



# WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Newsletter to the Citizens of Westtown Township - Fall Issue #47

## PICKLEBALL ANYONE?

Township amateur athletes who look longingly at the construction in Oakbourne Park will have to wait a bit for their pickleball, tennis, and basketball, but the improvements are well under way and on schedule for next spring.

I have had my concerns about this project because of the high-cost estimates, but fortune has been kind to us. Grants, a low-interest loan and tight budgeting has made this project affordable and a good investment—but only if we can take full advantage of these new facilities with a clear view of how to proceed. To achieve a smooth launch, the Township will have to invest in staff and technology to manage and coordinate the recreation demands that are coming.

There will be a rush for usage of these new facilities. To avoid congestion, unnecessary waiting time, and usage hogging, someone must be responsible for reservations as well as enforcing schedules and prioritizing access for Township residents. We are already looking at online systems to assist in these efforts, but a person must be available to make the system work smoothly.

Earlier this year, I attempted to stimulate individual recreational activity with a program that invited residents to form their own interest groups that could use our parks and other Township facilities. A few self-starter groups are forming, but the feedback from residents clearly indicates that residents want activities run by the Township. They point to other townships that offer scheduled classes for yoga and fitness, card clubs, bus trips, etc.

We also heard from other residents who want to use park grounds for casual team sports such as volleyball. They point out that Oakbourne Park is supposed to be open to the public, but restrictions that the Township has placed on its use virtually eliminate free use for groups of more than 15 people. I suspect there will be additional resident recreational requests that must be considered.

All these recreation needs can be accommodated with a revitalized plan that clearly and comprehensively lays out the Township's recreation responsibilities. We need to consider how our assets should be used, how they can be financially supported, and how best to supervise all these activities.

Two other factors make this planning effort timely and critical. First, our recreation goals must mesh with the Township's mandate to generate revenue from renting Oakbourne Mansion and park grounds to help sustain these assets. These goals cannot be at cross purposes. Second, the Township is getting closer to acquiring 200 acres of Crebilly Farm, but there is absolutely no plan for this property. Now is the time to plan how the land will be used, as well as how it will be maintained, improved, financially sustained, and made available for passive recreation.

In the very near future, the Supervisors will be addressing these issues, and we will be looking for input from our Parks & Recreation Commission as well as our residents. Stay tuned.

*Thomas Foster*

**Thomas Foster**

Chair, Board of Supervisors

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# Westtown Township, County of Chester

## Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



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

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

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

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### 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

#### Chester County Conservation District:

610-925-4920

#### West Chester Area School District:

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

#### State Senate - 9th District:

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

#### State House - 160th District:

Craig Williams: Local: 610-358-5925  
[www.pahouse.com/williams](http://www.pahouse.com/williams)

#### U. S. Senators:

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

#### Congress - 6th District:

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

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

#### For Non-Emergencies:

610-692-5100

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### Full-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

This position includes operation and maintenance of one 495,000 GPD extended aeration wastewater treatment plant, 6 pump stations, and a collection system that includes gravity & low pressure lines. This position requires equipment and facilities repairs, water sampling, report preparation, and coordination of contractor activities. Additional job requirements and application information can be found on the Township website.

#### Commission Vacancy

The Board of Supervisors is accepting applications for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Parks & Rec meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm. To apply, please submit a brief resume or statement of interest to Jonathan Altshul, Township Manager, at [jaltshul@westtown.org](mailto:jaltshul@westtown.org). Applicants must be current in all municipal obligations.

#### Crimewatch

The recent prison escape highlights the importance of staying informed about crime in our area. The CRIMEWATCH tool gives the public direct access to crime and public safety information happening in their community. Residents are encouraged to register for notifications and download the mobile app. Visit <https://www.crimewatchpa.com/>.

#### 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 [www.readychesco.org](http://www.readychesco.org).



#### Stay Informed.

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

#### Pay Sewer and Trash Bills Online.

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

#### Save paper!

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

## Manager's Message

On behalf of Township staff, I'd like to extend warm wishes for a happy fall to all Westtown residents! As always, there's a lot going on in Westtown, and I'd like to take a moment to bring you up to speed.

