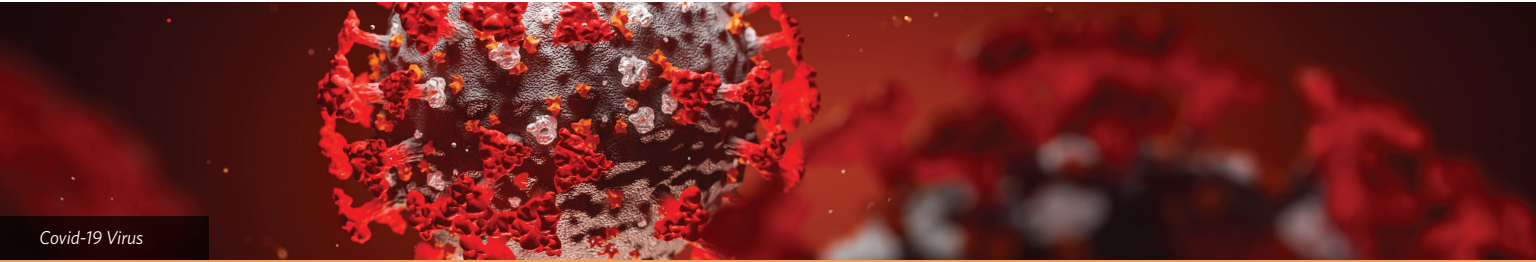




# WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Newsletter to the Citizens of Westtown Township - Summer Issue #34



Covid-19 Virus

## Hello Westtown Neighbors,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. It is good to see residents getting outside walking in our neighborhoods, local parks, and preserves. There are great residual benefits in walking; it can make you feel calmer, more reflective, and refreshed. Taking care of ourselves in difficult times like these has a lasting impact.

The Board of Supervisors has kept its finger on the pulse of the rapidly changing circumstances and guidance provided to us by the Governor, Chester County's Daily Situational Reports on Emergency Management for COVID-19, and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors – all along ensuring that township operations continue safely and efficiently.

There are a few things which I would like to share from the last three months:

- We have continued to conduct township business through virtual meetings.
- The **Crebilly II Conditional Use Hearing** is postponed until August 5th due to COVID. Please sign up for the listserv for further notices.
- The Board hired Andy Mears, PLA of Johnson, Mirmiran & Thomson and Ann Toole, CPRP, CPP to create

a Master Plan for Oakbourne Park, and appointed a diverse group of residents to work with the consultants on the plan. They began their work to evaluate the park's recreational and natural resources to complete a plan for both existing recreational facilities, future improvements, and associated costs. The consultants will be leading this work through early next year to position the Township to then apply for PA DCNR funding to match Township resources to expeditiously implement the recreational park improvements.

- A concept plan for housing on the **Stokes property** has been submitted. To date, the Stokes heirs have not had any desire to preserve their property in open space, and efforts by the Township to explore options with the landowners were not successful.
- **Three severe storms** downed numerous trees causing closed roads and electrical outages for an extended period. **Special thanks our Public Works department and WEGO Police** for providing fantastic response and assistance.
- **WEGO Police Union arbitration** decision was received by the Township and it is being evaluated for its impact to our 2020 budget and beyond.

- Six West Chester regional municipalities, including Westtown, collectively hired Cadmus Group to complete the **West Chester Area 100 % Renewable Energy Transition Study**. It creates a long-term actionable roadmap to realize community goals by 2035. The report can be found on the Township website.
- The Board has made no decision on the field **lighting at Westtown School** and will address this decision in the near-term.
- A resolution is in process with the owners of the **Quaker Ice Hockey** facility in litigation at this time for a solution to the chiller noise.

This is not an easy time for many, and you may be feeling the toll in your household and personal lives. I hope you find some comfort and joy, and embrace kindness, practice compassion, standup for justice, and listen with your whole heart as that is what is being asked of us now in these times.

