

A Quarterly Newsletter to the Citizens of Westtown Township - Summer Issue #26



#### GREETINGS WESTTOWN FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS.

This is my 5th summer as Township Manager, and if the corn crop is any indicator, it is going to be a good one! My experience has been very positive, rewarding, and challenging. Some of Westtown's biggest challenges have been the maintenance needs of aging sewers, roads and bridges; new development proposals for long-vacant lands; and a myriad of resident concerns, complaints, and demands. However, the biggest challenge has been dealing with Sunoco Logistics' (a.k.a. Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. or Energy Transfer) construction of Mariner East 2 and 2X pipelines across the entirety of Westtown. These high-pressure 16" and 20" dia. pipelines are proposed to transport natural gas liquids from western Pennsylvania to Marcus Hook for processing and distribution. The Westtown Board of Supervisors has been very concerned with the pipeline's unknowns: impacts to private water wells, leak prevention and detection, geological stability, and construction noise and vibrations to name a few. To the Board's dismay, Sunoco's communications and cooperation with Westtown and other Chester County municipalities along the project alignment has been less than ideal. Although Sunoco is a private company, it enjoys condemnation rights as a "public utility" which suggests that the pipeline permitting and construction would be a more open and transparent process.

To date, Westtown is the only municipality in Chester County where construction has not been initiated except for a drill-rig staging area at the BP gas station property on Rt. 352 near West Chester Pike. It is unknown when work in Westtown will begin, since the project has been delayed by the recent Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) emergency order to suspend operations due to concerns with sinkholes, water well contamination, and surface spills. Westtown has joined other municipalities in conveying our concerns to the PUC and state legislators. Our hope is that when construction does begin in Westtown, the PUC and Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection will have placed requirements on Sunoco such that construction will be uneventful and have no adverse effects on Westtown properties. Please visit the Pipelines tab on the Township website for project updates.

As always, I invite you to stop by the Township building for a visit. I welcome the opportunity to meet you, hear your concerns, and answer any questions about Westtown.

Best Regards,

Rob Pingar Rob Pingar, Township Manager

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Contact Information & Bulletin Board	2
Parks & Recreation Events	3
Historical Commission: The Doctor Is In	4/5
Friends of Oakbourne News	6/7
A Shout Out to Local Scouts	8

WEGO News, Citizens Police Academy	
and Neighborhood University	9
Meetings & Events and E-waste Recycling Day	10
Trash and Recycling Information	11



# Westtown Township, County of Chester Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Board of Supervisors: Carol De Wolf, Scott Yaw, Mike Di Domenico

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



#### **CHESTER COUNTY USEFUL CONTACTS & PHONE NUMBERS**

#### **Chester County Government Services Center:**

601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19382

Information: 610-344-6000

Children, Youth & Families: 610-344-5800

Department of Emergency Services: 610-344-5000

Health Department: 610-344-6225
• Septic Systems: 610-344-6126

• Recycling/Hazardous Waste: 610-344-6692

License Bureau (Dog, Fishing, Hunting): 610-344-6370

Marriage License Bureau: 610-344-6335 Office of the Aging: 610-344-6009

Passports: 610-344-6050

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:**

William Kraut (District Court 15-2-03): 610-436-5757

#### **Chester County Conservation District:**

610-696-5126

#### **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:

Tom Killion: Local: 610-436-3320 / State: 717-787-4712

www.SenatorKillion.com

#### State House - 156th District:

Carolyn Comitta: Local: 610-696-4990 / State: 717-705-2075

www.pahouse.com/Comitta

#### U. S. Senators:

Pat Toomey: Local: 215-241-1090 / Federal 202-224-4254

www.toomey.senate.gov

Robert Casey: Local: 215-405-9660 / Federal: 202-224-6324

www.casey.senate.gov

#### Congress - 6th District:

Ryan Costello: Local: 610-696-2982 / Federal: 202-225-4315

www.costello.house.gov

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

#### For Non-Emergencies:

610-692-5100

#### **BULLETIN BOARD**

#### **E-waste Collection Event**

September 15 at the Township Building from 9am-noon. See page 10 for additional info.

#### Citizens Police Academy & Neighborhood University

See page 9 for registration information.

#### **Routine On-Lot Inspections**

Routine inspections and pumping are due every three years after your previous inspection or waiver, by October 31 of that year. Additional information on the SMP is provided on the township website westtownpa.org/onlot.

#### **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.

#### **Ready Chesco**

To sign up for Chester County's electronic notification system for emergency information go to **readychesco.org**.

