



# WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Newsletter to the Citizens of Westtown Township - Winter Issue #44



Larchbourne Park Playground

## Enjoying 2023 Together

The Township will be busy in 2023 trying to conclude the Crebilly Farm purchase, and implementing improvements at Oakbourne Park's athletic area. But residents looking for recreation opportunities don't have to wait for these projects to progress. Westtown has tremendous resources that should be used now by many more adult residents.

For example, many people already walk their dogs around Oakbourne or in the various open spaces adjacent to neighborhoods. More adventurous folks explore the rustic trails in the Cope Tract that meanders near Goose Creek. For the most part, people do these activities alone. But if an activity is enjoyable by yourself, the fun can be multiplied by group participation. The same goes for indoor activities that interest a wide range of residents who enjoy such things as cards, books, board games, food and wine discussions, and so on. All lend themselves to group participation.

One group of residents that has a built-in affinity is veterans. There are many of us in Westtown, and there are many opportunities to get together whether it is to commemorate important occasions such as Veterans' Day or Memorial Day or just to support Veteran

causes. As a member of a local VFW post, I can attest to the benefits of simple camaraderie.

I am proposing an Adult Activity Initiative where Westtown residents with specific interests or hobbies can connect and then pursue their shared interest together. As a first step, the Township will host a future meeting inviting residents to learn more about how to organize their own recreational groups and use Township facilities for their activities. The Township will send out an announcement about this meeting via Listserv and Facebook when it is scheduled that will include more details on how the Township can support these activities.

I am definitely not suggesting that the Township organize any group activities for adults. We don't have the staff or the time. More important, individuals are better able to manage their own activity groups. What the Township can do is provide access to the physical resources and perhaps help initiate connections. After a group is formed, it is on its own to organize itself and get started. Ongoing communication can be done via email or by one of many available group activity apps. That is all there is to it.

You may be wondering what prompted this idea. The Township has great facilities that are underutilized. The Township's Parks and Recreation Commission does a fine job organizing family-oriented events, but they are volunteers and have busy lives. Youth sports groups organize extensive baseball and soccer activities. But what about the adult residents in Westtown? We are on our own.

As someone who has reached a certain age, I recognize that the opportunity to make new friends and acquaintances outside of work or a formal organization diminishes as we get older. Creating connections for adult residents might be just what many of us need to break out of a solitary routine. Sharing a pleasant activity that has nothing to do with politics, current events, or neighborhood disagreements can build, or rebuild relationships. Let's make 2023 a year of enjoying our own interests, but doing it together.

*Thomas Foster*

Thomas Foster  
Supervisor

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Contact Information & Bulletin Board.....	2	Friends of Oakbourne and Parks & Recreation .....	7/8
Manager's Message.....	3	Bournelyf Special Camp - A Stream of Life in Westtown.....	9
News from the Environmental Advisory Council .....	4	Important Dates and Hazardous Waste Disposal .....	10
Westtown East Goshen (WEGO) Police Department News and Good Fellowship Ambulance .....	5	Trash and Recycling Information .....	11
		2023 Trash Collection Schedule .....	12



# Westtown Township, County of Chester

## Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



**Board of Supervisors:** Scott Yaw, Richard Pomerantz, Tom Foster

Street Address: 1039 Wilmington Pike • West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 79 • Westtown, PA 19395-0079

Phone: 610-692-1930 • Fax: 610-692-9651 • [www.westtownpa.org](http://www.westtownpa.org)

### CHESTER COUNTY USEFUL CONTACTS & PHONE NUMBERS

#### Chester County Government Services Center:

601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19382  
 Information: 610-344-6000  
 Aging Services: 610-344-6350  
 Children, Youth, & Families: 610-344-5800  
 Emergency Services: 610-344-5000  
 Health Department: 610-344-6225  
   Septic Systems: 610-344-6526  
   Recycling/Hazardous Waste: 610-273-3771  
 License Bureau (Dog, Fishing, Hunting): 610-344-6370  
 Marriage License Bureau: 610-344-6335  
 Passports: 610-344-6310  
 Recorder of Deeds: 610-344-6330  
 Tax Assessment: 610-344-6105  
 Tax Claim/Lien Bureau: 610-344-6360  
 Voters Services: 610-344-6410