*Carol De Wolf*

Carol De Wolf  
Board of Supervisors

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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

In response to the COVID-19 disaster emergency, at their May 4, 2020 virtual meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Resolution 2020-07 extending the date to collect the 2020 real property tax at the Township's prescribed discount rate through August 31, 2020, and waiving any fee or penalty otherwise associated with the late payment of the 2020 real property tax if paid in full by December 31, 2020.

#### 2020 Census

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task: counting all the people residing in the United States. This count affects the allocation of funding for our community's public resources (roads, hospitals, schools, etc.), how we plan for the future, and our voice in government. If you have not already done so, please complete the 2020 census. To learn more about the importance of the 2020 Census, and how easy it is to respond to the short survey online, by mail, or by phone visit: <https://2020census.gov>



#### Coronavirus Covid-19

For information and prevention tips on the Coronavirus, please visit the PA Health Dept. website at <https://www.health.pa.gov> or the Chester County Health Department website: <https://www.chesco.org/4376/Coronavirus-COVID-19>. A 24/7 call center has also been established: (610) 344-6225.



#### 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

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

# Manager's Message

## Greetings Westtown Friends & Neighbors.

As I write this, we are enduring week-17 of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Chester County has finally transitioned to Governor Wolf's "Green Phase." Like me, many in the Westtown community are looking forward to professional haircuts and dining out. Throughout these past four months, Westtown Township was fully operational. Most township staff worked remotely, while some split their time between home and the office. The Board of Supervisors and I are proud of their efforts in meeting the needs of residents, property owners, businesses, and institutions during this extraordinary time. Now for a few updates:

**Township Office.** The township administration building re-opened to the public on June 15th, with pandemic mitigation protocols in place, including a plastic shield in the foyer to separate guests from staff and hand sanitizer. Anyone entering the building must wear a mask, and only one person is allowed in the lobby at a time. Residents just dropping off payments are strongly encouraged to use the drop box to the left of the main entrance door. We will continue to adjust operations as the pandemic response evolves. Please watch for updates communicated via the township website, listserv, and Facebook.

**Parks & Recreation.** In the interest of public safety, all P & R summer and fall events, including Westtown Day, have been canceled due to the pandemic. We hope that conditions will improve by December so that P&R can safely host their annual Winter Festival at Oakbourne Mansion. All park facilities are now open, but users must follow current virus mitigation orders issued by the governor.

**Roads.** Work on the 2020 Road Maintenance Program will soon start. All or parts of the following roads will be milled and paved: Lake Drive, E. Pleasant Grove Road, S. Matlack Street, S. New Street, Windy Knoll Road, Shiloh Road, Bobolink Lane, Chickadee Lane, Franklin Drive, Chesterville Way, Freemont Drive, Londonderry Drive, Edinburgh Drive, as well as a Charles Road drainage improvement. We thank residents in advance for their cooperation during the project.

**Traffic Signals.** Construction at the traffic signal located at the Rt.3/Rt.352N intersection was completed in June. The project included the installation of new steel poles and mast arms to support the signals, LED traffic signal heads with reflective backplates, control wiring, and enhanced directional signage.

The old span wire method of tethering the signals heads required more maintenance, and was prone to failure of the support system. The project was partially funded by a \$180,000 Green Light Go Grant. At the Rt. 926/Rt. 352 intersection, the traffic signal will be improved by installing a left turn green arrow for eastbound Rt. 926 traffic turning left onto Rt. 352 north.

**Sunoco Pipelines.** The Westtown segment of the 16" diameter Mariner East 2 pipeline was completed over the winter of 2019/2020, whereas work on the 20" pipeline continues. While the 20" segment between Cavanaugh Court and Thornbury, Delaware County has been installed, the north segment between Cavanaugh Court and East Goshen will not be installed until January 2021. Soon thereafter, final work will commence, including restoring the roadside areas to pre-construction grades.

