

THE ALDAN CHRONICLE

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THIRD PROPERTY TAX INCREASE THIS YEAR

At the June 24, 2013 William Penn School Board Meeting, six of the eight members present, including Aldan's Representative Bob Reardon, voted to increase the tax rate by 2.5%. Only the two Yeadon representatives voted against the increase. This vote marks the second consecutive year that Mr. Reardon voted for a tax increase. In 2012, two such motions were defeated by 5-to-4 margins.

Facing a continued erosion of assessments for the

tax base (down almost \$24 million in five years); a dramatic increase in pension payments in 2013 (an almost 40% increase) due to a 2001 pension revision passed under Republican Governor Tom Ridge; cuts in state funding the last two years, (\$4 million less per year) under Republican Governor Tom Corbett; increased medical costs and additional payments to charter schools, the School Board chose the maximum allowable increase to balance the budget.

For the average Aldan home assessed at \$100,000, the increase will be \$100.00. Tax bills were sent out the first week in July.

Previous hikes in the property tax rates by Aldan Borough and Delaware County, both all Republican entities, makes three increases for 2013.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Aldan Celebrates Independence Day*
- *Aldan Elementary School Saved...For Now!*
- *Meet the 2013 Democratic Candidates for Local Elections*
- *Aldan Democrats Summer Pool Party at the Swim Club*
- *Two Council Members Don't Seek Re-Election*
- *Upcoming Community Events*

NIGHT HOURS FOR SCHOOL TAX PAYMENTS

Despite what the notice says in your William Penn School District tax bill, the new Aldan Tax Collector, Thomas Morse, will be available at the Aldan Borough Municipal Building at the corner of Providence Road and Clifton Avenue to accept school tax payments.

From 7 PM to 9 PM on Mondays, August 5, 12 and 26 and on Thursday, August 15, Mr. Morse will accept check, cash or money order payments. No credit cards will be accepted. There is a 2% discount for paying the school tax in full before the end of August 2013.

TAX COLLECTION INVESTIGATION—NO ACTION TO DATE

At the July 2013 Aldan Borough Council meeting, Borough Council President Harry Short was questioned about the status of the investigation into the alleged misappropriation of funds by the Borough's previous tax collector, Robert Park. In response, Mr. Short, a registered Republican, stated that the Delaware County District Attorney's office had indicated some action would be taken during July 2013; however, the borough was later informed that additional investigation was required.

Although no charges have been filed as of the writing of this article, a forensic audit is being conducted by the Economic

Crimes Unit of the Criminal Investigation Division of the District Attorney's office. Jack Whelan, a registered Republican, is Delaware County's District Attorney.

Although Mr. Park resigned effective November 16, 2012 and the Delaware County Daily Times reported on December 23, 2012 that Mr. Park was being investigated by the Delaware County District Attorney's office for the misappropriation of funds that could total \$1.2 million, no further information has come to light.

Both Aldan Borough and the William Penn School District have answered that they have no idea as to when the

investigation will conclude or when reimbursements will occur.

Mr. Park was bonded with the premiums paid by the Borough and the School District. As a result, both will eventually be paid any missing sums, but in the short term the alleged misappropriation has created cash flow problems for the Borough and the School District.

Mr. Park, a registered Republican, was the Borough's elected Tax Collector for more than 22 years. The office of Tax Collector is up for election in November 2013.

ALDAN CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

2013 marked the 35th year that Aldan's Independence Day Celebration was organized by the Aldan 4th of July Association. As with any activity in the borough, an army of volunteers made the day a great one.

Despite weeks of record rainfall, July 4th was rain-free, and the parade started at 11:10 AM after the arrival of the Woodland String Band and the Mummers All-Stars from the Clifton Heights Parade. Led by the Color Guard from the Marine Corps League, Detachment 884 from Upper Darby and Aldan Memorial Post 1000, the parade also included the Penn Wood High School Band and The Mansfield Brass from Lansdowne.

After the parade, activities were held at the recreation fields at Bonsall Avenue. The invocation was said by Reverend Timothy Greene, an Aldan resident, of the First Presbyterian Church of Lansdowne. The National Anthem was lead by Grace Pfau while the Troop 2 Boy/Cub Scouts raised the flag.