#### Chester County Court House:

313 W. Market Street, West Chester Borough, PA 19380

#### District Justice for Westtown:

Martin Goch (District Court 15-2-03): 610-436-5757

#### Chester County Conservation District:

610-925-4920

#### West Chester Area School District:

782 Springdale Drive, Exton, PA 19341  
 Main Number: 484-266-1000 / School Tax: 484-266-1035

#### State Senate - 9th District:

John Kane: Local: 610-436-3320 / State: 717-787-4712  
[www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us)

#### State House - 156th District:

Chris Pielli: Local: 610-696-0946  
[www.pahouse.com/pielli](http://www.pahouse.com/pielli)

#### U. S. Senators:

Robert Casey: Local: 215-405-9660 / Federal: 202-224-6324  
[www.casey.senate.gov](http://www.casey.senate.gov)  
 Pat Toomey: Local: 215-241-1090 / Federal 202-224-4254  
[www.toomey.senate.gov](http://www.toomey.senate.gov)

#### Congress - 6th District:

Chrissy Houlahan (D): Local: 610-883-5050 /  
 Federal 202-225-4315  
[www.houlahan.house.gov](http://www.houlahan.house.gov)

#### For Police, Fire, & Medical Emergencies, DIAL 911.

#### For Non-Emergencies:

610-692-5100

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### New Faces

Beth Kephart was hired as our new Administrative Assistant. In this capacity, Beth serves as our unofficial "Director of First Impressions," ensuring that all resident concerns and questions are handled professionally and appropriately. Beth replaces Katherine Archibald, who was recently promoted to Permit Coordinator, responsible for ensuring that all building permits are processed efficiently. Katherine is also responsible for administering the Township's On-Lot Sewage Management Program, and is therefore a key contact for many Westtown residents.



Beth Kephart



Katherine Archibald

#### Ready Chesco

This service is used to notify you during a major crisis or emergency, and delivers important emergency alerts, such as weather, road closures, health, or community alerts. To sign up for Chester County's electronic notification system for emergency information go to <http://www.readychesco.org>.



#### Stay Informed

To receive information about meetings, special events, and public service announcements via email, please go to the Township website and click on the blue Get Email Alerts button at the top of any page.

#### Pay Sewer and Trash Bills Online

Residents can use Visa, Master Card, or Discover to pay utility bills online at [www.westtownpa.org](http://www.westtownpa.org). There is no fee for this service.

#### Save paper!

If you would like to receive the *Westtown Gazette* electronically, send an email to [administration@westtown.org](mailto:administration@westtown.org) and we will remove you from the mailing list. Newsletters are archived on the Township website.

# Manager's Message

On behalf of Township staff, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a cozy and comfortable start to winter! There's a lot going on within the Township that I'd like to bring you up to speed on.

## Open Space Tax Referendum and Tax Increases Effective January 1, 2023

First, as you are likely already aware, on November 8, Westtown voters approved the Open Space Tax Referendum by a 2-to-1 margin. As a next step, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance on December 5 to increase the Earned Income Tax rate by 0.04% to 1.04% and the real estate tax rate by .21 mills effective on January 1, 2023. The Township has sent out letters to all households in the Township about this increase.

If you work for a Pennsylvania employer, your earned income tax withholdings should be automatically adjusted on the first of the year by your company's payroll department. However, if you are self-employed or your employer does not withhold local earned income taxes from your paycheck, you must report the tax at the higher rate quarterly.

Meanwhile, Township Real Estate Tax Bills with the new mill rate will be sent out on or before February 1. Remember that if your property taxes are withheld in escrow from your monthly mortgage payments, your mortgage company will pay your real estate taxes on your behalf.

Please be advised that the Open Space Tax Referendum authorized tax increases of up to 0.08% for Earned Income Tax and 0.42 mills for Real Estate Tax for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining open space. Therefore, the increased taxes in the approved ordinances are 50% less than the maximum amount authorized in the referendum. The Board of Supervisors has taken this approach for 2023 while the Township awaits announcements about grant commitments from our County and State partners that would enable the Township to execute the Agreement of Sale to purchase the property. Should the grant awards be received, it is reasonable to expect the Board of Supervisors to increase tax rates to the levels authorized in the referendum in future years in order to repay the bonds that the Township will need to float to finance our share of the transaction.