**WEGO Police Association Contract.** On April 27, 2020, the arbitration award for the Police Association (police union) Collective Bargaining Agreement was issued. The Award consists of three primary items:

1. **Term.** Four-year term starting January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2022.
2. **Wages.** Annual wage increases of 3.25% for years 1, 2 and 3; and 3.0% for year 4; adjustments to six-year step raises; and longevity cap increase to \$8,275.
3. **Health Insurance.** Move the department's health insurance carrier from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to Delaware Valley Insurance Trust (DVIT).

An assessment is being made to the Agreement's cost impact to the 2020 WEGO and Westtown Township budgets. Both impacts will be shared with the public at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer. I encourage everyone not to allow complacency to erode our progress in fighting the coronavirus. As always, I welcome the opportunity to meet you, hear your concerns, and answer any questions about Westtown Township.

Best regards,

*Robert Pingar*  
Robert Pingar, Township Manager

# A Blue Sabbath: Pandemics Past and Present

By Robert Kodosky, Westtown Historical Commissioner

History might not repeat, but it sure does rhyme. While the coronavirus is novel, the flu is hardly new.

*I had a little bird,  
Its name was Enza.  
I opened the window,  
And in flew Enza.*

Sound familiar? That poem, popular in Southeastern Pennsylvania a century ago, resonates today. As do others. Take this one, penned by a member of West Chester State Normal School's graduating class of 1919, it appears in that year's school yearbook, *The Serpentine*.

*The winter days are sighing,  
The flu is at the door.  
Many people are dying,  
Who never died before.*

This proved astute. The influenza pandemic of 1918-19, one that newspapers of the time dubbed the "Spanish Flu," infected nearly one third of the world's population. By the time it ran its course in the summer of 1919, the virus (H1N1) claimed the lives of nearly 700,000 Americans. Pennsylvanians comprised many of these. According to the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission, there existed 350,000 cases of the flu throughout the state, with nearly half of these coming from Philadelphia.

The flu took a greater toll on the City of Brotherly Love than it did on any other city in America. It arrived in September 1918, carried into the Philadelphia Naval Yard by sailors from Boston. Over the next six months, 16,000 Philadelphians perished from the virus. Many residents of surrounding communities did the same.

According to the Daily Local, by October 9, 1918, a month after the virus came to Philadelphia, "almost two thirds of the people in Media, Clifton Heights, Swarthmore, Haverford, Upper Darby, Darby, Colwin and the Chester Pike towns are already ill or recovering." The Pennsylvania Commission of Health estimated "that there are between 30,000 and 40,000 cases in Delaware County alone."

The city of Chester proved to be the hardest hit. By the beginning of October, it reported 10,000 cases. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* observed that due to the "prevalence of Spanish Influenza," Chester stood "closed up tight." Mayor W.S. McDowell's "drastic edict" shuttered "bars, theaters, moving picture houses, poolrooms, clubs, schools, and churches." Only saloon keepers resisted. They complained of the requirement "to close their bars" while "liquor stores are permitted to keep open."

Alcohol offered little reprieve, however, as the flu moved west. By the end of September, *The Inquirer* reported the existence of "sixty-two cases of Spanish influenza" in Coatesville. A local druggist observed, "In all my experience...we never had so many prescriptions to fill." On October 4, the *Inquirer* noted that, "Influenza" had become "prominent in many sections" of Lancaster county and "is beginning to assume serious proportions." In the West Chester area, it already had.

Influenza exacted its toll on the home front. "Over there," the First World War did the same. Casualties mounted daily. To show their support for America's "doughboys" fighting overseas, West Chester citizens staged a rally outside of the Court House on September 28. Thousands attended. The flu arrived a few days later. *The Amulet*, the Normal School's Student newspaper, advised "Be keeferful, men, both day and night. Or else the doggone germ will bite you on your unprotected head. And then they'll cart you off to bed."