Booths included the Aldan Boosters Civic Association for hot dogs and soda; Aldan Townwatch for soft pretzels and water ice; Aldan Historical Commission for collectables; and Aldan Union Church and Aldan 4th of July for novelties. DJ Bob Bardsley, a former Aldan resident, was the master of ceremonies for a musical interlude by the Mummers All-Stars as well as a cheer demonstration by the Aldan Girls Club

Cheerleaders and the annual baby parade.

Free pony rides were provided by the Aldan Boosters; discounted moon bounce rides were provided by the 4th of July Association; and the races were run by the Aldan Boys Club. The Big Squeeze had fresh squeezed lemonade for sale. Thanks to all who collected, participated, and watched the 2013 parade!

Prize winners were as follows:

Civic Groups Floats:

Aldan Swim Team, Despicable Me 'Cudas
Aldan Boosters-Rocking the USA with Mojo 13
Colonial Playhouse, Miss Firecracker
Aldan Union Church Explorer Girls

Neighborhood Floats:

Kalbach Family, Patriotic Pioneers
Perry Family, Grillin' & Chillin'
DeLosSantos family, 1990 Cushman

Cars:

Rocco Nacarella, 1992 red Camaro
Dan Scarle, Motorcycle
Dave Heacock, 1979 Volare (Townwatch)

Civic Groups Walking:

Darby Free Library, Dig Into Reading
Aldan Union Church Boy/Cub Scouts
Troop 2

Aldan Girls Club Softball
Aldan Girls Club Cheerleaders

Individuals Walking:

Menear Family
Micah Johnson, Civil War Soldier
Dylan Noel

Bikes/Scooters:

Michelle DiMaio
Julia Knecht
Samuel Smith
Tara Montgomery



ALDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SAVED...FOR NOW!

At the May 20, 2013 William Penn School Board meeting, with no prior public discussion, the School District Administration presented their plan of turning Aldan Elementary School into a Kindergarten Center beginning in September 2013. They stated that this decision was based on an assessment of all of the schools in the district.

The 2012-2013 student population at Aldan Elementary School, which has a capacity of more than 300, was about 280 students. Aldan Borough students were 40% of the total with the other 60% of students bussed to the school from other boroughs in the

district.

The administration proposal was purported to save the School District money. Aldan residents, Home and School parents and politicians voiced their concerns about this change at the board meeting. The next night, Tuesday, May 21, 2013 (Primary Election Day) another meeting was held at Aldan Elementary School with the Superintendent and other administrators. Aldan Home and School Board members, parents, Aldan Council members, and community representatives again voiced their objections to the closing of Aldan as an elementary school.

In light of these meetings, the School Board decided at their June 24, 2013 meeting to adopt a plan which includes housing all ESL (English as Second Language) students at the newly renovated Ardmore Avenue School and relocating grades 3-5 Autistic students to Aldan Elementary School. This plan should utilize Aldan Elementary school to its full capacity.

Thanks to the effort of Home and School parents, community members and council, Aldan will keep its elementary school for at least the next school year. Unfortunately, beyond then, nothing is certain.

YOUR TEAM FOR A BETTER ALDAN

Aldan is a proudly diverse town. Some of us have lived in the borough for our entire lives while others have only lived here for a handful of years.

We work in different jobs, practice different faiths, and come from a rich variety of cultural traditions. But for each of us, Aldan is ours. We are proud to live in this beautiful place and to call it our home.

In November, we have an opportunity to elect the people who will represent us when making the important decisions that affect our daily lives.

Decisions on our property tax rates, the code enforcement, and police protection and responsiveness—all of

these areas impact us directly or indirectly every day.

It is critical that we have people who will represent our needs and respond to the concerns of every citizen of the borough, not just those they personally know.

Unfortunately, the government of Aldan does not reflect the broad diversity of Aldan’s residents. There are members of Borough Council who were originally appointed to fill a vacancy by friends on the Council, and every elected member of the borough government is a Republican.

The Aldan Democrats are proud to present a group of candidates who will work hard to ensure that your voice is

heard and your point of view is represented at the table.

