

Rockin' Around the Clock

Abington students, parents, teachers, and police officers lost hours of sleep Friday night, February 5 to Saturday morning, February 6, but all for a good cause. They were rocking in the Junior High gym; that is, they were actually taking turns sitting in rocking chairs and, yes, rocking in the first annual Rock-A-Thon.

From 7:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m., 44 teams of five members were in constant motion, with each person rocking for a 20-minute stretch. While continuous team rocking was a goal, the purpose of the event was fun in an alcohol-, drug-, tobacco-, and violence-free celebration.

Participants and chaperones were treated to an all-night flow of refreshments and music as well as games and activities. Rocking actually provided each person's "down" time. Prizes awarded included such categories as the best decorated chair, the best team name, and the most spirited team.

The event raised approximately \$4,000 for Citizens and Police Together (C.A.P.T.), an Abington community-based, non-profit organization that supports and raises funds for projects that stress the partnership between the Abington police and the community.

The Rock-A-Thon was organized by the Community Partnership of Youth and Adults (C.P.Y.A.), run by C.A.P.T. and comprising police officers and 8th through 11th grade student members. Event sponsors included Abington Memorial Hospital, Air Conway, State Representative Ellen Bard, Rizzo's Restaurant & Pizzeria, and Willow Grove Park Mall.

New Hospital Phone Exchange

481 is the new exchange for all phone and fax lines at Abington Memorial Hospital. To simplify the transition, the hospital's four-digit extensions are not affected. Simply replace the current 517, 576, and 881 exchanges with 481 and finish dialing as usual.

Family Cycle Day April 25

Save Sunday, April 25 for the third annual Abington Family Cycle Day at Alverthorpe Park. Fun and challenging activities for all ages include a 5-mile family bike ride and walkathon, a 30-mile bike ride, a bike safety rodeo, bike freestyle demonstrations, and bike decorating with a parade for the younger set.

Many community service organizations will be on hand to provide information about their programs. The cycle day program is being organized by the Abington School District Parent Council, Abington Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Abington Education Foundation, and Abington Community Taskforce. Major corporate sponsorship has been received from Abington Savings Bank. The day's events will benefit the Abington Education Foundation and the Abington Community Taskforce. For more information, call Doug Wendell: 215-576-5213.

Citizens Police Academy March 1

Learn about the latest high-tech police gear, the newest concepts in policing, and the policies and procedures of the Abington Police Department. Sign up for the spring Citizens Police Academy for Abington residents and business people who want to become better acquainted with the township's officers and police department operations and hear about ways to help reduce crime and fear of crime through pro-active programs.

Held from March 1 through May 3, the Academy meets Mondays from 7:00-10:00 p.m. The course is free; however, applicants must undergo a criminal history check and once enrolled, are permitted to miss only two evenings. Following graduation, citizens typically volunteer to serve on community projects, such as the 24-Hour Relay Challenge and DUI checkpoints held periodically throughout the township. Interested participants call Dolores Downs: 215-885-4450 ext. 621.