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THE AMBLER GAZETTE

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Inside Your GAZETTE

Sports



Upper Dublin field hockey

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Ambler Lodge #19 would like to announce its community outreach day to be held **Oct. 4** from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 301 Lindenwold Ave., Ambler. The lodge will present 'free' back to school supplies to children of all ages and light

Despite neighbor's complaints, Wings will expand

By Amanda Rittenhouse
Staff Writer

A recent Montgomery County Court ruling has upheld the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors' decision to allow a paved parking area for aircraft not based at Wings Field.

Wings Field, located on Narcissa Road, was built in the 1930s. When zoning laws were passed in 1950, the property was considered a non-conforming use in a residential area. Under zoning restrictions

the property has the right to expand up to 25 percent.

Member of Wings Concerned Residents and neighbor to Wings Field Burton Stein opposes expansion of Wings Field and said he is

"I think the owners of Wings are really trying their best to be good neighbors... The question is what about the next owners?"

Doug Seiler
of Walton Road

concerned about

fumes, increased and larger air traffic and noise. Stein, of Huntsman Lane, was a plaintiff in the county Court of Common Pleas case. Though Stein is not happy with the decision he said he will not appeal the court's decision.

"We could appeal that court decision to Commonwealth Court but economically it is a burden to the community. If we are going to have to fight battles we will fight it at the ballot box," Stein said.

Stein said a separate Montgomery County Court case is pending

regarding the expansion of the hangar and said he thinks Wings Field has already expanded to its permitted 25 percent.

"My opinion is that it is an expansion of a non-conforming use and the courts did not agree. I feel that any time that you add to a utilization and put down things like itinerant pads to bring in more aircraft, it creates an additional health welfare and safety issue," Stein said.

Bob Mueller, a member of the Wings Field Preservation Associ-

ates Board of Directors, said because Wings field is part of the national transportation system the airport is required under federal law to be open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year and cannot discriminate what kind of aircraft can land on it.

"Though Wings Field under federal law cannot close the airport between midnight and 6 a.m. what we can do is ask pilots to voluntarily not fly between those hours,"

See Wings, Page 7



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Mueller: New parking lot doesn't mean more air traffic

■ **Wings**, from Page 1

Mueller said.

The runway length was extended in 2001 from 2,650 feet to 3,700 feet. According to Mueller, Wings Field still averages two small jets a day and said corporate and charter fleets are too big and require too much runway space to land at Wings Field.

"For a 737 airplane to take off at Wings Field we would have to extend the runway from where it is today to almost Morris Road before there would be enough runway to take off. Physics would just not allow it," Mueller said.

The critical design vehicle limit for Wings Field is 12,500 pounds but that does not mean larger aircraft cannot use the runway. This means if

larger aircraft use the airport more frequently the runway asphalt will wear out faster, Mueller said.

Mueller said because Wings Field intends to build a new parking lot and move it to a position closer to the runway it does not mean more air traffic will occur.

"When the runway was replaced in 2001 we averaged about two business jets per day and that

has remained the same. If we build a transient parking apron that pattern isn't going to change," Mueller said.

Doug Seiler of Walton Road, a neighbor to Wings Field, appealed the township's decision to allow the hangars. Seiler wants the township to establish conditions that regulate the size and types of aircraft used at Wings Field.

Seiler is not a member of Wings Concerned Residents and said he believes that the hangars being turned 90 degrees to Narcissa Road and pulling them back from the road is a good move. The problem, according to Seiler, is allowing the hangars to be built larger because he feels larger hangars would allow for the storage and takeoff of larger aircraft.

"I think the owners of Wings are really trying their best to be good neighbors. My concern is what they can't control because of the grant assurances that came with the runway expansion. The question is what about the next owners? While the current group at Wings might have their heart in the right place the next group might not at all," Seiler said.

Letters

■ **Letters**, from Page 6

trillion dollars.

• Bush/Cheney foreign policy has resulted in mounting dissatisfaction with the U.S. in global public opinion polls, which has damaged our ability to lead.

• There has been negligible

the next four years and a 25 percent to 30 percent chance of dying in the next eight years. (I cannot describe Mr. McCain as a totally healthy man.) This would not be as important an issue had Mr. McCain selected a VP candidate who could comfortably fulfill the role of president. The selection of

asm as well as renewed hope and promise to our country. We saw that in his acceptance speech. I experienced it firsthand.

It is now time for change — not only one that we can believe in but one that will strengthen households, build up communities, boost businesses and help

IRS Form 1040, Schedule A deduction for medical expenses? As it is now, medical expenses that do not exceed 7.5 percent of your income are not deductible.

Now let's talk about our current mortgage crisis. According to an article and chart published on WWW.OpenSecrets.org, for

Last day to register to vote is Oct. 6

To the Editor:

The deadline in Pennsylvania to register to vote for the Nov. 4 election is Monday, Oct. 6. That date is

in person on Tuesday, Nov. 4, you should request an absentee ballot. Forms requesting absentee ballots must be received at voter services by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28. Actual ballots are already being mailed out to those who have requested them. The last day voted absentee ballots will be accepted is