



# WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Newsletter to the Citizens of Westtown Township - Winter Issue #32



New Oakbourne Park Entrance Sign

## GREETINGS WESTTOWN FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The arrival of the new year brings a new face: Westtown's newly elected Supervisor, Richard (Dick) Pomerantz. Dick succeeds Mike Di Domenico who served the township for six years. We thank Mike for his diligence on initiating Westtown's On-lot Management Program and wish him the best. We welcome Dick to the Westtown team. Dick is well acquainted with Westtown, having served on the township Planning Commission since 2008, and was Chair for the past six years. His bio can be found elsewhere in the Gazette.

**A look back.....a look ahead.** 2019 was a remarkable year in Westtown Township and great things are anticipated for 2020.

**Parks & Recreation and Historical Commissions.** Westtown's Parks & Recreation Commission continued their fine work on community events at Oakbourne Park, and are looking to add an adult-centered activity in 2020. In 2019, the Historical Commission initiated an archeological investigation at the Huey property and will continue this work in 2020 with assistance from West Chester University's archeology department students. Together, the Parks & Rec and Historical Commissions planned and executed the largest and best attended Westtown Day at Oakbourne Park. Westtown Day 2020 is expected to be equally grand.

**Parks, Roads, Bridges.** Significant repairs were made to the Oakbourne Mansion exterior in 2019, including restoration of rotted wood and painting using a historically accurate color scheme. This work will be continued in 2020, along with repairs and painting of the Mansion's carriage house and Westtown's iconic water tower. Tyson Park Phase II improvements were completed in late fall, with a paved parking lot and 0.5 mile trail, additional landscaping, and a handicap accessible port-a-john. We expect these improvements will increase park use. The replacement of Oakbourne Road Bridge was completed in 2019, and repairs will be made to S. New Street Bridge in 2020. The new Public Works garage was completed in 2019, and in 2020 the old garage will be reconfigured as a repair shop. Orvis Way, a collector road, was built between Stetson Drive and W. Pleasant Grove Road. In 2020 and beyond, the communities west of Route 202 will appreciate this new means of access to northbound Route 202.

**Planning, Zoning, Subdivisions, Land Development.** In 2019 the Board of Supervisors approved Westtown's new Comprehensive Plan. This Plan will be a zoning and land development guidance document for the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors through the next decade. The construction of The Malvern School and Ducklings Early Learning Center were started in 2019; both will be completed and open for business

in early 2020. It is anticipated the Rustin Walk, Hawthorne, and Westtown Woods subdivisions will also be completed in 2020. Last, but certainly not least, the Toll Brothers/Crebilly Farm project is still active. While the initial Conditional Use application is making its way through appeals courts, a new Conditional Use application with a different project design was submitted by Toll for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

**Traffic Signals.** In 2020, the traffic signal at the Rt. 3/Rt. 352 intersection will be improved with conventional poles and mast-arms replacing the outdated span wire, which was prone to failure. At the Rt. 352/Rt. 926 intersection, safety will be enhanced by installing a left turn signal for eastbound Rt. 926 traffic turning left onto Rt. 352 north.

**Sunoco Pipelines.** It is anticipated that the installations of the Mariner East 2 and 2X high-pressure 16" and 20" dia. pipelines will be completed in Westtown, and perhaps the entirety of Chester County, in the 2020.

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

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable 2020,

*Rob Pingar*

Rob Pingar, Township Manager

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# Westtown Township, County of Chester

## Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Board of Supervisors:** Richard Pomerantz, Carol De Wolf, Scott Yaw

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:

Marty 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:

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

[www.SenatorKillion.com](http://www.SenatorKillion.com)

#### State House - 156th District:

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

[www.pahouse.com/Comitta](http://www.pahouse.com/Comitta)

#### 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: 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

#### Full Time Employment Opportunity - Staff Accountant

This position reports to the Finance Director and assists with payroll, bank reconciliation, budget preparation, auditors, and other related duties. Applicant must be detail-oriented and have excellent communication and organization skills. Current knowledge of municipal accounting and finance preferred. Bachelor's degree or equivalent accounting experience is required. EOE. Salary DOQ. Excellent benefits package. Submit letter of interest with resume to [staffaccountant@westtown.org](mailto:staffaccountant@westtown.org).

