



ACT Happenings

Take Home and Share with Your Family!

Summer 2005

www.abingtonact.org for expanded information

Three Options for Local Summer Babysitting Courses

Summer is often a good time for young people to focus on becoming qualified babysitters. A variety of programs are offered.

The Abington Bureau of Parks & Recreation, in cooperation with Penn State University and the Four-H Club, will offer a four-day course at Ardsley Community Center. Designed for boys and girls ages 11 and up, this course focuses on feeding, diaper changing, basic first aid, handling emergencies, and more. A certificate is given to students who attend all four sessions, show maturity and readiness to baby sit, and complete a course project.

The course will meet July 11, 13, 14, and 15 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 for Abington Township residents and \$22 for non-residents. Sign up now through the Bureau at 215-576-5213.

Child, Home & Community, Inc., in cooperation with Abington Memorial Hospital, will run a Babysitting Workshop Saturday, July 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Also for boys and girls age 11 and up, this program teaches young people to become more qualified babysitters by teaching

(Continued on page 2)

Sign Up for Swimming Lessons or Swim Teams at Township Pools

The Abington Bureau of Parks & Recreation announces that its two pools, Crestmont and Penbryn, will open for the summer on Saturday, June 18. Season memberships and daily passes are available at both the Bureau's main office at 515 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown, and at Ardsley Community Center, 2828 Spear Road, Ardsley.

Both pools offer swim teams that run from Monday, June 20 through the month of July, with morning practice times based on age groups. Eligible boys and girls range in age from those who have completed kindergarten through high school and must be able to swim across the pool. They must also hold a pool membership which can include a daily pass. Parents should stop by one of the pools on opening weekend for information and registration.

Children can be registered for group swimming lessons given between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Session I runs June 27 to July 15, and Session II runs July 18 to August 5. Registration at both pools will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m., June 21 for both sessions. Participants are limited to one session, must be at least six years of age, and have completed kindergarten. The charge is \$15.

Parents may also arrange private lessons based on the life guards' availability.

Social Skills Groups for Children

Children ages 6-14 who have social communication disorders/issues are invited to participate in a Social Skills Group this summer. The group will offer a friendly setting in which children can improve their social skills. The curriculum has been designed to help children improve initiating play, understanding social norms, and correctly interpreting social cues. These summer groups of up to six children each will meet weekly for one hour, starting in late June and run through mid August.

Coordinated by The Growth Opportunity Center in Huntingdon Valley, these groups are formed based on age, skill level, and prior social experiences. They are run by trained, licensed professionals and held at Gloria Dei Church, 570 Welsh Road, Huntingdon Valley. The cost is \$50 per session, and several insurances are accepted. Pre-registration is requested by late June. For more information, contact Dr. Robert Rosenthal at 215-947-8654, ext. 254.

Parenting Center Summer School Features Workshops, Book Previews, and New Drop-in Time

The Parenting Center at Abington is offering an array of workshops, book discussion groups, and activity and drop-in times for parents and their children this summer. All parents are invited to attend any program. Pre-registration is required. For registration and information about any of the following highlighted events, call The Parenting Center at 215-576-0586. A complete listing of activities is available at www.abingtonact.org under "Parenting Programs."

A new offering for parents who are looking for a morning out is **Drop-in Days**. Parents may bring their children and drop in to meet other parents and children on a casual basis. Parents share and connect on their own while their children play. Open days are Fridays, June 7, 14, and 21 and August 9 and 16 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This is a free offering.

Play 'n Share provides parents with an opportunity to share their experiences and concerns while their infants and toddlers play in the same room. Two six-week summer sessions are being offered beginning June 28: 9:30-10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The fee is \$15 for Center members and \$30 for non-members. Parents and their children

ages 2-3½ are invited to join a fun-filled hour of stories, songs, and crafts during **Toddler Activity Time** on Wednesdays, June 8-29.