#### Pay Sewer and Trash Bills Online

Westtown residents can use Visa, Master Card, and Discover to pay their utility bills online at 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 info@westtown.org and request to be put on the electronic delivery list.

For Police, Fire, & Medical EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911. For NON-EMERGENCIES, dial 610-692-5100.



# **Westtown Summer Series 2018**

# All Events are FREE at Oakbourne Park

1014 S Concord Rd, West Chester, PA 19382

# MOVIE NIGHTS

All films start at dark.



### June 15th

Join us and bring your canine companion as we watch Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005). The adventures of an eccentric inventor and his trusty dog. Snacks for you and your pooch will be available.



### July 20th

Celebrate Christmas in July! Cool off from the heat by watching Elf (2003), a holiday favorite about an elf-raised man in New York City.

### August 17th

May the Force be with you. Watch the original Star Wars, Star Wars: A New Hope (1977), on the big screen. Dress up as your favorite character and join the Rebels, or the Empire.

All children's series events start at 10:30AM at the pavilion.

# Films are suitable for all ages.



## September 21st

Fall back with a classic western. Gather up your darlin' and bring your wagon to the park to watch Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly in High Noon [1952].



#### June 27th - Science Tellers

Wild West: The Mystery of the Golden Piano

Grab your spurs and journey with us to the Wild West, where a legendary bank-robbing outlaw is back in town, about to strike again! Throughout this absolutely wild adventure story, volunteers from the audience will help us explore the fascinating science behind chemical reactions, acids and bases, combustion, air pressure, inertia and more.

#### July 25th - The Magic of Ari Paul Felber

Come see the Ari Paul Felber Children's Magic Show. It is a fun, funny, entertaining and INTERACTIVE experience that will keep them laughing throughout the show.

#### August 8th - Peter Moses Kids Musical Experience

Join Peter Moses for a funny, upbeat, interactive singalong. Concerts are highly participatory with original folk & pop-rock for children.

# A Chester County House Call – The Doctor Is In

### By Erica Reilly, Westtown Township Historical Commission

Before the days of specialized medical practices and urgent care centers, the majority of doctors in Chester County made house calls. Then as now, these family doctors possessed a remarkable range of understanding in all areas of medicine, from childbirth to mental health conditions. They gained most of their knowledge from hands on experience, often relying on their own skills and gut instinct to treat a host of ailments before today's advancements in diagnostic testing.

Dr. Robert Poole III, a 90-year-old retired doctor, was never sure what to expect when he entered the homes of some of his patients. "There was a whole range of health issues we were asked to help with," he says. "Sometimes they were physical, but there were other cases where people needed guidance for emotional and social problems. If someone needed specialized care, we sent them into Philadelphia."



Dr. Robert Poole

Medical specialists came into prominence in the 1950s, but the majority practiced in cities and hadn't yet reached the suburbs. At that time, Philadelphia was likely the only city in the world with six medical schools: The University of Pennsylvania, Jefferson Medical College, Female Medical College of Pennsylvania (renamed the Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1970), Hahneman Medical College, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Temple Medical School. These fine schools helped bring a wave of innovation to the communities they served as they began expanding health care knowledge through research.

A well-known doctor with an established practice in West Chester between 1955 and 1994, Dr. Poole was even asked to get involved with family and community relationships. "I saw everything," he says with a laugh, "from extramarital affairs to secrets I carry with me today."

Dr. Poole graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1953. "Family doctors were disappearing," he says. "I admired my own childhood family doctor, who could take care of anybody and everybody. As a result, I went into family practice because of my curiosity relating to human behavior."

Over the course of his career and before specialization, he delivered several hundred babies in the West Chester area. "There's something about going into the home and seeing generations of families growing together that you don't see anywhere else," he says. "The relationships and trust you share with your patients are immeasurable and rewarding."

As healthcare improved and patients began to live longer, nursing homes began to appear. Medical doctors were often asked to treat patients in these health institutions, and Dr. Poole served as the attending doctor for the James C. Smith Memorial Home at Oakbourne Mansion and Park.

In 1896, the Smith family had willed the mansion to the Philadelphia Protestant Episcopal City Mission for sick and convalescent women. The Smith Memorial Home hosted patients for more than 70 years before closing in 1971 due to operational costs. The township acquired the mansion from the state in 1974.

"I worked at the home for 15 years," said Dr. Poole. "There were usually 20 to 25 women living there at a time, but sometimes as many as 30. It was one of the first mansions to be used as a nursing home."