## Trash & Recycling Contract

On November 7, the Board of Supervisors awarded the 2023-2025 solid waste and recycling contract to the low bidder (and current hauler), A.J. Blosenski. Unfortunately, due to a perfect storm of inflationary pressures, higher labor costs, and supply chain delays that have impacted most sectors of our economy, the Township—like every municipality with a solid waste contract—will need to increase its quarterly trash and recycling fees from \$80 to \$100 per quarter to absorb these higher hauling costs. This increase will mark the first increase to the quarterly trash and recycling fee since 2009.

## Congratulations to Peter Flynn

On November 7, the Board of Supervisors recognized Peter Flynn, the long-time proprietor of Pete's Produce for his contributions to the greater Westtown community, and officially recognized

November 8, 2022 as "Peter Flynn Day" in Westtown Township. Peter intends to retire at the end of 2022. Congratulations Peter!



(L-R Dick Pomerantz, Amy & Peter Flynn, Scott Yaw, Tom Foster)

## Oakbourne Park Plans

It is anticipated that the Board of Supervisors will approve the final design plan for improvements to the Oakbourne Park athletic complex and trail system prior to the end of 2022, and will go out to bid over the winter in order for the work to be undertaken throughout 2023. Upon approval, a copy of the final plans will be posted on the Parks, Trails, and Open Space page of the Township website.

## Larchbourne Park Playground

Speaking of parks, the Township held a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 24 for a new playground at Larchbourne Park on Larchwood Road. The playground improvements were made possible in part by a PECO Green Region grant. We encourage all Westtown families to stop by for a visit! (see photo on p.10)

## Police Commission signs 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with Westtown-East Goshen Police Association

We are pleased to report that the Westtown-East Goshen Police Commission, which consists of elected officials from Westtown, East Goshen, and Thornbury townships, has ratified a memorandum of understanding for a new three-year collective bargaining agreement with the WEGO Police Association. The Township is grateful to the negotiating committees on both sides of the table for hammering out a deal that is both financially responsible to our taxpayers and fair to our uniformed officers who keep our community safe.

I hope all Westtown residents have a peaceful end to 2022 and best wishes for a wonderful 2023. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns about anything going on in the Township.

## Happy 2023!

*Jon Altshul*  
Township Manager



# News from the Environmental Advisory Council

## Let's Celebrate Sustainability!

The Environmental Advisory County has had a very busy fall ensuring that the Township remains on a sustainable path for generations to come.

We met with the new sustainability coordinator for Chester County, Rachael Griffith, to discuss the County's new Climate Action Plan and the County's recommendations for municipalities. In addition, our Township is taking forward-looking steps to assure that our in-house energy use is efficient and cost-effective by benchmarking our energy consumption through EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager web platform. We also recently completed an energy audit and made recommendations for cost and energy saving improvements to the Township building.

Preserving land is one of the key strategies of sustainability. Protected lands provide essential environmental services - cleaner air and water, flood mitigation, and carbon capture. The EAC also communicated its unanimous support for the open space tax referendum to preserve Crebilly Farm as a passive recreation space. We believe this action is in alignment with our vision of being a sustainable community for present and future generations.

Of particular note, the EAC recently hosted a Residential Sustainability Contest to recognize households for their dedication to environmental stewardship and the promotion of environmental awareness. So many Westtown families serve as tremendous examples to other residents who want to become more sustainable in their own homes.

This Residential Sustainability Contest brought to light a wide variety of actions households can take in five essential areas that make up sustainability: energy, transportation, waste reduction, natural resource stewardship, and food. The actions in each area were scored for their impact on our air, water, and soil, as well as on habitat and biodiversity. The top five scorers received gift certificates from local businesses that prioritize sustainability themselves.

One of the highest scoring residents provides an example of successful farming in a suburban context. Paul and Sherryann Plesse grow all the standard vegetables like tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, sweet corn, broccoli, spinach, and eggplant, as well as more specialized ones like sweet potatoes, figs, ginger, grapes, turmeric, peanuts, and cotton. Their orientation to stewardship speaks to a meaningful relationship with their land.