By October 3, West Chester officials acknowledged that "the deadly Spanish influenza made its appearance" in the area and "is growing steadily." Board of Health member Alger C. Whitcraft added his certainty "that there are many cases no one has said anything about." Walter H. Lewis, Secretary of the West Chester School Board, identified "several of the teaching staff ill" and cited that "many students are absent from school." Burgess J. Paul MacElree pledged that "every precaution should be taken to insure the stamping out of the disease."

The situation appeared dire. The Normal School's Infirmary admitted eleven students stricken by the virus while the Homeopathic Hospital registered over a dozen. Chester County Hospital listed forty cases and that "several of the nursing staff have succumbed to the disease." This caused "much discomfort" as the town already suffered "an absence of many local physicians and nurses in service to the United States."

By the end of the day, West Chester officials proclaimed that "all gatherings and assemblages of people" constituted "a public menace to health." They ordered to close immediately public and private schools, churches, clubs, bar rooms, pool rooms, lodges, libraries, and soda water stands. Moreover, they closed the Court House and placed students attending the Normal School and Darlington Seminary under quarantine. Chief of Police John E. Enrikin resolved to lend "every aid possible in seeing the laws obeyed."

At the Normal School, "about 100 girls respond to telegrams and telephone calls by packing their bags and making a hasty exit home." Students left behind "rave on," even as the school "seems deserted since one half of our 'fellow sufferers' are enjoying a vacation." Soon there appeared the need for "a force of cops to patrol the campus" while the faculty "longs for relief."

Sure enough, a respite soon appeared. On October 8, the *Daily Local* discerned "a feeling of happiness about town" as "Old Mr. Flu is loosening his hold." Medical personnel "took heart" that the sudden onset of "clear cold weather" meant that "the worst of it is over." After all, they contended, "a 'flu' germ hates nothing worse than clear cold weather."

Officials congratulated residents who "rallied to the call" and provided "bedding and other necessities" and helped families in need of "food and medicines." It all went to show, they said, that "West Chester can respond to the call for help when the situation demands it." They deemed it now as unnecessary to turn West Chester Golf Club into an emergency hospital, as local doctors detected "a ray of light in sight."

Such optimism was premature. The following weekend proved deadly. On Monday, October 14, the *Daily Local* reported that fourteen deaths transpired over the weekend and there remained "many more in critical condition." In addition, at Chester County Hospital, 14 nurses laid sick in bed. Although a "beautiful Indian summer" had set in, a "feeling of anxiety and that prevailed manifested itself on all of the faces one met." Sunday, October 13, constituted "truly a 'blue sabbath' in West Chester."

The *Daily Local* regretted that "The quarantine will remain intact until the authorities feel it safe beyond doubt to allow the places closed to open again." Still, the newspaper applauded the "many West Chester men and women who continued to sacrifice to "comfort the afflicted." It surmised that "the worst is over" and expressed hope that "West Chester will soon resume her normal condition as to health."

By the end of the month that hope transpired. It will in our time as well.



*Influenza victim in Philadelphia. The American Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919: A Digital Encyclopedia. University of Michigan Center for the Study of Medicine.*

*(The author would like to thank West Chester University librarians Neal Kenney and Alexander Miriello for their assistance in providing materials for this article.)*

# A LETTER FROM DR. BRENDA M. BERNOT, CHIEF OF POLICE

## *Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department*

Shortly after the death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department published a post on its Facebook page expressing our condemnation of the egregious police behavior that led to Mr. Floyd's death. In addition, the department's post attempted to provide reassurances that the agency engaged in practices contrary to the behaviors demonstrated in the video.

But we recognize that words without actions to support them are hollow. As a result, I would like to use this newsletter article to convey some of the actions that the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department have taken to ensure that our agency provides professional police services in a fair and unbiased manner that demonstrates accountability and transparency. Additionally, I would like to lay out the actions that the department has taken to ensure that the voices of all of our community members have been heard and will continue to be heard as we move forward to strengthen our relationships with those that we serve.

