

Friends of Oakbourne

By Tom Bare, President, Friends of Oakbourne

In the Fall of 2019, on the advice of Scott Wade of Longwood Gardens and Harvey Lerman of Bartlett Tree Experts, Rick Brown and I “operated” on the euonymus vine that had encircled and taken over a large section of the trunk on Oakbourne Arboretum’s record holding (2nd largest in the state) London Plane tree. The “operation” consisted of cutting out a 4 foot wide section of the stems supplying water and nutrients to the euonymus plant. After cutting the stems, our plan was to allow the euonymus to die and dry out for at least a year. Then, once the euonymus was completely desiccated, we hoped to essentially peel it from the tree, anticipating that it would be brittle and easily removed. After waiting almost 2 years, Westtown Public Works workers, from a mobile elevated platform, were able to remove the entire dried euonymus remains from the tree this summer. Our magnificent London Plane is now free of the plant that had obscured its main trunk for so many years.

The Friends of Oakbourne has been designing and planning a low maintenance garden to install at the back side of Oakbourne Park’s beautiful water tower. To prepare the garden, we intend to remove all of the vegetation (mostly grass and a small bed of pachysandra) within the new garden’s boundary during September. Once the vegetation is removed, we hope to plant two small trees and several groupings of deer resistant shrubs by mid-Fall; additional perennials will be planted next spring. More on this garden will be in the next Gazette.



Monarch butterfly on Seven Sons Flower blooms on 8/26/2021 in The Bark Woodlet area of the Arboretum



London Plane Tree with Euonymus (2019)



London Plane Tree - Euonymus Removed (2021)

FRIENDS OF OAKBOURNE

The Friends of Oakbourne continue to enhance the grounds at Oakbourne Park, and will concentrate their efforts this summer on the west side of the water tower. 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.

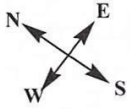
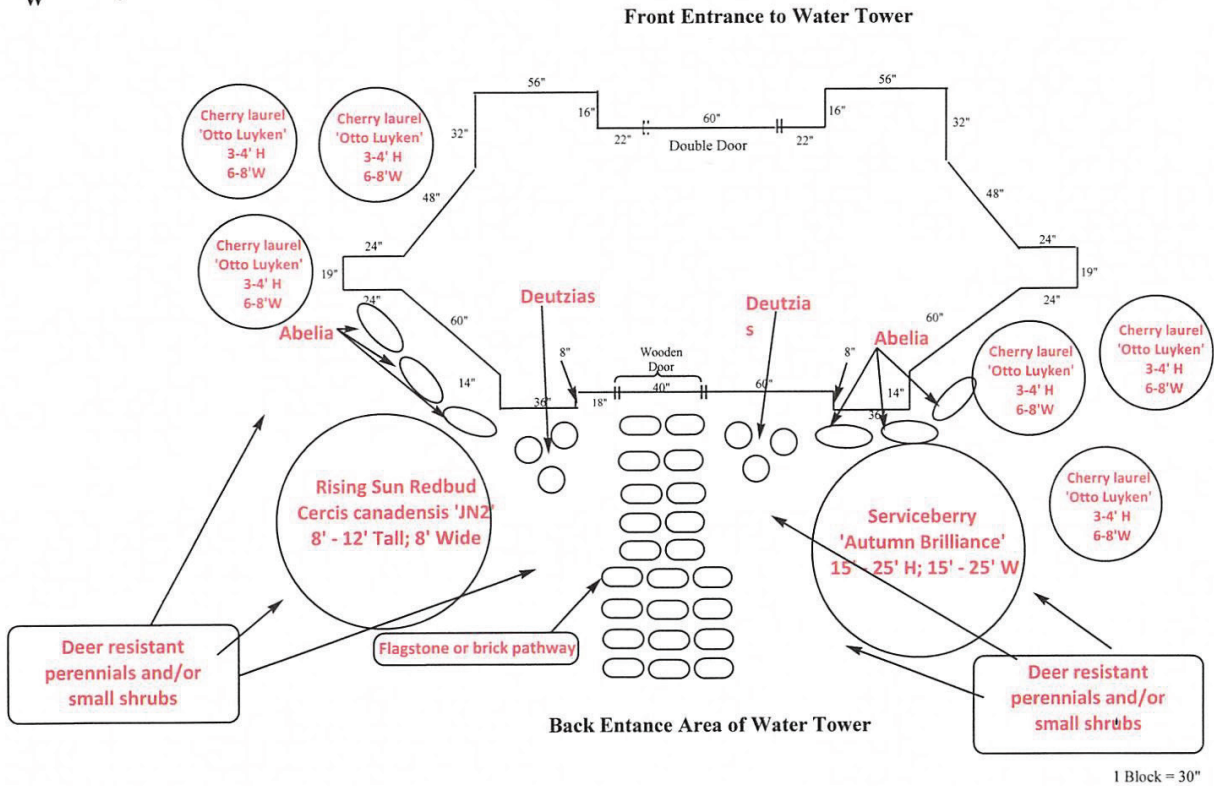


Diagram to Approximate Scale of Oakbourne Water Tower Proposed Back Entrance Garden Plantings



Westtown Day

The Township Historical and Parks and Recreation Commissions are making final preparations for Westtown Day.

This annual community celebration will take place:

<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Sunday, OCTOBER 10TH</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">11:00 AM - 3:00 PM OAKBOURNE PARK</p>
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The event will feature carnival games, food trucks, live bands, Civil and Revolutionary War re-enactors, local vendors, crafts for the kids, and more!

Take a tour of the historic Oakbourne Mansion. Let the kids "dig" for archaeological artifacts. Shop from local businesses and artisans. Tour a police car, ambulance, and fire truck. There's something for all ages.

For more information, visit www.westtownday.com. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, or volunteering to assist the day of the event, please contact Pam Boulos at PBoulos@cvmprofessional.com.