#### Board & Commission Openings

The township has vacancies on several Boards and Commissions. See p. 9 for more details.

#### Ready Chesco.

ReadyChesCo 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

Westtown residents can use Visa, Master Card, and Discover to pay their utility bills online at [westtownpa.org](http://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](mailto:info@westtown.org) and request to be put on the electronic delivery list.



## Toll Bros./Crebilly Farm Conditional Use Application Update

On December 12, 2019, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania rendered a Decision on Toll Brothers, (Toll) appeal of the Court of Common Pleas Decision and Order that upheld the Board of Supervisors' denial of the conditional use (CU) application Toll filed in 2016 seeking zoning approval for a residential development of 319 homes on Crebilly Farm. The Commonwealth Court affirmed the trial court Order which upheld the Board of Supervisors' denial of the CU application. The Commonwealth Court cited the following three bases to uphold the Board's denial of the application:

1. The Board of Supervisors properly found that Toll was unable to demonstrate that its proposed development would not result in or substantially add to a significant traffic hazard or significant traffic congestion. The Court held however, that the Township cannot deny the application on the basis that the CU plan did not depict improvements to the intersection of S. New Street and Route 926 as this intersection is controlled by PennDOT. The Court did indicate that the Board of Supervisors could condition approval of the application on obtaining PennDOT approval for improvements at this intersection, but that it could not dictate what improvements would be built at this intersection since PennDOT has exclusive jurisdiction over it.
2. The Board of Supervisors properly denied the application because Toll failed to provide a continuous collector street from West Pleasant Grove to Route 926. The Court confirmed that Toll must comply with the design standards in Section 170- 503.A of the Township Zoning Ordinance, specifically the access and traffic control provisions in Section 170 - 503.C which require a continuous collector street.
3. The Board of Supervisors properly denied the application because Toll failed to identify all lands visible from adjacent public roads as required by 170 - 905.A(1)(m) of the Zoning Ordinance.

The Court rejected the portion of the Board's Decision which held that the CU application could be denied because Toll did not present a revised plan that showed alternative access ways (elimination of the Route 202 access and relocation of the access onto Route 926 so that it aligns with Bridlewood Boulevard). The Court held that this was not a requirement in the Ordinance applicable to a flexible development.

#### Does this mean the first application is dead?

No, Toll may appeal the Commonwealth Court Decision within 30 days to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, who may or may not agree to accept the appeal. Alternatively, Toll may proceed with a second Conditional Use application to develop a flexible development with 319 homes at the Crebilly Farm that was submitted in August of this year. That second application includes a proposed collector street from West Pleasant Grove Road to Route 926 and a plan sheet including photographs of all land on the farm visible from public roads.

The Township Planning Commission reviewed this second application over the course of several meetings this fall. On December 3, 2019, Toll submitted supplemental information in support of their application in response to the comments and letters generated by the Township's consultants. This was the day before the Planning Commission's meeting where a recommendation would be made on the application. The Planning Commission faced a choice; postpone their meeting and give their consultants additional time to review and comment on the new material, or proceed with their meeting and render a recommendation based on the initial proposal.

The Planning Commission chose to proceed with their planned meeting and rendered two recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on 12/4/19. (The final letter was distributed on 12/13/19 in one document); the first recommendation was to deny the application citing the Township Traffic Engineer's conclusion that the development would result in or substantially add to a significant traffic hazard or traffic congestion under 170-2009(d)1(h), that the application was not consistent with the Township's Comprehensive Plan as required by 170-902.D of the Township Zoning Code, and that Toll failed to adequately demonstrate that the proposed development does not unreasonably or significantly affect the values protected by Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution known as the "Environmental Rights Amendment" - that is "the right to clean air, pure water and preservation of natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment."