In 2016, the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department achieved accreditation through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. This achievement was notable because only approximately 9% of all law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania have met the requirements necessary to achieve accreditation. To achieve this honor, the agency must create policies for approximately 132 different standards that meet the "best practices" standards. But the mere creation of policies is insufficient to achieve accreditation - the agency must then demonstrate that its officers strictly comply with the policies on an on-going basis. Compliance is demonstrated through the submission of proof to the Accreditation Commission and via a formal assessment by the Commission every three years, which is accompanied by a physical inspection of the agency's records and facility. Policies required to achieve accreditation include Bias-Based Policing, Use of Force, Arrest Procedures, Internal Affairs Investigations, Prisoner Transportation, Pursuit, Traffic Stops, etc. Additionally, any police department that utilizes body worn cameras is required to meet standards that demonstrate that the agency's policies are in compliance with Act 22, the legislation passed in 2017 regarding this technology. In summary, accreditation ensures that a police department is

operating in compliance with the highest professional standards through the enactment of policy, continuous training, and the enactment of measures designed to monitor and enforce accountability. Our agency is proud to have achieved and maintained this honor.

Since its inception as a regional police department in 1981, the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department has embraced community-based policing as its foundation. The Mission Statement of our agency clearly demonstrates our commitment to this principal: "The mission of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department is to work in partnership with the communities that we serve to safeguard the lives and property of all citizens. We pledge to exemplify our commitment to our communities through the continuous demonstration of our core values of integrity, service, professionalism, compassion, trust, respect, honor, commitment, dedication, and pride." But again, promises without performance have little value. The department has dedicated itself to keeping an open line of communication with our communities through avenues such as a Citizen Police Academy, programs such as Coffee with a Cop, and other various community outreach programs too numerous to mention in a newsletter article. These programs permit individuals to talk with agency representatives one-on-one about their concerns and to play a role in any action plan that is developed to address them. Additionally, our agency provides an avenue via the CrimeWatch platform for electronic communication with our agency that permits individuals to ask questions, submit officer complaints/compliments, obtain information about criminal activity in their neighborhood, and request specific services (i.e., vacation property checks) when it best suits their schedule. Additional methods for communication with our department include a Facebook page, township meetings, and a monthly Police Commission meeting.

As our nation begins to implement various changes to its criminal justice system to ensure that all people are treated fairly, we look forward to creating additional opportunities to interact with our residents to ensure that we are meeting your expectations of professionalism, fairness, and service. Furthermore, we pledge to rededicate ourselves to the principals established in the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics:



**“AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

**I WILL** keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

**I WILL** never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

**I RECOGNIZE** the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice. I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession...**LAW ENFORCEMENT.”**

# PLANNING & ZONING NEWS

*By Will Ethridge, Director of Planning & Zoning*

## **Toll Brothers/Crebilly Farm Application Update:**

After social distancing rules were implemented in mid-March, there was some rescheduling of meetings and a shift was made from holding public meetings, to holding virtual meetings via the Zoom platform.

The Planning Commission's March 18 meeting was cancelled. The PC did not hold another meeting until May 20, which was virtual via Zoom. During this meeting, the Crebilly application was discussed; however, the applicant, Toll Bros., submitted several plan changes in the days leading up to the meeting, necessitating another meeting to discuss those revisions. That additional meeting was originally scheduled for June 17, but after considerable public lobbying to cancel the meeting, it was cancelled.

The Planning Commission held its final meeting on the Crebilly application at 6:30 pm on Wednesday July 8, in the Marian Anderson Music Center auditorium at Cheyney University. Toll Bros. presented a revised alternative plan showing changes to several intersections as well as proposals for both a small and full-sized roundabout along W. Pleasant Grove Road. Public questions and comments were taken by over a dozen residents, in-person and online. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend denial of the application, along with a list of conditions if the Board votes to approve it. This document was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

The Board of Supervisors is planning to hold its 3rd Crebilly CU hearing on this application virtually on August 5th at 7pm, via the Zoom platform. Additional meeting details will be posted on the Township website, Facebook, and via listserv to subscribers.