Babysitting Workshops for Pre-Teens and Teens

(Continued from page 1)

basic child care, age-appropriate activities, how to handle family routines and emergencies, and other relevant topics. Certificates are issued upon completion. This workshop will meet at Abington Memorial Hospital and costs \$40. To register, call 215-348-9770.

The third option is the Safe Sitter program run by Holy Redeemer Health System. It is held the

third Saturday and Sunday of every month: June 18 & 19, July 16 & 17, and August 20 & 21. Held at Holy Redeemer Childcare Center, 1648 Huntingdon Pike, Meadowbrook, this program teaches boys and girls ages 11-13 about child development, age-appropriate activities, and basic life-saving skills when caring for younger children. The cost is \$40. Registration is required at 1-800-818-4747.

ACT Web Site: Community Connection for Summer Activities and Events

For up-to-date information about summer camps, programs, and special community events, visit www.abingtonact.org, from either your home computer or an Abington Free Library computer. Under "Things To Do," including its sub pages of "Sports," "Special Programs," and "Summer Camps," you can read about Township pool parties, Police Athletic League activities, vacation Bible schools, Abington/Roslyn Library and Briar Bush

Nature Center programs, and more! "Special Events" will feature organization fundraisers from flea markets and car washes to gala evenings. Remember each week to skim the "News & Events" box on the home page for highlights of upcoming activities and events. Most of all, if your community group or organization is running a program or event for which you desire publicity, please submit your information through the "Contact Us" page.

Abington Police Athletic League Summer Schedule, Events

Abington teens age 12 through 12th grade who are looking for something to do on Friday and Saturday nights are welcomed at two Abington Township Police Athletic League (PAL) sites: Glenside-Weldon Elementary School, 423 Easton Road, Glenside, and Willow Hill Elementary School, 1700 Coolidge Avenue, Willow Grove. These well-supervised sites are open from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Teens visiting for the first time must register with the site director who will arrange for them to obtain a PAL photo ID card.

Summer activities will include a basketball league, five swim nights at Crestmont Pool, and trips to Thunderbird Lanes for bowling nights. For more information, contact Mel Rice, PAL Coordinator, at 267-536-1100 ext. 1589.

Teen Opportunities at the Abington & Roslyn Branch Libraries

Express Yourself is a program for teens 13-18 years old. Led by artist and journaling enthusiast Diana Trout, it uses art, poetry, and writing to put creativity and thoughts on paper. It will meet on four Wednesdays (June 29, July 6, 13, & 20) from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Abington Free Library. Registration begins June 13.

Teens who would like to earn service learn-

ing hours are needed as volunteers to help younger children with their reading. Volunteers are asked to sign up for at least one hour each for four weeks to sit with kindergarten through second grade children as they practice their reading. There is a required training session on June 22 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

For information about these programs, contact the Abington Library at 215-885-5180.

Don't Miss Free Summer Concerts at Alverthorpe Manor

Presenting music for all tastes and ages, the Abington Art Center and Abington Bureau of Parks & Recreation will hold its sixth annual series of outdoor summer concerts on the grounds of Alverthorpe Manor, 515 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown. Concerts will take place on Thursdays from June 30 through August 4 and feature blues, folk, jazz, reggae, Caribbean, and kid friendly music.

The Cat's Pajamas Kids' Day is the culminating event on August 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m. It features art activities for children with fees from \$1 to \$5 and a kids' art exhibit. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

For all other summer concerts, the grounds open at 6:00 p.m. Children's art workshops are offered, and a variety of food from vendors will be available. People are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs and may also bring their own picnic. There is no charge for the concerts which begin at 7:00 p.m., rain or shine (in the pavilion if raining). A concert schedule will be posted on ACT's web site at www.abingtonact.org. For more information call 215-887-4882.

Life Guarding Certification Course To Be Offered in Abington

The Abington Bureau of Parks & Recreation will offer a life guarding certification course this summer. It will include classroom time at Ardsley Community Center and pool time at Penbryn. Participants must be 16 years old by course completion in order to obtain certification. For information about dates and times, call 215-576-5213.