The Planning Commission's second recommendation acknowledged that Toll submitted supplementary reports and information the day before the Planning Commission meeting (and may do so again) and that as a result, if Toll satisfies its burden of proof to the Board of Supervisors such that the CU application can be approved, the Board should impose fifty-eight (58) conditions to any approval of the Plan. The letter with both recommendations is viewable here: <http://www.westtownpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/PC-recommendation-Crebilly-CU-Application-II.pdf>

#### So where do things stand now?

The Board of Supervisors received the Planning Commission's recommendation and began consideration of Toll's August, 2019 CU application at its first public hearing on December 18, 2019. No evidence or testimony was taken at this meeting. Subsequent hearings for this application are scheduled as follows:

**Thursday, January 30, 2020** - 6pm - Rustin HS auditorium

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020** - 6pm - Stetson MS auditorium

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020** - 6pm - Rustin HS auditorium

*Additional dates to be added as needed. All dates subject to change with notice.*

# The “Rediscovery” of Jesse Mercer’s School House\*

By Paul Mullin, Westtown Township Historical Commissioner



Painter and Bowen's 1847 "Map of Chester County, Pennsylvania" showing Mercer's School House, (Mercers S.H) just above the 'S' in "Westtown." Note that the Taylor Burial Ground is also recorded in what is now the Pleasant Grove Development.

On an 1847 map of Chester County, Pennsylvania by Painter and Bowen there is a notation for a "Mercers S.H." near the southwest corner of the intersection of today's South Concord and Oakbourne Roads. Westtown residents Thomas and Lydia Mercer donated the land on which this little schoolhouse was built in 1806. The 1806 deed found in the Chester County Archives indicates that Thomas Mercer donated approximately one-quarter acre of ground to his heirs as well as William Hawley, Abel Otley, Titus Taylor, and Thomas Burnett and their heirs "... to and for the use, benefit and convenience of a school lot and no other intent or purpose whatsoever."

The earliest records that confirm the schoolhouse being in use is the Chester County Poor School Children's Teacher' Bills 1805-1837. These records contain bills submitted to the County Commissioner's Office by teachers seeking reimbursement for teaching and providing supplies to financially disadvantaged school children. There are several records for the year 1813 for Jesse Mercer's schoolhouse. Jesse Mercer was Thomas Mercer's son.

In 1819, the "Subscribers" to the school enacted a resolution that only "Subscribers" could benefit from the school and families had to indicate how many children would be attending. A subscriber was a parent who paid a monthly tuition fee to

the teacher. Subscriber's names included Thomas Henderson, George Matlack, John Forbes, Joseph Matlack, James Hannum, Jesse Mercer, Obed Otley, Benedict Darlington, James Henderson, Robert Yearsley, Isaac Hall, John Davis, James Faucett, Titus Taylor, and others. The school seems to have been supported by local farmers interested in the education of their children.

## Meeting Notes of Mercer School Subscribers, Chester County Historical Society, Westtown, March 19, 1819

At a meeting of the subscribers of the Mercer School, the following resolution was adopted. Resolved that Eber Henderson be instructed to offer a subscription to each one of the employers of the above school for the purpose of raising a school for the benefit of those only who subscribe. It is further necessary that each one of the employers shall subscribe as near as possible what he expects to send in order to raise the number of at least twenty-five scholars. Otherwise a suitable teacher cannot be had.

(Author's note: I suspect the fractions mean the fraction of time a child would attend: 1 ½ would be one student full time and one student half time)

## Scholars

Thomas Henderson 1/4	J. Mercer 1
James Hednerson 1/2	George Matlack 1
Jonathon Millison 1/2	Abel Otley 1/2
John ? 1/2	Gideon Miles 11/2
Robert Yearsley 1/4	Joseph Matlack 1/2
James Walton 1	John Hickman? 1/2
James Hannum 1/4	? Otley 1
William Wickersham 1/2	Francis Hickman 1
Benedict Darlington 11/2	? Eachus 1/4
Isaac Hall 1/2	John Davis 1/4
Robert Anderson 1/4	James Faucet 1/3
William Slaughter 1/2	Samuel ? 11/2
Titus Taylor 1/2	William Yearsley 1/2

From subsequent newspaper accounts, all did not go well with the Mercer School. The Village Record of May 31, 1826 carried an advertisement: "60 DOLLARS REWARD" to anyone who could "... identify the person, or persons, who had broken into Mercer's School on two occasions and had destroyed school property." The advertisement was signed by Abel Otley and Jesse Mercer, two local farmers:

### 60 Dollars Reward

Will be paid by the subscribers to Mercer's School, to any person who will discover and make proof sufficient to convict the authors of the following atrocious acts: About the first of April last, some person or persons, broke into Mercer's School-House in Westtown, and carried away all the sash, glass, and stove-pipe, belonging to said house: the subscribers to the School met and had the damage repaired under the impression that no further violence would be offered: however, on the night of the 20th of May, the same or some other persons broke and entered the same house, and after doing considerable damage, again carried away all the new sash, glass, and stove pipe.