First, as you may be aware, the Township has been holding Conditional Use hearings for the development of the Stokes Estate along Shiloh Road, where Fox Clearing LLC is proposing to build up to 85 homes. The Planning Commission has issued a comprehensive list of recommendations, and the matter is now before the Board of Supervisors. More information about Fox Clearing's application can be found on the Planning Commission page at: <https://westtownpa.org/planning-commission/>.

Second, the Township is beginning the engineering and design process for critical upgrades of our sanitary sewer infrastructure. The Pleasant Grove Sewer Pump Station located at 1147 S. Concord Road (where the Taylor Family Memorial Monument was recently installed) is increasingly prone to failure and will need to be rebuilt, as will the force main line that runs from the pump station up the hill on S. Concord Road to the West Goshen Sewage Treatment Plant. The total construction cost for the two projects is expected to be slightly over \$2 million, and the Township will be aggressively pursuing grant opportunities to minimize the need for future sewer rate increases.

Next, as noted in Tom Foster's cover article, the Oakbourne Park contractor is making excellent progress with the improvements to the Athletic Complex. At this point, the stormwater basins, retaining walls, steps, and utility connections have been installed, as have many of the trail improvements in other sections of the Park. We are hopeful that the new bathroom facility will be installed by early October, and that the expanded parking lot will be paved before Thanksgiving, with the goal of the complex being ready for opening day for baseball and soccer seasons next spring.

I am also pleased to report that the Township received a PennDOT Green-Light-Go Grant in the amount of \$267,125 for updated traffic signal equipment at the intersection of Shady Grove Way and Route 926. This project is critical to ensuring vehicular safety in Westtown. As background, the current traffic signal at that location was installed in 2001 as a temporary measure in anticipation of a corridor improvement project that was later shelved. However, the temporary signal equipment has now exceeded its useful life and is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. I am hopeful that the Township will be able to go out to bid on this project in 2024.

Finally, please join us for **Westtown Day from 11am to 3pm on Sunday, October 8**. If you've never been, this is a wonderful celebration of the community bonds that tie Westtown residents together. There will be carnival games, petting zoo, live music, demonstrations about local history and the environment, food trucks, and local businesses, and most importantly fun—and lots of it! I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Otherwise, whether you are pre-occupied by back to school, another magical playoff run for the Phillies (hopefully), a strong start on the gridiron for the Golden Knights, Nittany Lions, or Eagles, or just the crisp sound of foliage underfoot, I hope you have a lovely fall!

Sincerely,

*Jonathan Altshul*  
Township Manager



Oakbourne Park Athletic Complex site preparation

# Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Just a decade ago, you could walk out of your back door and see far more stars than you do today. The “glow” you see is from the street lights of Philadelphia, as well as those from nearby West Chester, but there are still places close by where you can take your family to stargaze:

- Valley Forge National Historical Park - While the King of Prussia Mall is close by, there are great views to the north side of the park
- French Creek State Park
- Wharton State Park - Hammonton, NJ
- Muddy Run Park in Hollywood, PA
- Cape May lighthouse

## Where does all the light come from?

LEDs (light emitting diodes) for practical uses were invented in 1962 by scientists at General Electric. The first commercial use of LEDs began in 1978. Since then, LEDs have become the standard for use in everything from flat screen TVs, to athletic fields, to automobile headlights. The chief advantages are that they are brighter, last longer, are cheaper to manufacture, and use less electricity than incandescent bulbs. The downside is that they cause light pollution.

Light pollution comes from excessive artificial light that causes the sky to glow and obscures the light of the stars, and the problem is growing fast. New research in *Science* journal found the night sky is getting 10% brighter each year.

## For more information, check out these resources:

**Darksky International** - a recognized worldwide authority combatting light pollution. <http://darksky.org>

**Kyba, Christopher C.M.**, et al. “Citizen Scientists Report Global Rapid Reductions in the Visibility of Stars from 2011 to 2022.” *Science*, Vol. 379, no 6629, Jan 2023, pp. 265-69, <https://DOI.org/1-/1126/science.abq7781>

**Savage, Henry.** “A Beginner’s Guide to Stargazing near Philadelphia.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 20, 2023, D6-7.