The home hosted many events and enjoyed a lively social scene. The women, who were mandated to be 23 years or older and white, enjoyed nicer grounds and living conditions than many homes for patients or senior citizens. Dr. Poole visited the patients once a week to tend to their needs, which often included treatment for heart disease and stroke.

A director with nursing experience oversaw the home as the CEO and supervised a small number of staff. A groundskeeper and his wife lived at the gatehouse on S. Concord Road.

Dr. Poole also worked at the State Hospital of Chester County in Embreeville, where he treated psychiatric patients for their physical problems. Doctors were expected to treat a host of mental conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, and paranoia.

The healthcare system was much different in those days. "We didn't always have the tools or training for certain conditions, so we did our best," he says. He saw new drugs such as thorazine being introduced to reduce hallucinations and calm patients. Some of these treatments are still being used, while others have been discontinued. Today, many of these mental health institutions, including the Embreeville State Hospital, have been closed because of remarkable improvements in the care of mental illness.

Despite advances in medicine, a loss of peace of mind now seems to disrupt the pursuit of happiness. "My patients seem to be living longer but enjoying it less," says Dr. Poole. He has seen an increase in anxiety and depression over the course of his practice, as well as other problems with obesity and addiction. A widower with four daughters, five grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren, Dr. Poole has written extensively on the problems facing this generation. In fact, one of his books is My Uncle Sam Needs a House Call: The Faltering Health of a Nation.

Maybe it's time we started having those house calls again.



Westtown Day will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 3 pm. at Oakbourne Park, 1014 S. Concord Road.

This community day is free and open to the public. The historic Oakbourne Mansion and grounds will feature live music, carnival games, pony rides, petting zoo, food trucks, Civil War reenactors, historic demonstrations, and an assortment of local businesses, vendors, and organizations. There's something for everyone. For more information visit www.westtownday.com.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Pam Coleman at pcoleman@westtown.org. If you are interested in sponsoring Westtown Day, please contact Historical Commissioner Erica Reilly (ericamreilly@gmail.com). Sponsors will be listed in the event program and on the Township website.

## Friends of Oakbourne News

### by Tom Bare, President, Friends of Oakbourne

With the wet cool weather of the past couple of months, the Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) work in the park has been somewhat curtailed. But the wet weather has certainly been a boon to all of the flora and fauna in the park, especially to all of the trees and plants (the Clock Garden hollies, barberries, and roses as well as the 19 trees along the park entry road) that FoO planted in 2017. The only plants that did not make it through the winter were two knockout rose plants in the Clock Garden, which now have been replaced. You may remember a picture from the previous *Gazette* showing one of the bedraggled Clock Garden holly plants that had been damaged by the harsh winter and deer, but compare it to a recent picture of the vigorous holly after all of the rain and a little Holly Tone fertilizer.





Holly plant in late winter

Holly plant in mid-spring

And have a look at the entry drive trees when they were planted last fall and now after about 10-12 inches of rain in April/May.



Some park entry drive trees planted fall 2017



The same entry drive trees spring 2018

While we're comparing pictures, I thought it would be interesting to go back 5 years when I planted two dedicated trees in the park. One was an approximately 5 foot tall Dawn Redwood tree and the other a 10 foot tall Swamp White Oak tree. Today the Dawn Redwood is almost 30 feet high (6 times its original size) and the swamp white Oak is 25 feet high (2½ times its original height).

In April, FoO planted a Copper Beech tree that was dedicated by friends to the memory of Mark Giansanti. This Copper Beech was planted in an area where FoO previously planted two Purple Beeches; these recently planted beech trees will eventually replace the two remaining magnificent Copper Beeches that are along the park entry drive.

For the rest of the summer, FoO has a number of projects we plan to complete:

- Three dedicated trees that possess unique and unusual bark will be planted in the Bark Woodlet area of the Oakbourne arboretum,
- Four flagstone pads will be constructed in the four Clock Garden quadrants,
- Four stone benches will be installed on each of the flagstone pads of the Clock Garden,
- An application to establish Oakbourne Arboretum as a Level 1 accredited arboretum with the internationally recognized ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program will be submitted.



Copper Beech planted in memory of Mark Giansanti



Dawn Redwood - 5 ft high when planted in 2013



Dawn Redwood 5 years later 30 ft high - 2018

### INTERESTED IN IMPROVING YOUR BEAUTIFUL TOWNSHIP PARK?

Please join us at the Friends of Oakbourne's upcoming meetings at 7:00 pm on July 19 or October 18, 2018 at the Oakbourne Mansion. Contact Tom Bare (tmbare@hotmail.com or 610-399-1572) if you are interested in donating a park bench or tree to be planted in Oakbourne Park to honor a special person or loved one or to commemorate an important occasion.

