



WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Newsletter to the Citizens of Westtown Township - Spring Issue #49

GREETINGS WESTTOWN FRIENDS -

I hope this note finds you and your families well! I am honored to be the newest member of Westtown’s Board of Supervisors. I feel very blessed to get to work on your behalf with such a great team of fellow Board members and Township staff. In my short time on the Board, I have been very impressed with the dedication and expertise of everyone on the team. We are all eager to serve you and your family and to keep what we all love about Westtown intact. Speaking of dedication and expertise, I want to recognize the efforts of Jon Altshul, Township Manager, who has decided to write a new chapter in his life and step down from his post with us after serving Westtown very well for the past several years. I want to personally thank Jon for his years of faithful service to our Township and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors. Rest assured that the Board is working diligently to find Jon’s replacement, but we are going to take our time to conduct a thorough search to find the right person for this key position. We will certainly keep you posted as we move through this process.

In the meantime, as spring is finally upon us, there is much to be excited about in Westtown! If you are like me and my family and love the outdoors, you will enjoy the many improvements at Oakbourne Park that will soon be completed - including pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts as well as improved parking and restroom facilities.

Kudos to our Public Works Director, Mark Gross, for keeping this large project on time and on budget. When the pickleball courts do open, don’t be surprised if you come across a trash-talking 11-year old boy on the court - that’s probably my son. While he’s pretty good for an 11-year old, don’t let the trash talk fool you, he’s harmless, and his backhand is suspect (at least that is what I keep telling myself when I lose to him!).

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I know that many of you are following the Crebilly Farm preservation effort closely. I have had the pleasure of touring the grounds recently, and I look forward to the day in the near future when you and your families will get to enjoy the same experience. The property is truly a gem and worth all of our collective efforts to preserve. The Board is hard at work with our partners at Natural Lands and the property owners to close this transaction. More to follow, but rest assured we will do everything we can to make this preservation effort a reality not only for our generation, but for many generations to come.

All the Best,

Ed Yost, Vice Chair

Westtown Board of Supervisors

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Westtown Township, County of Chester

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Board of Supervisors: Tom Foster, Dick Pomerantz, Ed Yost

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

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

Phone: 610-692-1930 • Fax: 610-692-9651 • www.westtownpa.org

CHESTER COUNTY USEFUL CONTACTS & PHONE NUMBERS

Chester County Government Services Center:

- 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19382
- Information: 610-344-6000
- 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

State House - 160th District:

Craig Williams: Local: 610-358-5925
www.pahouse.com/williams

U. S. Senators:

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

Congress - 6th District:

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

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

For Non-Emergencies:

610-692-5100

BULLETIN BOARD

Commission Vacancies

The Board of Supervisors is accepting applications for the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Historical Commission. To apply, please submit a brief resume or statement of interest to administration@westtown.org. Applicants must be current in all municipal obligations.

Crimewatch

The rise in mail theft 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.



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/. There is no fee for this service.

Save paper!

If you would like to receive the *Westtown Gazette* electronically, email 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

DEAR WESTTOWN RESIDENTS:

It is with very mixed emotions that I sign off as Westtown Township Manager. As you may be aware, my last day was on March 15. Representing the Township in this capacity for the past three and a half years has been a distinct pleasure and one of the highlights of my professional career. Westtown is a remarkable community, filled with engaged, civic-minded residents not afraid to roll up their sleeves and do hard work.

The last few years have been filled with many highlights, including the preservation and acquisition of Crebilly Farm and the upgrade of the athletic facilities and trail system at Oakbourne Park. These have been exciting projects that have garnered tremendous public input, as well as grant funding from federal, state, and county sources. I am honored and humbled to have played a small part—along with many, many extraordinarily intelligent and thoughtful Township residents—in turning what were once far-fetched ideas into reality.

The last few years have also been filled with a few disappointments as well. One recurring recent complaint, in particular, has been regarding the quality of trash and recycling services in the Township, which, as many of you have experienced firsthand, has fallen off over the past several months. Clearly, the Township is disappointed by this turn of events, and we are exploring all of our options to make sure that service returns to the level residents are accustomed to. In the meantime, if you do experience a missed pick up, please notify

the Township by phone at 610-692-1930, via the REPORT A CONCERN button on the homepage of the Township website, or email at administration@westtown.org. We carefully document every verifiable collection issue to hold the hauler accountable and to ensure that those misses can be corrected as soon as possible.



