

## PAL Sites Open to Teens Friday and Saturday Nights

Are you between the ages of 12 and 18 and looking for something to do on the weekends? The Abington Police Athletic League (PAL) opens its doors every Friday and Saturday night from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at two sites: Glenside-Weldon and Willow Hill Elementary Schools. Locations offer kids a wide variety of activities from which to choose. Refreshments are sold, and all activities are supervised by a site director, staff, and volunteers. For more information, call 267-536-1079.

## YMCA Forms Teen Night Basketball League

The Abington YMCA is registering players 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade for a Teen Night basketball league. Teens will have an opportunity to improve their basketball skills and learn about team work, fair play, and YMCA character values in a non-competitive season of fun. Everyone gets to play. There is a program fee of \$35 for members and \$56 for non-members (includes Teen Night admission). Fees cover team jerseys and end-of-season awards. Volunteer coaches and officials are needed. Information and registration: 215-884-9622.

## Parenting Center at Abington Expands Programs

Parents of children between the ages of five and 12 are invited to participate in a new Parenting Center program, **“Discussions for Parents of Elementary-Age Children”**. This group will share issues related to raising children in the elementary school years and will meet the second Tuesday of every month, beginning October 8 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Two other recently formed groups will continue their programming this fall. **“Discussion/Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs”** meets the first Thursday of every other month, beginning October 3 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Parents can share information about their unique role with their special needs child. Different topics will be highlighted at each meeting.

**“For Fathers Only”** will feature two special presentations this fall. On Tuesday, October 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Bob Weyhmuller, author of *Beyond the Bus Stop: 180 Ways to Help Your Child Succeed in School*, will share his insights on fatherhood and give practical, hands-on suggestions for fathers to play a key role in

their child’s success in school and in life. On Thursday, November 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Dr. Bill Lessa, Superintendent of Hatboro-Horsham Schools, will lead a fun and informative discussion program. For both gatherings, “guy” snacks will be served.

An in-depth parenting course, **“Fundamental Skills for Healthy Parenting,”** will look at parenting from different perspectives, including effective discipline, self-esteem, communication skills, family dynamics, child development, and team parenting. This 10-week course begins Tuesday, October 8, 9:15-11:45 a.m.

The Parenting Center at Abington offers numerous workshops covering topics pertaining to every stage of child development from infants and toddlers through teens. It also presents book discussion groups and a mini pre-school. For more information or to register for courses and programs, call 215-576-0586. The Parenting Center is located at 1130 Old York Road, Abington.

**Hats Off** to Abington Junior High School students, parents, teachers, and administrators for being one of 172 schools nationwide to receive national Blue Ribbon status for the 2001-2002 school year. This honor takes into account every aspect of school life and culminates months of application preparation and presentations. It is awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.

*The Abington Community Taskforce (ACT) is a coalition of parents and Abington- and Rockledge-based educational, religious, social service, recreational, civic, and law enforcement agencies. Its mission is to create a responsible, caring, and safe community. ACT welcomes comments, suggestions, and ideas for future events, programs, and articles. For more information, contact ACT at 1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001, 215-517-2720. ACT would like to express appreciation to Abington Memorial Hospital for its assistance in printing this publication.*