Paul and Sherryann Plesse

"We take care of our land and natural resources and it in turn takes care of us," the Plesses said. "The land teaches you as you go - you make mistakes, you learn, you get better. This farm is our home and everyone and everything who lives here plays a role in the cycle of life - even the fallen trees that heat our home in winter. Nature gives us a beautiful cycle if we just learn to appreciate it and use it wisely, she gives us every single thing we need," they continued.

When asked what they would like to share with their neighbors, the Plesses replied, "People are always amazed that you can grow this kind of produce in West Chester! I would encourage everyone who has an interest to just START! We started growing 30 years ago in a postage-stamp size backyard."

Other honorees included Ashish Patel, Karyn, and Kevin Heim, Janice Archibold, and Suzanne Lauer.

"We all have a role to play in finding solutions to the threats to clean air, water, and soil through environmental education and stewardship," said Ray Dandrea of the EAC, who organized the contest. "We congratulate these five outstanding individuals and families, and all the other residents who participated this year for their ideas, creativity, and leadership in finding solutions to protect our local environments and create a more sustainable Westtown."

### RESIDENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY CONTEST

A full press release about the Residential Sustainability Contest can be found on the EAC page on the Township website.

# Westtown East Goshen (WEGO) Police Department News

WEGO PD recently hired three new part-time officers: Officer Robert Wheatcraft, Officer Jason Listmeier, and Officer Meghan Bevenour. In addition to Officer Bevenour, WEGO currently has two other women sworn in: Chief Brenda Bernot and Officer Valeria Arevalo. We are grateful to have these women, and hope to continue to grow that number!

In other exciting news, on October 28, 2022, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission voted to re-accredit the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department. Way to go WEGO!

## WEGO PD recently participated in six donation drives!

**One Warm Coat:** We collected gently used or new winter coats, scarves, gloves, and hats for adults and children in need to donate to One Warm Coat. Donations benefit Cradles to Crayons, Food Pantries, Homeless Shelters in the tri-county area, and the Veterans Hospital in Coatesville.

**Blue Beards for Charity:** BBC was established by police officers in Chester County in 2020 to give back to the community by supporting the following charities: Unite for Her, The Sambuco Children's Education Fund, A Child's Light, and the Chester County Crime Victims Center. This year we also supported the family of Officer Josh Micun, who tragically passed

away due to Covid in 2021. Officers donated money to grow a beard and community members were able to buy yard signs supporting the department with proceeds going to BBC.

**Inaugural Josh Micun Cornhole Tournament:** Teams registered for the cornhole tournament hosted by WEGO PD/WEGO Police Association. All proceeds went to Officer Micun's wife and children. Josh began his career with WEGO in 2015 and was chosen by his peers as Officer of the Year in 2019.

**Infant Supplies Drive:** WEGO collected infant supplies to donate to a local women's and children's inpatient treatment center.

**Toys for Tots:** The Marines Toys for Tots campaign is a non-profit public charity with the primary goal of being able to distribute new unwrapped toys to less fortunate children at Christmas.

**911 BBQ:** a fundraising event to raise money for the Crime Victims' Center of Chester County. Congratulations to the WEGO Team for winning the coveted "People's Choice" award.

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on our annual fundraisers!**

---

## Good Fellowship Ambulance 2023 Subscription Drive Underway

Lifesaving emergency medical transport can put stress on your family's finances, but with a subscription to Good Fellowship Ambulance, subscribers have NO out-of-pocket expenses if treated and/or transported by us - so you can focus on recovery, not finances. Subscribe today!

The men and women of Good Fellowship Ambulance respond in a moment's notice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to ensure you and your loved ones receive emergency care. Good Fellowship responds to over 6,400 emergency calls each year, providing basic, intermediate, and advanced life support services. Your subscription saves you the out-of-pocket expenses and helps support the mission of Good Fellowship: To provide emergency medical services to anyone in need in our greater West Chester service area.

Check your mailboxes for our subscription letter or subscribe online today: <http://www.goodfellowship.com/community/subscriber/>





# Friends of Oakbourne

by Tom Bare, President, Friends of Oakbourne

The Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) have continued to work on our garden project at the rear entrance to Oakbourne Park's unique water tower. In addition to plantings, we recently installed a path to provide visual interest. While the garden will now undergo a period of rest for the winter, plans for additional plantings are underway for the spring. Before and after pictures of the garden area are shown below.