Mila Carter,
Interim Township Manager

The Township is currently recruiting for a new Manager, and hopefully the position will be filled later this spring. In the meantime, Township operations will be in good hands with Mila Carter, the Township's Director of Planning and Zoning and a font of knowledge about all things Westtown, who will serve as Interim Manager until a replacement Manager can be appointed.

Again, I have enjoyed working with all of you and wish Westtown the greatest success in the future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon".

Jonathan Altshul, *Township Manager*

Parks & Recreation News

The Parks & Recreation (P&R) Commission suffered a “double whammy” at the end of 2023 due to the simultaneous departure of two commissioners. Susan Alloway served on P&R since 2017 (with a brief hiatus in 2020). Two of our most popular events - the annual Egg Hike and the Westtown Holiday Lights contest and driving tour - were Sue's wonderful ideas. Her departure really meant the loss of four people, as her husband and two kids always helped out. Jennifer Jacobs served since 2019 and brought strong leadership, municipal experience, and her son's scout troop! We greatly miss their energy and dedication, and thank both of these wonderful women (and their families!) for the exceptional commitment they made to the Westtown community.



SAVE THE DATE
Summer Kick Off Concert

6:30 - 8 PM
Oakbourne Park

Westtown Township Wants You!

Do you love to plan activities and events?

Then consider giving back to your community and making new connections by volunteering for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Parks & Rec meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Oakbourne Mansion. All meetings are open to the public. To apply please send a brief resume or statement of interest to administration@westtown.org. Applicants for any Township commission must be current in all municipal obligations.

The Giant of Westtown

By Stephen Wahrhaftig, Westtown Historical Commission

Westtown School was already over 100 years old by the time student William Engle graduated, in 1910. Engle's family was from Newark, New Jersey, and being Quaker, wanted William to attend a quality Quaker school. Westtown had earned a reputation as an excellent boarding school, and he was enrolled. William was known by his fellow students to be both artistic and philosophical. He was often seen roaming our countryside, carrying brushes and pallet, sketching and painting the beautiful landscape in this area of Pennsylvania. He also loved the ocean and spent summers with his family in Beach Haven, NJ.

The young artist was fortunate enough to meet a relatively unknown artist who had moved to nearby Chadds Ford. His name was Newell Convers Wyeth. NC Wyeth, of course, would become one of the most celebrated illustrators of his day, eventually producing nearly 4,000 paintings and illustrations for books and magazines. His legacy includes his artistic descendants, Andrew and Jaimie Wyeth.

After graduating from Westtown, Engle studied at The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, and three years later moved to Chadds Ford to study with Wyeth. There, he became Wyeth's assistant, and in due course, NC and William were close friends.

During this time, William's health began to fail. In 1912 he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. At that time, people thought that the disease could be controlled by spending time outdoors. The young artist tried working on a classmate's family farm in Iowa for a summer, but his health steadily declined. By 1913 William Engle was in such poor health that he was forced to move back to Newark to be cared for by his family. He died there on his 25th birthday.

In 1920, the Westtown Class of 1910 held a reunion. There, classmates remembered their missing artistic classmate. Someone suggested that they approach Engle's friend and teacher and commission him to create a painting in honor of their fellow student. The class raised the sum of \$500, which was no small fee in 1920. They approached NC Wyeth, who agreed to create a work of work of art in William Engle's memory, to be displayed at Westtown School.

Several artistic subjects were considered, then rejected for various reasons. Then Wyeth came upon an idea that was both compelling and appropriate. Wyeth knew his assistant to be an artist who loved painting the outdoors. The young artist also adored the beach, and like Wyeth, shared a sense of wonder and imagination.

The resulting work is a large-scale painting (72" x 60") finished in Wyeth's inimitable style - beautiful soft colors and a combination of both realistic illustration and pure fantasy. The work was painted at the Beach Haven beach, where Engle has spent so many enjoyable hours. In it, we see the massive pastel-

tinged clouds that Wyeth was famous for. It is called 'The Giant'. In it, a group of children on a beach look up in wonder, as clouds form the image of a fairy-tale giant. There, beyond the ocean waves, the giant strides past, gripping a huge club, clothed in a medieval gown and jeweled belt.

To heighten the painting's surreal feeling, none of the children are facing us in the picture. Instead, they are all gazing away from us, towards the billowing clouds. Wyeth seems to be inviting us to see the world the way these children are seeing it, a world full of fairy tales and wonder. Where we, as adults might see only clouds, children may see fantastic characters and stories.