**Schechter, David, Haley Rush and Chance Horner.** “LED Lights are Erasing Our View of the Stars - and It’s Getting Worse.” *CBS News*, September 1, 2023. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/light-pollution-makes-stars-invisible/#>

**Wharton, Sophia.** “History of LED Lights: A Comprehensive Overview.” *Advanced LED Lights*. <https://www.advancedledlights.com/history-of-led-lights/>



Android  
Stellarium



Apple  
Starview

## Upcoming Events



The EAC is excited to continue to partner with the Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watersheds Association on events in our community. The bee presentation by Planet Bee Foundation was a huge hit. Attendees learned about the importance of native bees and their importance in pollination, and made wildflower seedballs to attract bees.

### Saturday, October 21 | Tree Planting

Volunteers will work with CRC ambassadors in planting 50 shade tolerant trees along Goose Creek. Goose Creek is a particularly sensitive waterway, which is impaired with both sediment and a high level of phosphorus. More trees in this location will go a long way to stabilizing the stream bank and improving water quality in our region.

This is a great opportunity to make a direct and meaningful impact on our local environment. To volunteer, you must pre-register by emailing [lynn@crcwatersheds.org](mailto:lynn@crcwatersheds.org). To learn more about CRC and their other events, please visit <https://www.crcwatersheds.org/>

### Sunday, October 28 | 10AM Tree Walk

Join master arborist, Michael Schreiner, for a walking tour of the Oakbourne Park arboretum. Michael will identify tree species and discuss tree care. Registration is required for all CRC events. Please visit <https://www.crcwatersheds.org/events/>



# A Home Called Serenity

by Stephen Wahrhaftig, Historical Commissioner

Nearly 250 years ago a stone house was built in Westtown and is still standing and lived in by a couple dedicated to preserving this historic property. It was completed between 1781 and 1783 by members of the prominent local Darlington family, Thomas, and Hannah. The current owners, Craig and Mary Harlyvetch, bought it in 2000. Their name for the house is Serenity, named on a plaque beside the front door.

Located at 203 Oakbourne Road, "Serenity", was originally a one-room structure and cellar. When Craig and Mary moved in, the basement had the original dirt floor. Researching this historic property, the Harlyvetches learned how the house had been enlarged over the centuries. A dining room (now the family room) was added around 1800; the laundry room, built over an old cistern, was added around the same time.

The current kitchen was added around 1900. When members of the Westtown Historical Commission visited Serenity recently, Mary told us, "We think we have found evidence of an old 'beehive' oven in the cellar, which had long-since collapsed." She showed us the possible wall outline of the old oven.

Craig and Mary spent years carefully restoring the property, taking care to preserve original materials, designs, and looks. Sometimes they had custom hardware created to maintain the authentic feel of this historic building. Rooms that had been illuminated by gas lamps, old plaster walls, and wooden joists that had been damaged by fire all needed renewal. In the cellar, they removed the long-unused coal bins.

Several rooms still have their original chestnut flooring. Other floors were renovated using beautiful, reclaimed wood. The couple themselves did as much of the work as possible and brought in professional help when required. Sagging floors were made safe, and old plaster was repaired and painted in authentic period colors.

During the decades of renovation, they uncovered many artifacts of historic interest. These objects were cleaned and handsomely displayed in a glass-topped table in the dining room. This mini-museum features crockery, coins, and marbles. Most interesting is a perfectly preserved glass patent medicine bottle that once contained, among other ingredients, the opioid laudanum.

Serenity still contains its share of unsolved mysteries. Nooks built into the cellar walls might have held colonial-era candles. The 2nd floor rooms are built at different floor heights, while a bedroom door hides a steep stair that mysteriously leads nowhere anymore.

The members of the Commission who visited Serenity were amazed at the dedication and care taken by the Harlyvetches to restore this property with as much authenticity as possible. The home has a wealth of amenities including a potting shed and several flower gardens. The yard features 13 raised beds protected by a custom fence inspired by a Williamstown visit. The couple also maintain an extensive history of the property, including a list of owners from the 1700s until today. Based on our visit, the Historical Commission is pleased to announce that Mary and Craig will be given the 2023 Good Steward Award for historic preservation. The award will be presented at Westtown Day on Sunday, Oct. 8th at Oakbourne Park.



