



Our Community, Our Neighborhood, Our Town

ABERDEEN UPDATE

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'Cutting edge technology' Aberdeen P.D. adds license plate readers

Assisted by homeland security and regional task force grants, Aberdeen Township will increase the technological reach of law enforcement with the installation of Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs), Chief of Police John T. Powers announced. ALPRs involve the use of specialized cameras and software that recognize, capture and record images of license plates, with the technology deployed in and around critical infrastructure and other key locations. The installation became operational in December.

"It's cutting-edge technology," said Powers. "The information we gather is uploaded onto the county database—the Sheriff's office has an in-house ALPR server—and is then available county-wide for investigators who might be looking for a particular vehicle. It also allows us to manage amber and silver alerts." Through the program, the department participates in an ALPR Working Group comprised of state, regional, county and local law enforcement and technology representatives.

Consisting of three, trunk-mounted camera units and associated hardware and

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H.A.M. finds a new home in former EMS building



Councilman Greg Cannon (left) discusses planned renovation of the former EMS facility in Cliffwood with (l. to r.) Recreation Director Jim Colabelli, Acting H.A.M. Program Director Jenna Vecchione, Aberdeen PBA VP Craig Hausmann, PBA State Delegate Edgar Serrano, Deputy Mayor Margaret Montone and Councilman Robert Swindle.

The H.A.M. Therapeutic Recreation Program, which provides a variety of educational and social activities for the developmentally disabled, will now have a new, expanded home at Aberdeen's former EMS facility at 651 Prospect Avenue in Cliffwood.

The Bayshore organization—whose name is an acronym for Hazlet, Holmdel, Aberdeen and Matawan—has been operating out of a small classroom in Matawan and had outgrown it, noted Aberdeen Township Manager Holly Reycraft. The Prospect Avenue building became vacant with the privatization of EMS, and ownership was initially transferred to the Aberdeen Patrolmen's Benevolent Association as a facility for their meetings. Now, ownership has been transferred to Aberdeen Township for H.A.M.'s headquarters and general community uses, including fundraisers and programs for seniors.

"Credit the PBA," said Reycraft. "They

saw that we were interested in the building, and they wanted to keep it in the community. We were all on the same page as far as making it a community building. After they agreed to transfer the ownership to the township, the PBA did all of the legwork and cut out a lot of work for us to make it happen. They will still be able to use the building for their meetings."

Aberdeen has received a \$73,000 grant from Monmouth County to complete upgrades on the 5,700-square-foot building, which occupies a prime 1.34-acre site. That work will include general repairs and updates, a new parking lot, upgrades on the restrooms and doorways, and other improvements to make the building ADA-compliant, according to Reycraft.

H.A.M.—which was founded in 1980 as part of the Aberdeen recreation department and subsequently expanded its services to disabled residents of the

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Volunteer profile:

Huza looks back on 22 years with Aberdeen environmental board

After 22 years as a member of the Aberdeen Township Environmental and Shade Tree Advisory Board, Frank Huza has retired from the organization whose purpose is to provide guidance and information to the Township Council on matters involving environmental issues affecting residents.

An Aberdeen resident since 1983, Huza joined the board in 1992 after a chance meeting with then board chair Adeline Arnold at Cliffwood Beach. Arnold, who was taking part in the board's beach cleanup, asked Huza, an avid fisherman, to speak to her members about the types of fish found in the waters off Cliffwood Beach. Huza attended the next meeting, marking the beginning of a long association with the group for which he had served as vice chairman before becoming chairman upon Arnold's retirement in 2007.

The Environmental and Shade Tree Advisory Board consists of five members, two alternates, as well as two non-voting advisory positions open to Matawan Regional High School students. In addition to monitoring environmental issues affecting residents, the board reviews the environmental aspects of site plans for proposed developments, conducts a twice yearly clean-up of Cliffwood Beach, and runs the annual Family Fishing Contest,

organized by Huza.

Reflecting on his time with the Environmental Board, Huza points to the transformation of the Cliffwood Beachfront into a recreational area that attracts large numbers of families as one of the group's proudest accomplishments. The other is residents' increased participation in curbside recycling, something that Huza is passionate about. In 2008, continuing the group's efforts to boost recycling rates in Aberdeen, Huza and fellow board member Michele Devanny addressed the Township Council with a presentation that demonstrated how much income could be generated if greater numbers of residents participated in the recycling program.



Huza credits fishing for bringing him to the Environmental Board.

"As evidenced by the growing number of containers filled with newspapers, mixed paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and metal put out on the twice-monthly recycling days, Aberdeen residents clearly understand the environmental and financial benefits of this program," says Huza. "It heartens me to see how seriously people take this."

Although he has stepped down from his post on the Environmental Board, Huza remains active with the environmental community, serving as a program naturalist for the Monmouth County Park System.

