be bundled with twine. No plastic bags. Yard waste includes leaves, branches & branch materials, twig material, vine & hedge trimmings. No grass clippings. Residents may also bring yard waste to Barnside Farm Compost Facility, 430 Dieber Rd., Schwenksville. You must call first at 610-287-8880 or 610-888-7719.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS & E-WASTE COLLECTION: Our carrier DOES NOT ACCEPT certain hazardous waste materials. NO DUMPING ALLOWED. Please refer to the County's website, www.montgomerycountymc.org for a list of hazardous waste and electronic waste collection sites and for other County recycling news.

Ambler Borough Residential Trash & Recyclables Collection

September 2013	October	November	December
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 H 3 4 5 8 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 H 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 H 26 27 28 29 30 31
January 2014	February	March	April
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
May	June	July	August
Su M Tu W Th F Sa 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 H 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

■ Trash ■ Recycle ■ Yard Waste ■ Holiday



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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

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

Paul Dooley
 Patricia Strus
 Claudio Zaccone

WARD 3

Ed Curtis
 Antonio Isabella, President
 Salvatore Pasceri

2013 AMBLER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Public Safety Committee:	Mrs. Strus (Chairperson), Mr. Dooley & 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

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

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

1st TuesdayBorough Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm (November meeting Wed., Nov. 6) – Borough Hall
 1st Thursday.....Zoning Hearing Board (call for specific times) – Borough Hall
 2nd WednesdayEnvironmental Advisory Council – 7:00 pm - Borough Hall
 3rd TuesdayBorough Council Meeting – 7:00 pm – Borough Hall
 3rd Thursday.....Ambler Junior Baseball – 7:30 pm – Borough Hall
 4th TuesdayPlanning Commission – 7:00 pm (except Nov/Dec held December 10) – Borough Hall
 Last MondayNAACP – 7:30 pm – Borough Hall
 Last TuesdayAmbler 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 (8:00-4:30pm); 610-635-4304 after hours
 Wissahickon Fire Co. 215-635-4343 Fire Marshall Rick 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)
 Finance Manager Bernard Wojciechowski 215-646-1000 x107 [bwojciechowski@borough.ambler.pa.us]
 Manager’s Assistant Elizabeth Russell 215-646-1000 ext 114 [erussell@borough.ambler.pa.us]
 Borough Receptionist Tara Jones 215-646-1000 dial “0”

VOTER INFORMATION: 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

TO DETERMINE WHERE YOU SHOULD VOTE GO TO WWW.MONTCOPA.ORG/VOTER SERVICES



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Bobbi Ann Helmich



Anthony M. Serrao, Agent

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Ambler, PA 19002-4417
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FAX (215) 542-0646
www.anthonyserrao.com



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Sun 7:15, 9:15 & 11:15 am Confessions Sat 4-5 pm
215-646-4742 259 Forest Ave. Ambler PA 19002



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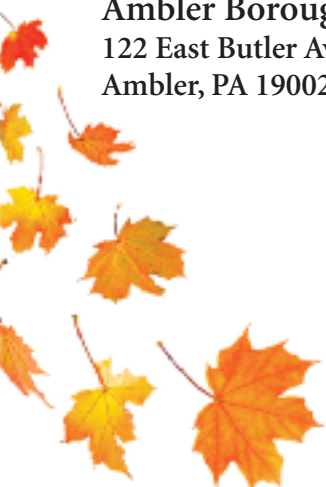
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