An 1856 map of Chester County is the last record found of the schoolhouse still located on or very near to the Oakbourne Mansion gatehouse. In 1857, the property where the school was likely located and the surrounding area was sold to John Hulme. The deed contains the names of some descendants of the families listed in the original deed of the school property, as well as some of the names of subscribers to the school mentioned above, but no mention of the school.

\*This article was originally prepared by the author for the updated history of Westtown, "From Farmland to Suburbia: A HISTORY of WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA" by Arthur E. James, originally published in 1973 by the Chester County Historical Society. Watch for the posting of this book on the Westtown Township website in January.

In September of 2018, after noticing that the stone used for the gatehouse was different from the mansion, the Westtown Township Historical Commission inspected the interior and exterior of the gatehouse to attempt to determine if it was the schoolhouse or part of the schoolhouse, but did not find definitive evidence to prove or disprove this theory. Was the school torn down or was it incorporated into another building in the vicinity?

The answer may lie in the purchase of the house and 143 acres from Hulme in 1882 by James Charles Smith, a wealthy Philadelphia lawyer, and his wife Heloise Drexel Smith. A newspaper article published that year, recently found in the Chester County Historical Society library, provided the final proof that the Oakbourne Mansion gatehouse/tenant house was once the Mercer Schoolhouse. The article reads in part:

*"More Improvements: James Smith, of Philadelphia, who recently purchased the [Carter] farm in Westtown Township, besides improving the buildings which we have already noted, he is now cleaning out the decayed trees, underbrush, etc., from the woods, grading the grounds, and will make it a beautiful grove, and is also widening the public road in front of the grounds. Mr. Smith will also put an English clock on his stable, and is fitting up the old school house on the property, which is one of the oldest in this section, in elegant style for a tenant house."*

This was the beginning of the beautiful Oakbourne Park that we all enjoy today.



The Oakbourne Park gatehouse/tenant house, formerly Jesse Mercer's schoolhouse, c. 1807. The stone section is likely part of the original school.



HON. WILLIAM D. KRAUT, MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE  
15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF CHESTER

## FAREWELL STATE OF THE COURT 2019

District Court 15-2-03 Westtown, West Goshen & Thornbury Townships

### DEAR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

May I take this opportunity one last time to extend a warm personal greeting to you. I continue to be personally thankful for your faith and trust in me. As in past years I have been committed to strengthening our community. It is the sworn obligation of a Judge to ensure that every case tried in his or her court is adjudicated expeditiously, courteously, and according to law, with the fullest protection for the rights of all who are involved. I have tried daily to follow this tenet.

This is my last annual "State of the Court." I have chosen to retire at the end of my term in 2019. I am proud to report that the state of Magisterial District Court 15-2-03 remains solid, sound, and stable.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be your Magisterial District Judge these past 12 plus years. It has been an honor to be able to serve the community in which I live. It has been my intent from the beginning of my term to protect our community, and I believe that I have.

There have been many positive changes to the court during my tenure from scheduling hearings as quickly as possible, to helping those in need. It has been my goal to treat everyone with dignity and respect.

While we live in a wonderful part of the world there are some observations I would like to share with you. I see more angry people yearly. I see our youth expecting no consequences for acts they commit. Young and old alike requesting a break on anything from a speeding ticket, to multiple shoplifting arrests. Many of us do not expect a consequence for our actions; this is not good for society. Acts have consequences.

I have come to recognize that the majority of us on the roads are not paying attention to our primary duty of driving carefully. We are thinking about the day, or what we need to do, all leading to

many distracted drivers, which are a danger to all of us. There are many in our community that need a helping hand, and where possible my staff and I do.