Mark Your Calendar for These Summer Fun Community Events

Movies Under the Moon

Featuring **Shark Tale** on Friday, July 15

Grease on Friday, August 19

Movies begin at dusk. There is no charge.

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to Alverthorpe Manor, 515 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown.

Information: Parks & Recreation at 215-576-5213

Pre-National Night Out - Monday, August 1

Rain date Tuesday, August 2 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Giant community block party at Abington Town Center (parking lot of Target)

Featuring Food, Entertainment, Information Booths, and Give-Aways, for the entire family

Information: Dave Rondinelli at 267-536-1074

Summer Camps Around Abington

Are you still looking for something to do this summer? If you have not yet put together your summer plans, consider the wide variety of summer camps being offered by well-established organizations throughout Abington Township.

For children who enjoy exploring nature, **Briar Bush Nature Center**, 1212 Edge Hill Road, is offering a variety of full- and half-day camps for students who will enter kindergarten through 4th grade next September. You can find out more by calling 215-887-6603 or visiting www.briarbush.org.

The **Abington Bureau of Parks & Recreation** has lined up a wide variety of sports, theater, and art and music opportunities for children ages 5-16. There are Skyhawk sports camps and academies in soccer, basketball, baseball, and flag football; Global golf clinics and camps; and opportunities for tennis instruction and play five days a week. Three-week theater workshops which take participants from auditions to the final production are offered in two sessions for both young children and teens. There are also art and music day camps in both Crestmont and Penbryn Parks. Information about all of these offerings is available at 215-576-5213 or www.abington.org, then click Parks & Recreation under "Township Departments."

The **Abington Branch YMCA** runs weekly camps from June 20 through August 26. These camps are tailored to specific age groups, and a

variety cater to special interests. **Teen Camps** for those ages 12-15 feature some combination of or an exclusive focus on one or more of the following: field trips, music, science, creative arts, team-building exercises, hiking and swimming. **Specialty Camps** for those ages 6-12 feature gymnastics, dance, martial arts, soccer, basketball, arts & crafts, performing arts, tennis, cheerleading, and more.

For the preschool set, **Discovery** and **Kinder** camps provide recreational and artistic activities guided by weekly themes. Designed for the needs of autistic children, **Camp Outlook** works to enhance social, physical, and communication skills through play for those ages 6-12. Swimming instruction is also included.

For those children completing second through sixth grade and who want a mental challenge, consider **Camp Invention**. Held at Copper Beech Elementary School, July 25-29, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., this week-long summer enrichment day camp fosters creativity, team work, inventive thinking skills, and science literacy. It is led by local teachers and is a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. For information, call 1-800-968-4332 or visit www.campinvention.org.

A comprehensive listing of summer camp opportunities with these and other organizations can be found at www.abingtonact.org. Click "Things To Do," then "Summer Camps."

Abington & Roslyn Branch Libraries' Summer Programs for Children

"Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds" is the theme of this year's **Summer Reading Club** at the Abington Free Library and Roslyn Branch. Preschoolers through sixth graders are invited to register, beginning June 20. They will receive a coupon for a free Rita's water ice as well as a reading log to maintain.

Those entering kindergarten or first grade in the fall can enjoy **Junior Fun Days** on July 11, 18, and 25. They can attend one of two story-time sessions that will include related crafts or music.

The ever popular **Science in the Summer**

program, sponsored by Glaxo Smith Klein, returns the week of June 20-27 for children currently in first through fifth grades. Those who would like to participate must enter a registration lottery May 23-June 5. Guided by this year's theme of "Simple Machines," students will explore levels, gears and pulleys as they work in teams to build their own machines and test the principles of gravity, inertia, resistance, and friction.

For more information and a complete list of summer library programs, visit <http://abg.mclinc.org>.

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, or online at www.abingtonact.org ("Contact Us."). ACT would like to express appreciation to Abington Memorial Hospital for its assistance in printing this publication.