### A Shout Out To Local Scouts

Scouting may be on the decline nationally, but it is thriving in Westtown. The Township would like to recognize three scouts who are providing their time and talent to benefit our community. For project approval, the scouts were required to present a proposal to Scout Council outlining the scope of their service project, including project financing and project management.

Birju Patel is a member of Troop 149 based in Thornton, and will be a senior at Rustin this fall. Birju participates in the informal, self-named Oakbourne Basketball League (OBL). His Eagle Scout project involves improving the basketball court at Oakbourne Park. On a recent weekend in June, Birju and other members of his troop filled cracks and resealed the court. Birju also repainted the lines on the court, and repaired the courtside benches.

The OBL has pickup games on Saturdays. Come check out the refurbished court!



Ellery Coleman with her book box at the Oakbourne Park pavilion



Birju Patel, right, and members of Troop 149 repair cracks in the court.





Ellery Coleman is a scout with Troop 439, and a member of the Rustin Class of 2018. For her Gold Award project (the highest achievement in Girl Scouts), Ellery and her team designed, constructed, and decorated two unique book boxes for placement at Oakbourne Park and a park in East Goshen Township. Ellery collected book donations for the boxes and hopes her project will help promote literacy and bring people together. As part of her project, Ellery also created a blog to assist other scouts with their projects. Ellery was a Girl Scout Ambassador in London, and plans to study International Relations and Art History. She has arranged for younger scouts to replenish her book boxes as needed.

And finally, Willem Einthoven of Troop 66 in Westtown is also a rising senior at Rustin High School. On his road to Eagle Scout, Willem is planning to clear vegetation, and design and construct two benches at Piedmont Pond. These benches will provide a welcome resting spot for his neighbors in Pleasant Grove.

# Westtown-East Goshen (WEGO) **Regional Police Department News**

The Westtown-East Goshen (WEGO) Regional Police Department would like to welcome its newest parttime officer, Josh Cumens. Officer Josh Cumens is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is currently studying Criminal Justice at West Chester University. Josh graduated from the Delaware County Community College Municipal Police Academy in December of 2016. Josh enjoys exercising and spending time with his family. Josh is recently married and resides with his wife in Berks County, Pa. He is looking forward to meeting and serving the residents of Westtown, East Goshen, and Thornbury Townships.



# Citizens Police Academy & Neighborhood University

Once Again This Fall, Residents Can Choose From Two Fantastic Programs



WEGO will be hosting the Citizens Police Academy to give participants a better understanding of the operations of the department

and its officers. Topics covered during the 12-week academy include: Police Patrol Operations, Criminal Investigations and Crime Scene Processing, CPR & First Aid Certification, the Court System and Mock Preliminary Hearing, Traffic Enforcement, Accident Investigation & Reconstruction, Commercial Vehicle Traffic Safety, Community Policing and Safe Schools, 911 Operations Center, and Drug Law Enforcement and the Opioid Crisis.

Class size is limited. Applicants must be 18 or older, and submit to a complete background check. There is a nominal fee to cover the cost of CPR/First Aid certification. For information and to register, visit the WEGO website: www.wegopd.org



The West Chester Area Council of Governments is offering Neighborhood University again this year. NU provides residents the

opportunity to learn about local government, tour public facilities, and better understand municipal services and resources. Local officials will cover topics including the structure of local government, public safety, zoning and land development, trails and open space, stormwater management, transportation, public works infrastructure, county services, and public finance. The goal is to provide area residents with the tools necessary to be better advocates for their community. NU is open to residents age 16 or older from any one of the participating communities. This program is free. Enrollment deadline is August 28. Classes start September 6, and will be held on Thursdays in various locations throughout the greater West Chester area. Visit www.nugwc.org for more information or to enroll.

## **Meetings & Events**

#### **JULY 2018**

- 4 Office Closed
- 7 Yard Waste Collection
- 10 Parks & Recreation
- 16 Board of Supervisors
- 18 Planning Commission
- 19 Historical Commission
- 19 Friends of Oakbourne
- 20 Movie Night

#### **AUGUST 2018**

- 4 Yard Waste Collection
- 6, 20 Board of Supervisors
- 8, 22 Planning Commission
- 14 Parks & Recreation
- 16 Historical Commission
- 17 Movie Night

#### **SEPTEMBER 2018**

- 3 Office Closed
- 4 (T), 17 Board of Supervisors
- 5, 19 Planning Commission
- 8 Yard Waste Collection
- 11 Parks & Recreation
- 15 E-waste Event
- 20 Historical Commission
- 21 Movie Night