FoO planted several memorial trees this fall. An unusual and unique Bamboo-leaf Oak (also called Chinese evergreen oak, *Quercus myrsinifolia*) was dedicated "To the memory of Laura Adams by her neighbors. This tree represents the dedicated mom, wife, and grandmother she was, as well as the amazing person we will always remember." The tree was planted in the oak tree grove of the arboretum, which is next to the walking path adjacent to the all-purpose field. While the slender evergreen leaves (these glossy green leaves remain on the tree during the winter!!) resemble the leaves of bamboo, the tree is most assuredly an oak. In the spring, new growth emerges as a purple-bronze color and matures to a dark green on top with a paler underside. Once established, this oak is very drought resistant and can grow to a height of 30 - 60 feet. This tree is a "ring-cupped oak" species which refers to the distinctive, concentric rings on their acorn cups.



Yellow Bird magnolia planted in memory of Jean Oakes

A Yellow Bird magnolia (*Magnolia x brooklynensis*) was planted adjacent to the Arboretum walking path in the Bark Woodlet. This tree was dedicated by the Verdes Family, "in memory of Jean Oakes, loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, and sister." The Yellow Bird magnolia is thought of as one of the best yellow-flowered magnolias; the tree blooms in the spring with globlet-shaped lemon-yellow flowers that emerge as the leaves begin to form. The Yellow Bird is a lovely pyramidal shaped tree that can reach up to 40 - 50 feet in height. Leaves were mostly gone from the pictured Yellow Bird since it was planted in the fall.



Bamboo-Leaf Oak planted in memory of Laura Adams



Chinese Fringe tree planted in memory of Anna Henson

A Chinese Fringe tree (*Chionanthus retusus*) was planted in an open area near the large copper beech trees on the left side of the entry drive about halfway into the park. This tree was dedicated by Walter Pavelchek to "honor Anna Henson and to recognize her deep friendship with Emma Pavelchek and the bond shared by both families." The Chinese Fringe tree develops into an elegant rounded, wide-spreading tree that can reach 20 feet in height and width. The tree is spectacular when it blooms in late spring and is covered with beautiful white fringe-like petals that are produced at the ends of branches and hide the tree's leaves. A young fringe tree has papery exfoliating bark, while the mature tree is endowed with tight bark with distinct furrows and ridges that provide winter interest.



Skylands Caucasian spruce with the Blue Atlas Cedar in the background

And finally, FoO replaced a Skylands Caucasian spruce (*Picea orientalis* 'Skylands') that had been severely damaged by deer. This spruce is an important feature in the arboretum in that it was planted strategically to provide a contrast in colors with a neighboring Blue Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca') planted several years ago as a dedicated tree. The Skylands has wonderfully colored golden needles that will contrast nicely with the blue-green needles of the neighboring cedar. At maturity, the cedar can grow 40 - 60 feet high and 30 - 40 feet wide while the Skylands can reach a height of 35 feet and width of 10 - 12 feet.

Thanks to Mark Gross, Westtown's Director of Public Works, and his crew for help in transporting and planting the trees mentioned in this article. With their help, FoO has been able to transport and plant larger trees than what could be accomplished when we transported trees in our personal vehicles and hand-dug the planting holes.



## Owl Prowl at Oakbourne Park

**SATURDAY,**  
JANUARY 14, 2023

### Oakbourne Park Pavilion

1014 S. Concord Rd, West Chester, PA 19382

#### 7 PM - 8:30 PM

In conjunction with the Valley Forge Audubon Society, Westtown Parks & Recreation will once again welcome naturalist Lon Myers for a brief talk about owls native to our area, followed by a walk through the woods as Lon calls a variety of owls, with the hope of hearing a response and, if lucky, seeing these elusive creatures. Bring a flashlight, and wear warm clothing and appropriate footwear. The pavilion will provide shelter in the event of rain.

Lon Myers has led a variety of nature walks and talks for nearly 50 years and recently led a walk at Oakbourne Park successfully calling screech owls. Lon is currently the Chairman of the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, an annual event in its 65th year open to everyone, and sponsored by the Audubon societies of Buffalo, Jamestown, Erie, and Rochester.