Craig & Mary Harlyvetch



Artifacts found on the property

Nov

04

## 10:00 AM | Township Building History Talk - Camp Elder/Camp Parole

David Walter of the Historical Commission will discuss the curious history of Camp Elder, where nearly 2,000 Civil War Union prisoners of the Confederacy were housed in Westtown in 1863.

We would like to invite all Westtown residents to the free talk, which will last about an hour. We expect to have the presentation available on YouTube as well.

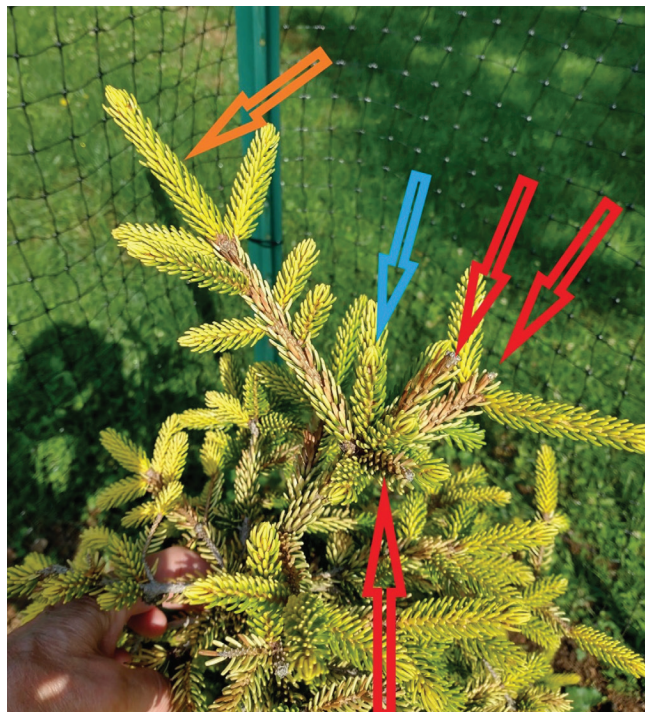
# Friends of Oakbourne

by Tom Bare, Friends of Oakbourne

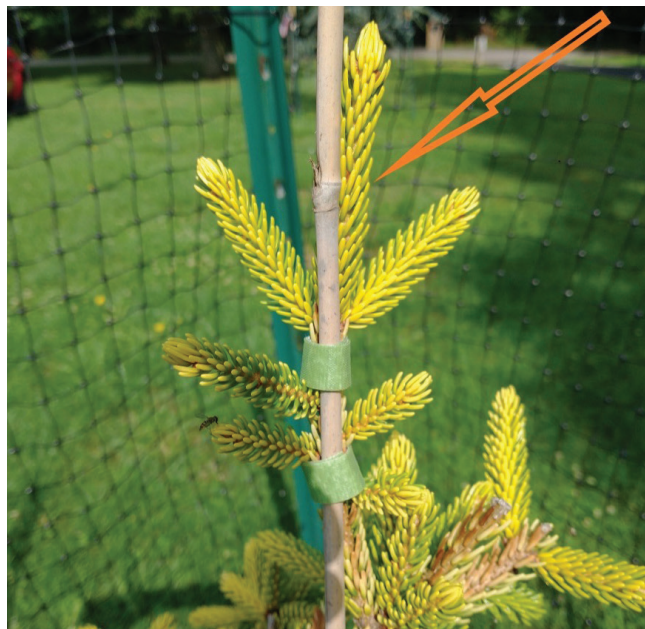
Because of the hot summer weather, Friends of Oakbourne (FoO) will be planting memorial and replacement trees this fall. During the summer, FoO has been maintaining our previously planted memorial trees, and we've started our arboretum tree identification project. This project's goal is to identify all the trees in the Oakbourne Park Arboretum and to locate each tree by GPS coordinates. We plan to use this data to create a database that will be available on the Friends of Oakbourne page of the Township website. The database is planned to not only contain tree identification and location, but also planting dates (if available) and, eventually, tree descriptions/characteristics. This will be a "living database" in that new trees and new information will be able to be incorporated when available.