#### **OCTOBER 2018**

- 1, 15 Board of Supervisors
- 3, 17 Planning Commission
- 6 Yard Waste Collection
- 7 Westtown Day
- 9 Parks & Recreation
- 18 Historical Commission
- 18 Friends of Oakbourne

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** - 7:30 pm

HISTORICAL COMMISSION - 6:00 pm

PLANNING COMMISSION - 7:30 pm

Township Municipal Building

1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown

FRIENDS OF OAKBOURNE - 7:00 pm

PARKS AND RECREATION - 7:00 pm

Oakbourne Mansion

1014 S. Concord Road, Westtown

# E-waste Recycling Day



## **SEPTEMBER 15, 2018** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### Westtown Township Building | 1039 Wilmington Pike

This e-waste collection event is open to all township residents. Electronics will be recycled by eForce Compliance, Philadelphia's first Certified Responsible Recycler. We will accept all electronic devices with a plug. NO SMOKE DETECTORS, LARGE APPLIANCES, or PROJECTION TVs will be accepted.

#### **ACCEPTED ITEMS INCLUDE:**

Laptops • Peripherals • Typewriters • Telephones Cameras • Cell Phones • Computers • Mice • Calculators Small Appliances • Fax Machines • Keyboards • Printers

- \$30 fee per TV or computer monitor
- \$100 per wooden console TV
- \$10 per microwave, dehumidifier, air conditioner

All Data Media Will Be Destroyed or Wiped!

**COUPON OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE** PROVIDED FOR ALL TVS OR MONITORS CHARGED.



# Is It Recyclable? If In Doubt, Throw It Out!

Many people operate under the misconception that recycling every possible scrap of paper, metal, plastic, and glass is the most environmentally sound practice; however, contaminated recycled material is a major problem for material recycling facilities (MERFs). "Aspirational recycling" is severely limiting the marketability of material worldwide.

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

- Pizza boxes and used paper plates, napkins, or paper towels - Paper fibers cannot be separated from oils during the pulping process. One grease laden pizza box can contaminate an entire batch of recycled paper pulp.
- Paper cups (e.g. coffee cups, fast food drink cups) –
  The thin plastic lining that help prevent cups from
  leaking makes it difficult to process. And while we
  are on the topic cups, do not include plastic straws or
  takeaway cup lids.
- Plastic bags and film Do not place your recyclables in plastic bags and do not put plastic bags or film into the bin. These items get stuck in the processing machinery, resulting in expensive repairs and down time. Recycle CLEAN plastic bags and plastic film packaging at the grocery store.
- Plastic utensils the grade of the plastic used in disposable utensils is poor and they are too small to make it through the sorting process.
- Styrofoam (plastic #6 polystyrene) Our recycling facility does not accept Styrofoam
- Oily food containers Food waste is a major problem in the recycling stream. You don't have to wash containers, but rinse to remove food scraps and residue.
- No scrap metal hangers, aluminum siding scraps, and metal cookware are not accepted at our MERF.

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

## **General Trash Information**

#### 2018 Holiday Pickup Schedule

Trash will not be collected on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving. For **Monday pickups**, trash and recycling will be collected the **Saturday before** the holiday; **Thursday pickups** will be collected the **Saturday after** the holiday.

Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection Pennsylvania law prohibits the disposal of hazardous waste or E-waste in the regular trash. Visit chestercountyswa.org for hazardous waste collection events scheduled throughout the county.

Tube TV's, computer monitors, appliances, and other electronics can be disposed of at the Lanchester Landfill for FREE through the end of the year (7224 Division Highway, Narvon, PA 17555). Residents can bring up to 3 items per day. Retailers and e-waste collection events are now charging for TVs and computer monitors, so take advantage of this service!

#### **Bulk Items**

Large items will be taken on the last collection date of the month. You may put out 3 large items, such as appliances (without Freon) and furniture. **Construction debris (shingles, drywall, lumber, etc.) will not be collected**. If you are unsure about the disposal of a bulk item, please contact the Township.

#### Yard Waste

Collected on scheduled days. Must be in paper bags or a container that can be dumped. Branches no more than 3" in diameter & 3' in length must be bundled & tied. Yard waste collection dates are posted on the Township website westtownpa.org, and on your utility bills. Pickup reminders are emailed to residents who subscribe to the township listserv. Subscribe on the website.





# Recognize this Structure?

The Historical Commission seeks your help. If you can identify this structure is, then please email the township at administration@westtown.org.