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## **Code Corner**

### **1. Outdoor Lighting**

The Township code regarding outdoor lighting is listed under Section 170-1514. Principal among them are that all outdoor lighting should be aimed, located, designed, fitted, and maintained so as not to create a nuisance by projecting or reflecting objectionable light onto a neighboring property. Within residential communities, the maximum height for mounting a light fixture is 16 feet. Additionally, any decorative lights for walkways, driveways, fountains, etc., should be extinguished between 11pm and dawn (with exceptions allowed for seasonal lights put up between 11/15 and 1/5 annually).

### **2. Pet Waste**

The Township does not regulate animal waste. We ask that pet owners be good neighbors and pick up their pet waste and place it in the garbage. When pet owners leave behind poop in public places, it attracts flies and other parasites to the area. This aids in the spread of parasites to other pets and sometimes even humans. Parasites like roundworms and hookworms are transmitted through pet waste and can live in soil for long periods of time, eventually migrating into our rivers and streams. Remember to take a plastic bag with you whenever you take your pet out for a walk.

### **3. Burning**

Section 63 of the Township code covers open burning. Recreational and ceremonial fires are exempt (fire pits for socializing, fires for cooking, educational fires for service or scouting organizations, and similar fires). Fires for burning paper, brush, grass, wood, rubbish, cardboard (remember to remove any plastic tape) and similar types of domestic waste must comply with the following:

- a. Can only be done between 8am and 4pm,
- b. You must have permission from the property owner,
- c. Someone must be watching the fire at all times, and must have fire-fighting materials nearby (extinguisher, garden hose, bucket of sand, etc.),
- d. You must utilize a completely enclosed container (e.g. A burn barrel that you can cover when not in use),
- e. The container must be 15 feet from any building, vegetation, or combustible materials,
- f. You must be at least 6 feet from a public road or utility pole or equipment.

You cannot burn leaves (especially poison ivy and similar vines), commercial or industrial waste, lacquered or painted furniture, plastics & styrofoam, or pet waste.