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION VACANCIES

If you would like to help plan and run programs and events, then consider joining Parks & Rec! Interested residents should submit their resume and a brief letter of interest to [jaltshul@westtown.org](mailto:jaltshul@westtown.org).



# Bournelyf Special Camp – A Stream of Life in Westtown

by *Stephen Wahrhaftig, Historical Commissioner*

Westtown residents often notice several signs posted by driveways on South New Street between West Pleasant Grove Road and General Green Drive. One sign announces the Church of the Loving Shepherd, and nearby, a green sign with two hands grasped in friendship within an image of a sunrise indicates the entrance to the Bournelyf Special Camp. The Historical Commission recently spoke with the directors of Bournelyf to learn about its history and purpose.



South New Street once hosted a 500-acre farm dating back to the Battle of Brandywine days of the 1700s. The land had originally been part of a 1,000-acre grant to John Collet from William Penn. Eventually, portions of the dairy and fruit farm were divided and sold. A section purchased by the Adams family was named Dunvegan Farm in the 1920s, based on the Scottish Dunvegan Castle, owned by their family heritage, Clan MacLeod. Nearby Dunvegan Road in Westtown's South Hills area survives to this day.

In the early 1970s, 20 acres of the Adams property were sold to the Church of the Loving Shepherd who moved to South New Street from Delaware County. Eventually, the property was

consecrated by a Moravian bishop (The Right Reverend Herbert Spaugh), and the farm's barn was converted for use by a growing congregation. The church remains very active today. The group chose to rename the property 'Bournelyf' which means "Stream of Life" in Middle English.

In the late '70s, a swim instructor at a local YMCA, Jim Scanlon, approached the church to create a new type of camp for kids with special needs. We spoke with Jim and his wife Marilyn along with camp director Rick Curth and Anne Catlin, who have a long history at the camp. They explained that when forming ideas for this camp, they recognized that kids with special needs were not exposed to a summer camp that was offered to normal children. As Jim explained, "Kids with special needs were given easy projects like making macaroni collages, instead of getting out and hiking or swimming like other children."

Jim and his wife joined the church and were married on the grounds of Bournelyf. Having experience with special needs kids, they worked with the church to develop the camp in 1981, starting out with 6-8 kids and young adults with a month-long program that used the swimming facilities at nearby West Chester State College where Jim had been a student.

As the camp's membership grew, activities like canoeing and horseback riding were added. The kids also learned to perform – an annual "Circus" is presented by the campers to their friends and families. At first, some people expressed concern about the ambitious plans for the camp. Many did not feel that children with special needs could safely participate in the kinds of activities that normal campers did.

Anne explained, "People pointed out that some of these kids needed more time to accomplish a task, which could be frustrating. But these kids could do these things, which gave them a great sense of accomplishment."

Marilyn added, "Many of these kids had no idea what they would experience – they showed up with suitcases and had never been in a tent before. We wanted to give them an experience that regular kids had – a regular Adventure Camp. The idea was to challenge them with opportunities they never had before, like horseback riding. It was wonderful!"

Over time, Bournelyf Special Camp helped the campers grow and become more confident, just as any camp can do for kids. For example, there is an activity involving maps and compass apps that the campers and counselors use in the woods to locate the place their lunch is stored. Parents began reporting that the higher level of activity seemed to improve the well-being of their kids; the campers were sleeping better than they ever did before.



Occasionally, the challenges presented, like climbing a water slide, would give a camper pause, but once they accomplished the task, they would beam with pride. Anne said even the parents learned. "Cars would pull up and the folks would be carrying the lunch boxes and backpacks and we would ask them to let the campers manage their own things." This provided life skills and in Anne's words, "let the campers realize that they were capable individuals."

Rick Curth, the camp director, had explained that while the age level was originally limited with a maximum age of participation, some campers so loved their Bournelyf experience that the age

limits were discarded. Anne pointed out that some campers have been attending since 1989, forming a participating "Alumni" group. Bournelyf Special Camp gradually took on campers from Westtown as well as the rest of Chester County.

Recently Bournelyf procured the property they use from the Church of the Loving Shepherd. The beautiful, wooded property has an Olympic-sized swimming pool, hiking and horse trails, and an elaborate "challenge course" with structures that the campers can exercise and climb on. The course also forms a platform for the annual "Camp Circus."