"Through his involvement with the Environmental and Shade Tree Advisory Board, Frank has played a major role in the greening of Aberdeen," said Mayor Fred Tagliarini. "From working to increase participation in our town's recycling program to the preservation of our trees and the popular annual family fishing contest, Frank has left his mark on Aberdeen. I would like to thank him for his efforts and unselfish dedication to the community." ■

Putting the brakes on distracted driving

Throughout October, the Aberdeen Township Police Department participated in Unplugged and Alive, a distracted driving awareness initiative sponsored by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Monmouth County Police Chiefs Association.

Rather than issuing summonses to drivers observed texting or using handheld mobile devices, township police officers issued warning notices to the drivers, who were then instructed to go to the campaign website, www.unpluggedandalive.com, within 15 days and view the informational video. The police department was notified of those who failed to view the video and summonses were issued. According to Sgt. Matthew Lloyd, traffic safety supervisor, a total of 271 drivers received warning notices and 251 viewed the video.

"Drivers are four-times as likely to get into a serious car crash when using a handheld device while driving," said Lloyd. "We urge all drivers, regardless of whether or not they received warnings, to visit the website and 'Take the Pledge' not to text or talk on a cell phone without a hands-free device." ■

Cutting edge tech (con't)

software, the department's ALPR installation checks vehicle license plates against FBI, New Jersey DMV and local hotlists for suspended and wanted drivers, stolen plates or vehicles, and expired plates. Combined, the three units are capable of scanning up to 3,600 plates per hour.

The total cost of the system is \$26,600, including additional warranty years, but a pair of grants reduced the township's outlay to approximately \$7,700. "We had budgeted for it and had every intention of moving forward to purchase it," Powers noted. "However, we became aware that there might be grant funding under homeland security for municipalities with some critical infrastructure, and we submitted the portions of the Aberdeen/Matawan Train Station that are situated in Aberdeen." Both platforms and approxi-

mately half of the station's parking area are located in Aberdeen, and qualified as critical infrastructure, earning a \$13,900 county homeland security grant toward the system's purchase. Aberdeen's installation also qualified for a \$5,000 reimbursement from the Bayshore Task Force.

The ALPR installation follows a pattern of technology upgrades by the Aberdeen Police Department. "We have done a number of things over the years, and this is one more step," said Powers. Most recently, the department purchased a new live-scan digital fingerprinting system. "It is an upgrade of a system that we had purchased several years ago, but could no longer be supported. We've gotten away from the old ink and fingerprint cards," he explained, adding: "It's our intention to continue to upgrade all facets of our technology as necessary." ■

Despite rain, Aberdeen Day 2014 a big hit

Rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm on Aberdeen Day 2014. While activities scheduled for later in the day and evening had to be cancelled or rescheduled, the event, coordinated by the Aberdeen Recreation Department and Aberdeen Economic Business Council, was still a success, drawing large crowds to the main celebration at Matawan Regional High School and the food tastings sponsored by DeMarco's and Livoti's at the Route 34 shopping centers. This year, for the first time, travel between the venues was facilitated by a free trolley service sponsored by Quality 1st Basement Systems, with participants shuttled from the parking area at the Aberdeen-Matawan Train Station. ■

A- Free children's rides, a classic car show, entertainment, and displays by area businesses, non-profits and crafters, brought large crowds to the main event at the high school.

B- Aberdeen Day started with a morning fishing contest that attracted anglers of all ages.

C- The newest addition to Aberdeen Day, free trolley service between all event locations, made traveling around town quick and easy.

D- Aberdeen firefighters competed in an event demonstrating the amount of time it takes to suit up.

E- A reptile show, petting zoo, pony rides and other attractions brought smiles to the faces of Aberdeen Day's youngest guests.



Avoiding sewer system backups

Aberdeen makes every effort to ensure that its sewer system is in working order. However, there are times when the system will not function properly. The most common cause is when residents and businesses place items into the sewer system through their sink or toilet that are not meant for disposal in that manner. Materials like paper or cloth towels, grease, and other inappropriate items can trigger a backup in sewer systems. The second most common cause is heavy rains and episodes of street flooding, when sump pumps and illegal storm sewer connections cause the sanitary sewers to surge and backup.

To avoid a backup, first and foremost, do not use sinks and toilets as garbage disposals. Second, disconnect any illegal connections you have to the sewer system. Finally, install a backwater pressure valve on your house line if you have a history of sewer backups, and check the valve periodically to be sure it's working properly. ■

H.A.M. (con't)

three adjoining municipalities—will have a small office and storage on-site. The new facility will be used for camp and other organized events, including its weekly Night Owls program of various social activities, as well as regularly scheduled cooking, arts and crafts, exercise and dance classes. H.A.M. programs at outside locations include bowling, movies and a six-week traveling summer day camp.

"We're very excited," said Jenna Vecchione, H.A.M.'s Acting Program Director. "We have been all over the place with our programs—at a church for our cooking class, for example. Now, we will be able to have virtually all of our activities in one place, a place our participants can call home. It will enhance what is already one of the best programs out there for children and adults with disabilities."