When I first arrived at the court I had not had much contact with our local police departments. We as a community are extremely fortunate to have the township police departments we have. These are a group of dedicated men and women who serve us all at the highest degree of professionalism. They should all be thanked for their service. It did not mean they always won their cases, but I came to realize quickly that what was presented to me was truthful with no embellishments.

Life has many twists and turns; during these past 12 years it has been an honor and a privilege to serve my community. I look upon my tenure as a steward of District Court 15-2-03. I believe that I am leaving the Court in a better place than when I entered it. It is now time for Judge Goch to take his turn and input upon the court and community.

Lastly I want to thank my wonderful staff who treated you the community with respect, went out of their way to help all who entered, and made my job much easier. I have valued having a professional staff who is dedicated to serving you, the public.

In closing, as I started each day I try to remember the following, "The most extraordinary aspect of the judiciary in a free society is that even while exercising the authority entrusted to them, judges remain the servants, not the masters, of those on whom they sit in judgment."

So my friends, I wish you all well and again thank you for putting your trust in me. Have a happy and healthy year.

*William D. Kraut*

**Magisterial District Judge**  
Westtown, West Goshen, & Thornbury

## EGG HIKE AT OAKBOURNE PARK

SATURDAY,  
**APRIL 4, 2020**  
10:00 a.m. - Noon\*

Hosted by the Westtown Township Parks  
& Recreation Commission

BYO basket, grab a map at the park pavilion, and hit the trails at Oakbourne Park to locate egg pick up stations. All ages are welcome. Keep your eyes peeled along the way for hidden golden eggs with special prizes!

\*OR while eggs last | Cancelled if raining

## 23RD ANNUAL CRC STREAM CLEANUP

Saturday, April 4, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Support, encourage and promote the enjoyment, restoration, conservation, protection and prudent management of the natural resources of the Chester, Ridley, and Crum Creek Watersheds.

REGISTER  
ONLINE  
[crcwatersheds.org](http://crcwatersheds.org)



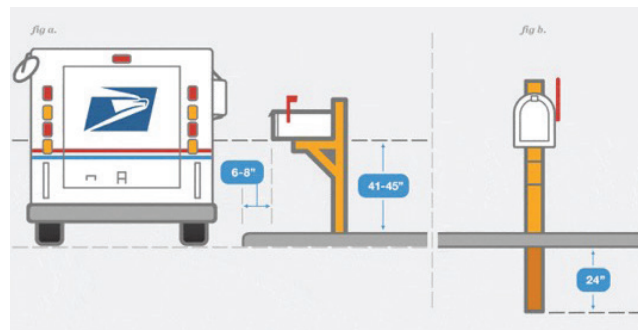
## Public Works Department - Winter Weather Information

The Public Works Department strives to keep township roads passable during winter weather events. Salting at the beginning of a winter storm keeps the snow and ice from bonding with the paved surface. Snow removal operations begin when snow has accumulated on the road surface, and continues for the duration of the storm. Please understand that we cannot address every road in the township at once. The initial focus is to open and clear heavily travelled collector roads, and then move to low volume roads and developments. After the roads are initially cleared, the drivers will work on pushing snow back. Depending on the timing and duration of a storm, it may take up to six hours after the snow has stopped to clear the roads. To aid us in the safe and effective removal of snow and ice, do not park on the street during snow or ice storms.

The 90+ cul-de-sacs within the Township are the most challenging and time consuming areas to plow because the area where plowed snow can be placed is very limited due to the short distance between driveway openings, mailboxes, and stormwater drains. Cars parked in cul-de-sacs exacerbate the problem. Due to these constraints and safety issues, cul-de-sacs may not be plowed if cars are parked in them.

To avoid having your driveway plowed shut, leave the last 10 feet of your driveway un-shoveled until we are finished. Another method is to clear 15 feet of the shoulder to the left of your driveway (when facing the street). That will allow a snowplow blade full of snow to unload and deposit the snow before it reaches your driveway. Do not place shoveled, blown, or plowed snow from driveways or sidewalks onto public streets.