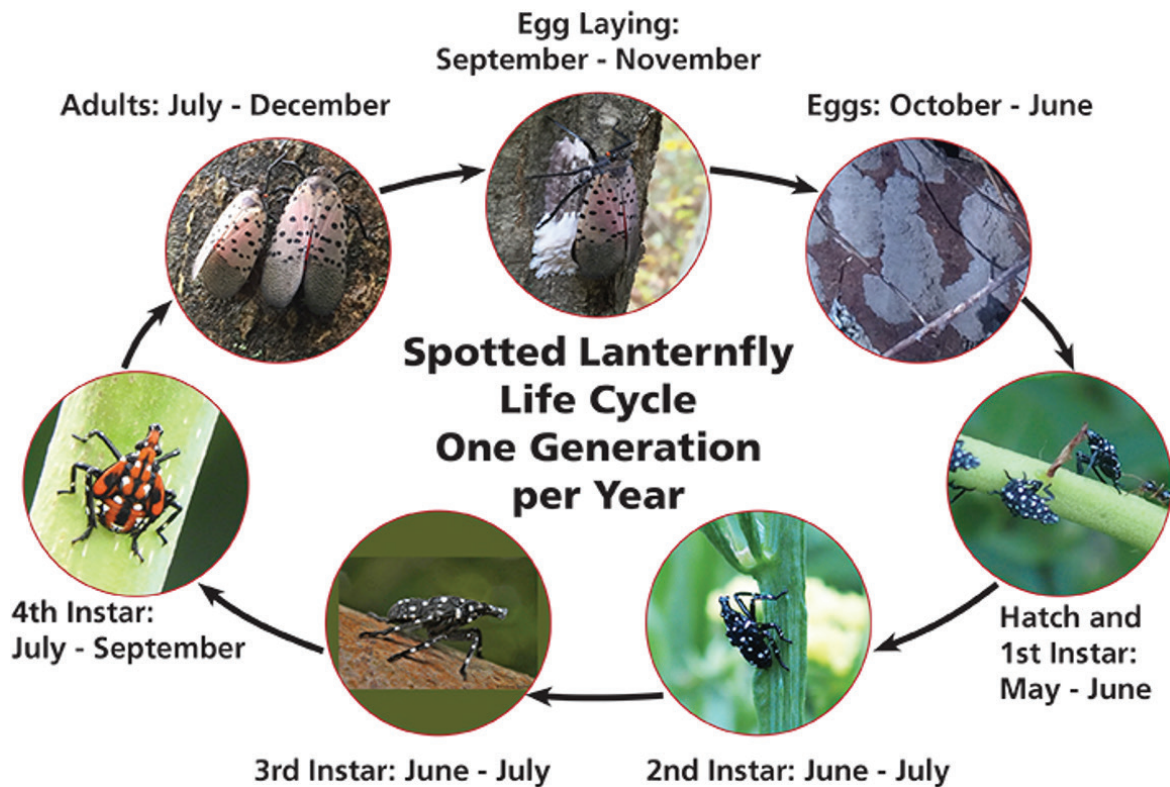


# SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (SLF) MANAGEMENT

## Tips for Homeowners

Spotted Lanternflies (*Lycorma delicatula*) are invasive planthoppers from Asia that use bark-piercing mouthparts to feed on sap from a wide variety of economically important trees, shrubs, and vines. As SLFs feed, they excrete honeydew (a sugary substance) that can attract bees, wasps, and other insects. The honeydew also builds up and promotes the growth for sooty mold (fungi), which can cover the plant, forest understories, patio furniture, cars, and anything else found below SLF feeding.

- Kill the eggs.** The easiest way to kill large numbers of these insects is to find them at the egg stage and squish them. This can be done by applying enough force with a hard, flat object to create a popping noise as you progress from one side of the case to the other. You should see juices being exuded. An alternative is to scrape the eggs into a container filled with alcohol or hand sanitizer, or into a container that can be sealed and thrown in the trash. The important consideration here is that simply scraping them off the tree onto the ground will not kill the eggs/larvae that are inside.
- Kill the nymphs and adults.** Various methods can be used to kill SLF nymphs and adults including:
  - Vacuuming using a cordless stick vacuum.
  - Placing sticky tape bands around trees.
  - Using bag traps.
  - Fill a container with soapy water and scare the nymphs into the container using the lid. Nymphs almost always launch themselves forward to escape the lid.
- Eliminate host vegetation.** Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is an invasive plant and the preferred host for SLFs. One tree can attract thousands of adults. To kill a tree-of-heaven you need to chop it down and treat the stump with herbicide.



For more information on SLF management, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>

# Meetings & Events

Due to the public health emergency, this schedule is subject to change.

## AUGUST, 2020

3,17 - Board of Supervisors  
5,19 - Planning Commission  
8 - Yard Waste Collection  
11 - Parks & Recreation  
20 - Historical Commission

## SEPTEMBER, 2020

7 - Office Closed  
8,21 - Board of Supervisors  
8 - Parks & Recreation  
9,23 - Planning Commission  
12 - Yard Waste Collection  
17 - Historical Commission

## OCTOBER, 2020

5,19 - Board of Supervisors  
7,21 - Planning Commission  
10 - Yard Waste Collection  
13 - Parks & Recreation  
15 - Historical Commission  
15 - Friends of Oakbourne

## NOVEMBER, 2020

2,16 - Board of Supervisors  
4,18 - Planning Commission  
7,21 - Yard Waste Collection  
10 - Parks & Recreation  
19 - Historical Commission  
26,27 - Office Closed

**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

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

# August 11 is 8-1-1 Day

## Know What's Below!








Digging into some home improvement projects this summer such as installing a fence or building a deck, replacing your mailbox post, or rebuilding your retaining wall? All of these projects require you to notify utility companies of your intent to dig.