"We're really excited to have H.A.M. in their new home," Reycraft said. "It is a great program, and we want to bring greater awareness to what they do. This new headquarters is a major step in accomplishing that." ■

Curbing stormwater pollution

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes. Fertilizer, oil, pet waste, grass clippings are just some of the things that cause stormwater pollution. By following these easy steps, you can help to alleviate the problem:

- Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Properly use and dispose of hazardous products
- Keep pollution out of storm drains
- Clean up after your pet
- Don't feed wildlife
- Don't litter
- Dispose of yard waste properly

For more tips, visit:

www.aberdeennj.org, click "Departments" across the top, then "Public Works" from the column on the left side and then click "Storm Water." ■

Township of Aberdeen MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

Police, Fire & Rescue
Emergencies 9-1-1

Aberdeen non-emergency
Police and Fire 732-566-2054

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
732-583-4200
Fred Tagliarini, Mayor, ext 382
Margaret Montone,
Deputy Mayor, ext 384

Harvey M. Brenner, ext 381
Greg Cannon, ext 385
Connie Kelley, ext 386
Joseph J. Martucci, ext 380
Robert Swindle, ext 383

TOWNSHIP MANAGER
732-583-4200
Holly Reyecraft, ext 117
Catherine Morello, Admin. Asst.
ext 118

TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS
732-583-4200
Township Clerk, ext 119
Resident Assistance/Mass Transit
Secretary, ext 100
Construction Official, ext 121
Engineering, ext 101
Planning & Zoning, ext 121
Finance, ext 128
Municipal Court, ext 141
Public Works, ext 400
Public Information, ext 130
Recreation, ext 134
Tax Assessor, ext 122
Tax Collector, ext 137
Service Requests, ext 100

HELPFUL NUMBERS
Animal Control
732-521-6016
Future Sanitation
732-919-3345
Electricity (JCP&L)
800-662-3115
Matawan-Aberdeen Public
Library
732-583-9100
Gas (NJ Natural Gas Co.)
800-221-0051
Water (NJ American Water)
800-652-6987

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Project updates

Aberdeen's ongoing infrastructure improvement program continues to make its way through town, with a number of projects in various stages.

In Cliffwood, work is taking place on Lakeshore Drive to raise the road to control flooding. Completion is expected in the spring.

Over in Strathmore, bids have been awarded for a complete reconstruction of Warren Drive from Lloyd Road to Waverly Place and a mill and overlay on the remainder of the street from Waverly Place back out to Lloyd Road. Work is expected to begin in the spring.

Also in Strathmore, work is under way on the Cypress Lane footbridge linking the street with Chilton Lane. Completion of the walkway, destroyed during Hurricane Irene, is expected by the end of the year. And in the 'D' section, preliminary work has begun on the replacement of the Deerfield Lane bridge that connects the neighborhood to Matawan Regional High. ■



Crews install culvert that will go under new Cypress Lane footbridge.

Recycling rules

Residents of single-family homes are reminded that all household recyclables (bottles, cans, plastics, newspapers, mixed paper and cardboard) are picked up at curbside twice a month.

The Cliffwood Beach, Cliffwood, River Gardens, Oakshades, Freneau, and Heritage Estates sections have their recycling picked up on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The Strathmore section, High School area, as well as the Woodbrook Drive, Randall Way, Storyland, Sante Fe, and Heather Glen neighborhoods have their pick-ups on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

Cardboard and newspapers must be broken down and bundled. Mixed paper (magazines, circulars and other "junk mail," telephone books, and all other paper products) must be placed in a closed container. If desired, the mixed papers can

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be placed in clear plastic bag within the container. Plastic milk, soda, water, detergent, and juice bottles (marked #1 and #2) must be included in a separate container along with glass and cans.

Residents can also drop off their recyclables at the Public Works Garage on Lenox Rd., off Cliffwood Ave., Monday - Saturday, from 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. ■

Aberdeen welcomes new businesses

The Aberdeen Economic Business Council's (EBC) Grand Opening program welcomed a number of new businesses to various parts of town over the past year, including The Postal Annex, Quality 1st Basement Systems, Cluck U Chicken, European Wax Center, American Self Storage, In Motion Physical Therapy, and Abigail Consulting Solutions.

Members of the EBC and Aberdeen Council participated in grand opening activities, which included a ribbon cutting ceremony and provision of welcome gifts from EBC members, along with the preparation and distribution of press releases announcing the new businesses. ■

In an emergency...

As winter approaches, Aberdeen wants to remind residents that the following locations have been designated as information, warming and charging stations in the event of weather-related or other disasters:

- Town Hall, 1 Aberdeen Square (Church Street, just off Atlantic Avenue)
- George Hausmann Senior Center, 30 Noble Place in the Strathmore N section
- Cliffwood Fire House, Corner of Angel & Pengel

Residents are also asked to sign up for emergency alerts—Code Red and Nixle—on the Aberdeen Township website, if they have not already done so. ■