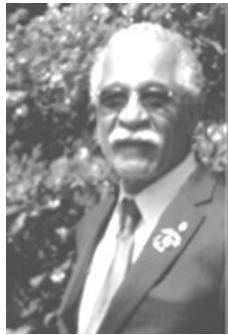
Please plan to come out on November 5th to vote for a better Aldan.

If you aren't registered to vote in Aldan or have let your registration lapse, call Michael Ceci at 610-299-7246. He'll make sure you get a form TODAY!



Jerry Barber
Tax Collector

- Director of General Accounting at Temple
- Graduate of Delaware State University with a degree in Business Administration
- Past Treasurer, Aldan Home & School Association
- Aldan resident for 10 years.



Lawrence Goldsborough
Mayor

- Temple University graduate, degree in early childhood education
- Marine Corps vet
- Retired Amtrak employee
- Recent Jameson Christian College graduate, degree in theology.
- Aldan resident for 12 years



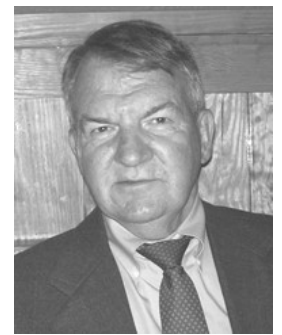
Roxanne Norman
Council

- Global Product Development Manager, Citi Prepaid Services
- Former Benefits Administrator, IBX
- Graduate of Howard University
- Member, Aldan Swim Club
- Aldan resident for 17 years.



Yusef Sayeed
Council

- Resident Physician, HUP
- Univ. of Kentucky MS in Public Health
- Univ. of Louisville, Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Sports Medicine Research Fellow, Mayo Clinic
- Aldan resident for 2 years.



Paul Krueger
Council

- Ret. U.S. Navy Officer/Pilot.
- Masters of Arts in Math Education from Widener University.
- B.A in Business Admin. from Gettysburg College
- Member, Historical Commission
- Aldan resident for over 60 years.



JOIN FELLOW ALDAN DEMOCRATS AT ALDAN SWIM CLUB

FOR SWIMMING, FOOD AND FUN
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2013
2:00 - 6:00 P.M.

JOIN US, COOL OFF AND MEET THE CANDIDATES
AT OUR 5TH ANNUAL EVENT
AS WE PREPARE FOR THE 2013 ELECTIONS.

TAX COLLECTOR - JERRY BARBER
MAYOR - LAWRENCE GOLDSBOROUGH
COUNCIL -

ROXANNE NORMAN, YUSEF SAYEED AND PAUL KRUEGER

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US
AT 610-675-6226 OR ALDANDEMOCRATS@GMAIL.COM

TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS DON'T SEEK RE-ELECTION

Aldan Borough Council members, Joseph Cosgrove and Terry Owens did not file to seek reelection to office. Councilwoman Owens, chair of the Public Health Committee was elected to her first full term in 2005. While on council, Ms. Owen started the curbside recycling and Aldan's participation in the National Drug Take Back Program.

Councilman Cosgrove, chair of the Highway Committee, was appointed in February 2009 to fill a vacancy

and was elected to a four-year term in November 2009. Mr. Cosgrove can count the installation of LED traffic signals and the selection of a non-PECO electric supplier in his contributions to borough council.

Thanks to both members for their time of service. Their terms of office expire December 31, 2013, and their positions on council will be filled at the November 5, 2013 Municipal Election.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

The Aldan Boosters' Civic Association Veterans' Appreciation Night

*Current and Former Service Men and Women
are invited to attend and bring a guest
for Free Food, Fun and Prizes!*

September 28, 2013, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

**American Legion Building, 100 Bonsall Ave, Aldan
Space is limited, please respond by Tues., Sept. 10,
2013 to: 610-675-6226 or aldansanta@gmail.com**

Aldan Historical Commission host Founders' Day and Aldan Police Safety Day

Saturday, September 21, 2013,

**10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Aldan Historical Park
Flea Market, Music by Lukens Band and Mojo 13
Call 610-626-3554 to reserve flea market space.**