*Challenge Course at Bournelyf Special Camp*

Today Bournelyf Special Camp continues to thrive. They partner activities with organizations like the Chester County Food Bank. By promoting activities in the community both the campers and the community learn more about each other. This fosters a growing awareness that special needs people can be important contributors to our community.

## **BOURNELYF SPECIAL CAMP**

The next time you travel past that green sign with the logo of friendship and a rising sun, remember that a beautiful, wooded property stretching back to pre-colonial days in Westtown continues to improve the lives of many. Residents interested in learning more about Bournelyf Special Camp can email [info@bscwc.org](mailto:info@bscwc.org), call 610-692-9027, or visit: <https://www.bscwc.org/>.

# Important Dates

## JANUARY, 2023

- 2 - Office Closed
- 3 (T), 17 (T) - Board of Supervisors
- 4, 18 - Planning Commission
- 7 - Yard Waste Collection
- 10 - Historical Commission
- 16 - Office Closed
- 17 - Parks & Rec Commission
- 19 - Friends of Oakbourne
- 24 - EAC

## FEBRUARY, 2023

- 6, 21 - Board of Supervisors
- 8, 22 - Planning Commission
- 11 - Yard Waste Collection
- 14 - Historical Commission
- 20 - Office Closed
- 21 - Parks & Recreation
- 28 - EAC

## MARCH, 2023

- 6, 20 - Board of Supervisors
- 8, 22 - Planning Commission
- 11 - Yard Waste Collection
- 14 - Historical Commission
- 21 - Parks & Recreation
- 28 - EAC

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** - 7:30 pm  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY** - 7:00 pm  
**PLANNING COMMISSION** - 7:00 pm  
**HISTORICAL COMMISSION** - 7:00 pm  
Township Municipal Building  
1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown

**PARKS AND RECREATION AND FRIENDS OF OAKBOURNE** - 7:00 pm  
Oakbourne Mansion  
1014 S. Concord Road, Westtown



# Lithium Ion Battery Disposal

Used alkaline batteries can be thrown away with your regular trash, but don't dispose of used Lithium ion or Nickel Cadmium batteries in your trash or recycling bin. They are Hazardous Household Waste (HHW).

Lithium ion batteries power cell phones, tablets, cordless tools, and much more. In everyday use, lithium ion batteries are stable and work as intended with no problems, but if one catches fire, the results can be catastrophic.

Under certain circumstances, such as if the battery has been damaged by dropping, crushing, or piercing the device, a chemical reaction inside the battery can cause it to short circuit. This can cause the battery to severely overheat very quickly and go into "thermal runaway," which can then lead to a fire. Lithium ion battery fires are very dangerous and can be difficult to suppress because they release a flammable and toxic vapor which helps to fuel the fire.

The Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) offers HHW collection events throughout the County. In addition, residents can drop rechargeable batteries and other HHW at the Lanchester Landfill, which is operated by the CCSWA, and located at 7224 Division Highway, Narvon, PA. For a complete list of accepted materials and the 2023 HHW event schedule, please visit [www.chestercountyswa.org](http://www.chestercountyswa.org).

# Larchbourne Park Ribbon Cutting



(L-R) Supervisor Tom Foster, PECO External Affairs Manager Scott Newmann, Natural Lands President Oliver Bass and Supervisor Scott Yaw watch as Nora Witter cuts the ribbon at Larchbourne Park on October 24.



# Household Waste Disposal

Please follow these guidelines on the preparation and disposal of household waste and recyclables:

## TRASH

**Household trash must be securely contained in plastic bags or lidded receptacles.** Construction debris, hazardous waste, and electronics are not accepted.

## RECYCLING

Recyclable materials (glass, plastics #1-7, aluminum, steel, paper, and cardboard) must be in the recycle bin, or other clearly marked recycling containers. **Do not put recyclables in plastic bags.** Rinse food debris and dispose of lids. Flatten cardboard boxes and place in the recycle bin or another cardboard box, or bundle with twine or string (do not use duct tape) and place beside the bin. **Loose cardboard will not be collected.**

## YARD WASTE

Yard waste is collected on scheduled days posted on the Township website. It must be in paper bags or containers that can be dumped. Branches no more than 3" in diameter and 3' in length must be bundled & tied. Logs, stumps, rocks, dirt, and ashes will not be collected. Pickup reminders are emailed to residents who subscribe to the Township listserv. The Township strongly encourages residents to compost yard waste and mulch grass clippings.