As you walk around the Oakbourne Arboretum, you'll notice many distinctive shapes exhibited by different varieties of trees. Many conifers, including, among others, pines, spruces, firs, and larches, have a naturally symmetrical pyramidal shape. This shape is due to a specialized growing point called the terminal bud which is located at the very top of the tree. If this central tip/bud is damaged and a strong new leader is not established, the tree may lose its symmetrical shape and become (for shorter trees) more shrub-like or (for larger trees) more rounded and shorter than normal.

During our spring/summer tree maintenance, we discovered that the terminal leader and two other terminal side branches (all indicated by the red arrows in **Picture 1**) in a recently planted memorial tree (*Picea orientalis* 'Skylands') were apparently damaged at the nursery and/or during the winter. The blue arrow in **Picture 1** shows that a new, but small, leader was indeed established during the spring growth. However, the orange arrow in **Picture 1** points to a larger more vigorous side branch coming from the terminal area. While this larger branch might have naturally over time assumed the position of the new terminal leader, we wanted to ensure that this vigorous larger branch became the new leader. This was accomplished by attaching a small bamboo stake to the tree trunk and then fixing the large side branch (indicated by the orange arrow in **Picture 2**) to the stake so that it will be fixed in a vertical upright position. If this works as expected and the vertical branch becomes the terminal leader, this small tree will develop with a nicely symmetrical pyramidal shape as it matures in the coming years.



*Picea orientalis* 'Skylands' with damaged terminal and terminal side branches



Skylands spruce with strong new leader fastened to bamboo stake

## Interested In Donating A Park Bench Or Tree?

Contact Tom Bare ([tmbare@hotmail.com](mailto:tmbare@hotmail.com) or 610-399-1572) if you are interested in donating a park bench or tree to be planted in Oakbourne Park and Arboretum to honor a special person or loved one or to commemorate an important occasion.





# Oakbourne Park Athletic Complex Improvement Project





# Stormwater Management in Westtown

by Mila Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning

The most common and visible forms of stormwater management are curbs and storm drains you see on the side of the road. These drains and the pipes they feed make up our Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4). Beyond these more traditional solutions, there are over 80 different facilities in Westtown known as Post-Construction Stormwater Management Best Management Practices, or PSCM BMPs, that were required as part of land development process for projects such as a new residential subdivision like Sawmill Court or the improvements to the athletic complex at Oakbourne Park. These facilities, which include rain gardens, detention basins, and infiltration trenches, help minimize stormwater flows, contain them, and even de-contaminate them before the stormwater enters the MS4, natural waterways, or our groundwater. In addition, to effectively manage stormwater runoff on individual residential properties, the Township adopted an ordinance that requires any property owner to install smaller-scale stormwater best management practices (BMPs) when adding a total of more than 1,000 square feet of impervious surface to their property. That impervious surface gets calculated cumulatively for all completed and proposed improvements for each property from December 16, 2013. Currently, there are 24 smaller-scale BMPs located on private property. As time goes on and residents continue to create their dream properties, more of these BMPs may be installed across the Township. The goal of the ordinance is to allow property owners to develop their land as they want, but to mitigate any changes to stormwater flow that could harm neighboring properties or our community as a whole.



A typical stormwater basin

## BMPs Maintenance

All stormwater BMPs in Westtown are maintained by property owners, who sign an Operations & Maintenance (O&M) agreement with the Township. Beginning in 2020, the Township has committed to annual inspections of the larger PSCM BMPs to ensure each facility is properly maintained. Their function is important as they handle large volumes of stormwater runoff. Property owners are notified of upcoming inspections, the results of these inspections, and given a timeline to fix any violations. The 2023 inspection results has shown that only 28 (out of 69 inspected facilities) were in need of corrective actions, such as removing debris, trimming vegetation, and addressing erosion. Smaller-scale BMPs, installed on residential properties, are also maintained by property owners and are also subject to Township inspection. An important aspect of these O&M agreements are that property owners take full responsibility for ensuring their facilities are working properly, and for informing future buyers of their existence and needs. In order to do this the right way, property owners should be as informed as possible about their system and how to care for it. In 2023, the Township conducted inspections of all smaller-scale BMPs, and I'm happy to report that they are fully compliant and operate as designed.