8-1-1 is the PA One Call System (POCS) telephone number. The call is toll free and the service is no cost for homeowners digging on their property. Dial 8-1-1 or submit your request online at [www.pa1call.org](http://www.pa1call.org). The 8-1-1 call center is available 24/7.



## Know what's below. Call before you dig.

State law requires notice 3 -10 business days (does not include state holidays or weekends), prior to the start of excavation. The person who is doing the digging should place the PA One Call notification. If you are a homeowner and you've hired a contractor to do the work, the contractor is required by law to call to have lines located. Each utility company with underground lines nearby will send a professional locator to your home to mark the approximate location of buried utilities with colored paint, flags, or stakes. The color of the marking indicates the type of utility.

-  **White** - proposed excavation
-  **Pink** - survey marks
-  **Red** - electric
-  **Yellow** - gas/oil
-  **Orange** - communications
-  **Blue** - water
-  **Green** - sewer

**Safe digging is no accident!**

# Household Waste Disposal

Due to the public health emergency, our hauler will be strictly enforcing the proper preparation of household waste outlined below.

## LABOR DAY TRASH SCHEDULE:

Trash & recycling normally collected on Monday, Sept. 7 will be collected on Tuesday, Sept 8, and service normally provided on Thursday, Sept. 10 will shift to Friday, Sept. 11.

## TRASH

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

## HAZARDOUS WASTE

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

## ELECTRONIC WASTE

The township has one E-waste event annually (Tentatively scheduled for September 26, 2020). In addition, 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. Retailers and E-Waste collection events charge for TVs and computer monitors.

## RECYCLING

Recyclable materials (glass, plastics #1-6, aluminum, steel, paper, and cardboard) must be in the recycle bin, or other clearly marked recycling container. **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. 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, and ashes will not be collected. Yard waste pick up dates are posted on the Township website. 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. If your collection day is Monday, bulk pickup is the last Monday of the month; if your collection day is Thursday, bulk items will be collected on the last Thursday of the month. Holiday collection make-ups include bulk items. A mattress and/or box spring are accepted on bulk item day. Construction debris, TV's, safes, and auto parts cannot be accepted for collection.

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

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!**

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

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

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

- 96 Gallon Carts Available
- Bulk Item Removal
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- Commercial Compactors
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- Event & Party Boxes
- 100% Customer Satisfaction

15 cubic yards  
14ft long / 8ft wide / 5ft high

30 cubic yards  
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**Dependable Roll-Off Service**

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## Summer Tips for Stormwater Management

Here are several simple tips to encourage the absorption of rainfall and water runoff into the soil in residential landscapes. These actions benefit your community by preventing flooding, soil erosion, and polluted runoff that threatens our streams, drinking water, and ecosystems.

### **Raise your mower height to 3 inches for summer months**

Taller grass grows deeper roots, shades and protects the soil, is less prone to disease, pests, and weeds, and captures more excess rainwater on the property. Leave an unmowed edge (three feet or more in width) along streams, ponds, and drainage channels to prevent erosion.

### **Plant flowering plants; attract beneficial predators**

Plants of all kinds help reduce stormwater runoff from residential properties. Their roots absorb water and break up and aerate the soil as they grow. Flowering native perennials will attract beneficial predators and pollinator birds, butterflies, and other insects. Perennials also develop extensive root systems to hold and enrich the soil. Monitor plants for pests and control them with environmentally friendly applications or use plain water to avoid contaminating water runoff with chemicals that endanger streams.

### **Redirect roof runoff; install pervious surfaces**

Consider landscape modifications to help your yard retain excess rainwater and prevent runoff. Redirect all downspouts which drain onto paved surfaces and storm sewers to flow into a rain barrel, rain garden, mulched bed, or grassy area, located downgrade from your house. Install a rain barrel. Minimize impervious surfaces such as asphalt and concrete on walks, patios, and driveways on your property. Replace them with gravel or pervious blocks or pavers that allow rain and excess water runoff to soak into the soil.