The Public Works Department would also like to remind residents of the policy regarding mailboxes damaged during snowplowing operations. Most often, damage to mailboxes is sustained from snow as it comes off of the plow. A sound post and securely attached mailbox will not be knocked over by snow coming off the plow. It is helpful to use a reflector to make your mailbox more visible to plow drivers. Also check that the placement of your mailbox in the right-of-way follows the US Postal Service Standards for Residential Mailboxes shown in the diagram.



Plow drivers are instructed to drive as slowly as realistically possible in order to minimize problems with mailboxes. However, mailboxes are considered an encroaching, albeit official, structure in the right-of-way and the township is not responsible for damage. The township will not replace mailboxes damaged by snow coming off the plow.

Please do your part to help the township safely and efficiently remove snow this winter!

## Westtown East Goshen Police Recommend ReportIt



WEGO encourages residents to use a free online system that will help keep track of valuable—and invaluable—personal property. ReportIt is a free, secure online service allowing citizens to record serial numbers and upload images for phones, electronics, and other valuables. Should those items ever be stolen, WEGO PD says having the information will go a long way in accurately and quickly identifying your property. Citizens can access the site at [www.reportit.leadsonline.com](http://www.reportit.leadsonline.com). The ReportIt service is a part of LeadsOnline, an online system that works with police across the country to track and recover stolen property.

**Safe. Secure. Free.**

Visit [www.reportit.leadsonline.com](http://www.reportit.leadsonline.com) to learn more or sign up today!

## Introducing Westtown Township's Newly Elected Supervisor: Richard Pomerantz

Canadian born and educated, American citizen, Dick Pomerantz is Westtown's newest member of the Board of Supervisors. He and his wife/business partner Bobbie are 33 year Westtown residents. Having had the experience of living and working throughout North America and around the world, Dick brings a diverse perspective and leadership style that is driven yet collaborative, direct yet respectful to engender a wide range of views. And always strives to make a positive impact.

A graduate of McGill University and the University of Ottawa School of Law, Dick early on realized that being a lawyer would not be his life path. As he shared, "...My entrepreneurial interests would take me elsewhere. My very wide-ranging life experience has enabled me to build diverse skills which have been beneficial in a variety of endeavors, including as Chairman, Westtown Planning Commission, for the past six years."

Some of these undertakings include:

- Award winning US and Canadian investigative print and broadcast journalist
- Co-Senior Partner of a world-wide Strategy Advisory, Board (Governance) and Senior Executive Coach boutique consultancy; and Media Production company

- Co-creator of Customer/Client-driven skills development program globally taught and/or licensed
- Naval Officer Life Coach/mentor
- Author and motivational speaker.

With a results orientation, Pomerantz has also served as:

- (Former Co-Chair) Minnesota Major League Baseball Task Force ("Save the Twins")
- Co-founder: Make-A-Wish Minnesota; North Carolina Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
- Chairman, ACCCF 2013-14 South Florida community fundraiser (14 events)
- (Former) member of the Twin Cities (MN) Metropolitan Health Planning Board
- (Former) Valley Forge Military College Women's Basketball Head Coach
- Walking Scorer, PGA Tour Honda Classic (10 years)
- Cancer caregiver.

Pomerantz states he will, as always, be mindful that *"the greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark."*

- Michelangelo

## Township Board and Commission Openings

The Board of Supervisors is accepting letters of interest from any township resident who desires to serve on township boards or commissions. As identified below, there are several openings due to terms expiring. All board members and commissioners whose terms expired in 2019 are encouraged to reapply if they desire to continue.

**Planning Commission (PC).** The PC primarily reviews subdivision, land development, and conditional use applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. It also drafts, recommends, and administers subdivision, land development, and planned residential development regulations. Consisting of seven members, the PC meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

**Historical Commission (HC).** The HC's mission is to foster community appreciation of Westtown's history, educating residents about buildings and sites of historic, architectural, archaeological, or cultural significance. Consisting of seven members, the HC meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM.

**Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB).** The ZHB is a quasi-judicial body that renders decisions on specific types of land use appeals and applications. The primary purpose of the ZHB is to help assure fair and equitable application and administration of the

Zoning Ordinance. The ZHB hears appeals from the Zoning Officer's determinations, and grants relief from the literal enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance in certain hardship situations by means of a variance. The ZHB also hears applications for special use and challenges to the substantive validity of ordinances. Consisting of 3 members and an alternate, the ZHB meets several times each year on an as-needed basis.