The goal for property owners when maintaining their BMP is to continually recreate the conditions in which it was installed. Actions typically include maintaining plant and soil varieties and density along with structural components like pipes and drains. Over time, issues such as soil compaction, sediment build-up, vegetation overgrowth, animal burrows, and broken pipes can drastically reduce the effectiveness of your facility. One easy way to check on your facility is to observe conditions 72 hours after a rain event. If you notice the facility and/or surrounding area has not properly drained water, then there is a good chance it is malfunctioning. It is important to fix any issues as soon as possible, as excessive stormwater can not only cause an issue for you, but also for your neighbors.

### Questions or Concerns?

The Township is always a resource for any questions or concerns you have regarding stormwater management in Westtown. The Stormwater webpage on the Township website (<https://westtownpa.org/storm-water/>) provides a plethora of educational resources that can help residents better manage their own BMPs, and become more conscious stewards of the natural resources we all love in Westtown.



# Fall Tips: Green Guide To Clean Water For Residents

## SEPTEMBER

### Renovate or overseed your lawn; Use slow-release fertilizer

- Labor Day signals the best time of year to renovate your lawn. Core aerate, then overseed a closely mowed lawn with a fine fescue grass seed mixture and spread a slow-acting, organic fertilizer. Fine fescues require less fertilizer and water. Slow-release fertilizers are less water soluble and therefore less polluting to streams. Less compacted soils absorb more rainwater.

## OCTOBER

### Plant trees in your yard and community

- Fall is the best time for planting most trees and shrubs. The more trees and shrubs on your property, the more stormwater is controlled in your community. Consider volunteering to plant trees in your community with your tree commission, watershed association, or other conservation organization.
- Leave faded blossoms on perennials to mature into seedheads to support birds and other wildlife over the winter.
- Spread lime if the soil test indicates it is too acidic for turf grass.

## NOVEMBER

### Harvest fallen leaves

- Start a compost pile with fallen leaves. Mix in non-meat kitchen scraps or other “green” organic matter. Compost can be used next year to condition your soil so that it can absorb more rainwater. Purchase a compost bin and attend a composting workshop hosted by your County Solid Waste Authority, Master Gardeners, or Pennsylvania Resources Council. Mow last, light leaf fall with a mulching mower and leave the fragments in the lawn as mulch for grass plants.
- Fertilize late fall with a slow-release, organic fertilizer to encourage root development, which will create a healthier, more resilient lawn next year.

## DECEMBER

### Winterize rain barrel; relax

- Take a well-earned break from yard work. Disconnect hoses from your rain barrel and store hoses to avoid damage from freezing. As the wintry mix of snow and rain events come along, monitor the melt runoff and see where more improvements might be made next year to keep the water on the property. Your neighbors will thank you and your community will benefit from reduced flooding, safer water, cleaner streams, and a healthier environment.



# Important Dates

## OCTOBER, 2023

- 2, 16 - Board of Supervisors
- 4, 18 - Planning Commission
- 8 - Westtown Day
- 10 - Historical Commission
- 14 - Yard Waste Collection
- 17 - Parks & Rec Commission
- 19 - Friends of Oakbourne
- 21 - CRC/EAC Tree Planting
- 24 - EAC
- 28 - CRC/EAC Tree Walk

## NOVEMBER, 2023

- 4 - Yard Waste Collection
- 4 - Camp Elder Presentation
- 6, 20 - Board of Supervisors
- 8, 22 - Planning Commission
- 14 - Historical Commission
- 14 - Parks & Rec Commission
- 18 - Yard Waste Collection
- 28 - EAC
- 23, 24 - Office Closed

## DECEMBER, 2023

- 2 - Yard Waste Collection
- 4 - Camp Elder Presentation
- 4, 18 - Board of Supervisors
- 6, 20 - Planning Commission
- 12 - Historical Commission
- 16 - Yard Waste Collection
- 19 - Parks & Rec Commission
- 25, 26 - Office Closed

**Board of Supervisors** - 7:30 pm  
**Environmental Advisory** - 7:00 pm  
**Planning Commission** - 7:00 pm  
**Historical Commission** - 7:00 pm  
Township Municipal Building  
1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown

**Parks and Recreation**  
**& Friends of Oakbourne** - 7:00 pm  
Oakbourne Mansion  
1014 S. Concord Road, Westtown

# School Bus Safety

With school back in session, we would like to remind residents that the School Bus Stopping Law requires motorists approaching a school bus with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended, to stop at least 10 feet from the bus. Motorists approaching from all directions are required to stop. If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails, or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

The penalties if convicted of disobeying the law are steep: \$250 fine, five points on your driving record, and a 60-day license suspension. Much worse than these penalties, a tragedy could strike if either a driver or a student is not paying attention.