## BULK ITEMS

On the last pick up of each month, A.J. Blosenski will collect up to three bulk items per house. Holiday collection make-ups include bulk items. A mattress and/or box spring is accepted on bulk item day. Construction debris, TV's, safes, and auto parts cannot be accepted for collection.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE

Visit <http://www.chestercountyswa.org> for hazardous waste collection events scheduled throughout the county.

## MEDICAL WASTE

There is a medication return box at the Westtown East Goshen Police Dept. Additional information on the disposal of home healthcare waste is available on the Township website.

## ELECTRONIC WASTE

TV's, computer monitors, appliances, and other electronics may be disposed of at the Lanchester Landfill for FREE (7224 Division Highway, Narvon, PA). Residents may bring up to three items per day visit, including one TV (no projection TV's). Retailers and E-Waste collection events charge for TV's and computer monitors, so take advantage of this service.

# Recycle Right. When in Doubt, Throw it Out!

Recycling RIGHT is more important than recycling MORE. Many people are still operating under the misconception that recycling every possible scrap of paper, metal, plastic, and glass is the most environmentally sound practice. Clean, uncontaminated recyclable material improves marketability.

Here's a guide for what **NOT** to put in the recycling bin:

- Anything with food waste in it - You don't have to wash containers, but rinse to remove food scraps and residue.
- Plastic bags and film - These items get stuck in the processing machinery, resulting in expensive repairs and downtime. Recycle CLEAN plastic bags and plastic film packaging at the grocery store.
- Empty snack bags
- Greasy pizza boxes
- Used paper plates, napkins, paper towels, tissues, or diapers
- Paper cups (e.g. coffee cups, fast food drink cups) - The thin plastic lining that helps prevent cups from leaking makes it difficult to process.
- Plastic straws, plastic utensils, or takeaway cup lids
- Shredded paper
- Styrofoam
- Scrap metal, hangers, aluminum siding, or metal cookware

**If you want to do something positive for the planet by recycling, then do it right. When in doubt, throw it out!**

**Discount Code: Westtown**  
**\$25.00 off**  
a Roll-off Dumpster  
**\$10.00 off**  
Junk Removal  
Service

**AJB** Trash & Recycling Service  
**A.J. Blosenski Inc.**  
[www.ajblosenski.com](http://www.ajblosenski.com)  
**610.942.2707**

**Four Generations of Quality Service from the Blosenski Family**

- 96 Gallon Carts Available
- Bulk Item Removal
- Special Cleanups
- Roll-off Dumpsters
- Storage Containers
- Commercial Compactors
- 1-40 Yard Containers
- Event & Party Boxes
- 100% Customer Satisfaction

15 cubic yards  
146 long / 88 wide / 58 high

30 cubic yards  
228 long / 88 wide / 68 high

**Dependable Roll-Off Service**

**Servicing Westtown Township**

Discount cannot be combined with any other offer.



**Westtown Township**  
 1039 Wilmington Pike  
 P.O. Box 79  
 Westtown, Pennsylvania 19395

Prsrtd Std  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 West Chester PA  
 Permit #50

# 2023 YARD WASTE SCHEDULE

JAN 07	FEB 11	MAR 11	APR 08	MAY 13	JUN 10	JUL 15
AUG 12	SEP 16	OCT 14	NOV 04	NOV 18	DEC 02	DEC 16

**2023 Holiday Collection Schedule:**

Trash and recycling collection will be affected by Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Service on weeks with one of these holidays will roll one day throughout the week, beginning with the service scheduled for the holiday:

**Memorial Day:**

Monday, May 29 collection will be Tuesday, May 30, and Thursday service will roll to Friday, June 2.

**Independence Day:**

Thursday July 6 collection will roll to Friday, July 7.

**Labor Day:**

Monday Sept. 4 collection will be on Tuesday, Sept. 5, and Thursday service will roll to Friday, Sept. 8.

**Thanksgiving:**

Thursday, Nov. 23 service will roll to Friday, Nov. 24.

**Christmas:**

Monday, Dec. 25 collection will be on Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Thursday service will be on Friday, Dec. 29.