**Vacancy Board.** If any person elected to any township office fails to serve in the office or if a vacancy occurs in the office, the Board of Supervisors may appoint a successor. Upon their failure to make the appointment within thirty days after the vacancy occurs, the vacancy shall be filled within fifteen additional days by the Vacancy Board which shall consist of the Board of Supervisors and one elector of the township, appointed by the Board of Supervisors who shall act as chairman of the Vacancy Board.

Please send your letter of interest and resume to the Township Manager, Rob Pingar ([rpingar@westtown.org](mailto:rpingar@westtown.org)). All candidates must be current in all municipal obligations. The Supervisors will schedule meetings with all candidates to learn how they can best serve Westtown.

## Meetings & Events

### JANUARY, 2020

6, 21 (T) - Board of Supervisors  
 8, 22 - Planning Commission  
 14 - Parks & Recreation  
 11 - Yard Waste Collection  
 16 - Historical Commission  
 16 - Friends of Oakbourne  
 20 - Office Closed

### FEBRUARY, 2020

3, 18 (T) - Board of Supervisors  
 5, 19 - Planning Commission  
 8 - Yard Waste Collection  
 11 - Parks & Recreation  
 17 - Office Closed  
 20 - Historical Commission

### MARCH, 2020

2, 16 - Board of Supervisors  
 4, 18 - Planning Commission  
 14 - Yard Waste Collection  
 10 - Parks & Recreation  
 19 - Historical Commission

**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



## Winter De-icing Tips

Excess salt and other de-icing chemicals can harm aquatic life in our streams and impact drinking water supplies. This winter, you can help by following these snow removal practices:

- Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for de-icing chemicals
- Shovel snow onto permeable surfaces including gently sloping and level landscape so as the snow melts it will soak into the ground rather than flow directly into a nearby storm drain or stream.

If you must use de-icing chemicals, follow these suggestions:

- Control application of chemical de-icers to avoid over application.
- Limit applications near environmentally-sensitive areas including springs, streams, ponds, wetlands, and water supply areas and sensitive landscape and vegetation.
- Sand and sawdust can be used as an environmentally-friendly alternative to commonly used salt products.
- Use salt substitutes that are less harmful including Calcium Chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) and Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA).
- For larger areas, apply salt as a brine solution to prevent drift off of paved surfaces.
- After snowmelt, sweep up residues, including sand, to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams



## When Recycling – Think Quality, Not Quantity

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. “Aspirational recycling” is severely limiting the marketability of material worldwide. Most notably, China is no longer accepting U.S. recyclables due to the high rate of contamination.

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 down time. 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 help prevent cups from leaking makes it difficult to process.
- Plastic straws or takeaway cup lids
- Plastic utensils
- 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!**



## General Trash Information

**Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection**  
**Pennsylvania law prohibits the disposal of hazardous waste or E-waste in the regular trash.** Visit [chestercountyswa.org](http://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](http://westtownpa.org), and on your utility bills. Pickup reminders are emailed to residents who subscribe to the township listserv. Subscribe on the website.



**Discount Code: Westtown**  
**\$25.00 off**  
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# HOLIDAY SCHEDULE YARD WASTE SCHEDULE

JAN 11	FEB 8	MAR 14	APR 11	MAY 9
JUN 13	JUL 11	AUG 8	SEP 12	OCT 10
NOV 7	NOV 21	DEC 5	DEC 19	

**2020 Holiday Collection Schedule:**

In 2020, the only holidays that trash and recycling will not be collected are Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving. Trash and recycling services on weeks with one of these holidays will be pushed forward one day throughout the week, beginning with the service scheduled for the holiday:

**Memorial Day:**

Monday, May 25 trash and recycling will be collected  
 Tuesday, May 26 and  
 Thursday collection will be  
 Friday, May 29.

**Labor Day Monday:**

September 7 trash and recycling will be collected  
 Tuesday, Sept 8 and  
 Thursday collection will be  
 Friday, Sept 11.

**Thanksgiving:**

Thursday, November 26  
 trash and recycling will  
 be collected Friday,  
 November 27.