### Some safety tips for students to remember while waiting for, or loading and unloading the bus include:

- Get to the school bus stop early, so you won't have to run across the road to catch the bus.
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic.
- Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
- Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- Never push when getting on or off the school bus.

For more information on school bus safety visit:

<https://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/TrafficSafetyAndDriverTopics/Pages/School-Bus-Safety.aspx>

Oct

08

### 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Oakbourne Park Westtown Day

Carnival games, petting zoo, live music, moonbounce, craft vendors & exhibitors, historical re-enactors, mansion tours, touch-a-truck, food, and more!





# Household Waste Disposal

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

## TRASH

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

## RECYCLING

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

## YARD WASTE

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

## BULK ITEMS

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

## HAZARDOUS WASTE

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

## MEDICAL WASTE

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

## ELECTRONIC WASTE

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

# Recycling Doesn't End At The Curb!

## Industry Perspectives

By Patti Lynn, Recycling Resources Manager,  
Chester County Solid Waste Authority

You gave your food cans and bottles a good rinse, stored them in a container separate from your household trash, and tossed in your clean mixed paper. You placed the recycling bin at the curb on collection day. Congratulations, you've recycled! Or have you?

Well, not exactly. You're doing the right thing, but it's just the first step in the recycling process – the "set out." Next, the hauler collects it and transports it to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for sorting and baling. These commodities will be marketed to a paper mill, plastics broker, or metal recycler to eventually be manufactured into new products.

*Recycling is a process.* Residents are the first step. So, who better to teach us about the processing other than MRF managers?

Jeff Furmanchin of Total Recycle in Birdsboro wants us to know, "Contamination in single stream recyclables is the largest cause of downtime and damage to processing equipment. Please keep hoses, wires, construction, debris and yard waste out of your recycling. Lithium-ion or rechargeable batteries of any type need to stay out of recycling and trash bins, as they are an enormous fire hazard." (These batteries only belong in a household hazardous waste collection program!)

Scott Mengle, Director of SECCRA Landfill, manages a dozen drop off bins across southern Chester County. He says, "Just because an item bears a recycling symbol doesn't guarantee it's actually recyclable. This poses financial and logistical challenges, as non-recyclable items disrupt sorting, increase costs, and devalue recycled materials. To preserve the financial and environmental sustainability of recycling programs, it's important to know what is truly recyclable. 'When in doubt, throw it out' to ensure our success."

Matt Cogle of Cogle's Recycling wants us to know that water bottles (PET #1) are recycled into carpet and clothing. PET is also re-made into new bottles, closing the recycling loop. "It starts in your home. Keep food, liquids, and cigarette butts out of bottles. They make recycling much harder. Get those clean and loose (not bagged) bottles in the cart!"

**Better to recycle right, than to recycle more. When in doubt, chuck it out! Let's get Trash Smart!**



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

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Permit #50



## Used Bicycle & Sewing Machine Collection

SPONSORED BY CHESTER CO. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

**SUNDAY  
OCT. 29TH  
12PM-3PM**

We're collecting adult & kids' bikes and sewing machines to send to Togo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Belize and Guatemala. Help us put unused bikes and sewing machines to good use in the developing world.

**WEST GOSHEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
1025 PAOLI PIKE (ENTRANCE ON FIVE  
POINTS RD)  
WEST GOSHEN, PA 19380**

**A donation of \$20 per item is requested to help offset shipping costs overseas.**

All material and monetary donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided on site.

Bikes should be rust free. No children's trikes, but bikes with flat tires in need of some repair are accepted. Portable sewing machines should be in working condition.

**For more info contact:**

Patti: 484-796-4039

**To read more about our cause visit:**

**P4P.org**



**pedals for progress™**

Putting used bikes to good use