Six children are depicted in *The Giant*. The five kids on the right side of the picture are all NC Wyeth's children that he chose to place into the painting. The blond child is Andrew Wyeth. One boy, on the left, gazes along with his friends. This child is William Engle. Only William wears a hat in the painting. The hat resembles the one Engle would wear as he traveled the environs of Westtown, searching for scenes to paint.



The Giant by NC Wyeth, Westtown School

A classmate of William Engle was interviewed in the 1940s, who said that *"Bill had always meant to execute a scene like this of children by the sea, looking up into the clouds,"* and that Wyeth took this dream and created the painting that his assistant would never make.



William Engle, painting (about 1910)

Before presenting *The Giant* to Westtown School, he exhibited to public acclaim. In fact, the artist wrote about it in a letter to his mother. In the letter, Wyeth states that the painting had caused a 'sensation' in the gallery.

Today, *The Giant* is mounted on a wall in the Westtown School dining room. Generations of students have admired the work as they had their daily meals. The painting is carefully respected and is protected only by a motion detector that emits a sonic warning if an admirer gets too close to the work.

At Westtown School, students grow up, graduate, and move on to other phases of their lives. Many of them live on in the memories of their teachers and fellow students. But one of them lives on in a painted masterpiece that decorates the walls of one of Westtown's oldest institutions.

History Lectures

(Saturdays at 10 am in the Stokes Assembly Hall)

APRIL 27

West Chester historian Malcomb Johnstone will present "Lincoln and His West Chester Connection." The first biography of Abraham Lincoln was printed in West Chester and it was instrumental in his winning the Republican nomination for president in 1860. Come hear how and why this Lincoln connection with West Chester was accomplished.

JUNE 22

Westtown Historical Commission will present a "Brief History of Westtown Township: From Farmland to Suburbia." From its founding in 1685, within William Penn's colony, to the present, Westtown Township has been home to colorful characters, historic happenings, and wonderful old structures. Come learn about the interesting stories in Westtown's history.

SEPT. 7

Author and historian Bruce Mowday will talk about "Gen. Lafayette at the Battle of Brandywine." The young Lafayette got his first taste of battle, and a wound, at the Battle of Brandywine, Sept. 11, 1777 in nearby Thornbury Township. Learn how the battle informed Lafayette's character and usefulness to General George Washington and contributed to his heroic status in the fight for American Independence.

NOV. 9

Westtown Historical Commission will present "Darlington Corners: Westtown's Historic Crossroads Village." Discover the businesses and people who lived and worked in Darlington's Corners at the intersection of Street Road and Wilmington Pike. Now largely demolished for modern purposes and Rte. 202 widening, this village was once the heart of Westtown Township.

Historical Commission Vacancies

Do you have a passion for local history?

Then consider giving back to your community and making new connections by volunteering for the Historical Commission! The Historical Commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Township building. To apply for the Historical Commission please send a brief resume or statement of interest to historical@westtown.org. Applicants for any Township commission must be current in all municipal obligations.

Residential Composting: Reasons and Options

By Ray Dandrea, Environmental Advisory Council Member

The Trash & Recycling page of the Township website contains a 48-page PowerPoint about composting that was produced by the Penn State College of Agriculture. In addition to summarizing that information below, I have included data collected from my personal composting experience to present an overview of the benefits of composting and options available to residents depending on their level of interest, time, and space.

According to the PSU Ag report, 34% of landfilled waste in PA is attributed to food, yard waste, and paper. Residential (backyard) composting can increase the recycling of food and yard wastes so that limited landfill space is not devoted to these organic materials. Composting can reduce the costs of municipal waste disposal, and slow the greenhouse gas emissions from food waste breakdown in landfills, thus positively affecting climate change.

Although all organic materials will eventually decompose, only the following should be added to a backyard compost system: garden trimmings, grass clippings, leaves, used potting soil, manure, sawdust, hair, and some kitchen scraps. Oils, fats, grease, meat, fish, dairy products, pet waste, and unwashed eggshells should not be composted. These materials tend to attract pests, vermin, and create foul odors. Diseased plants also should not be composted, as the resulting compost could spread the disease.

There are various compost systems, which if used properly will create compost that will improve the soil health in your garden. They include separated bins, manufactured bins, tumblers, and indoor food processors. Prices for composting bins vary from \$50-\$600, depending on the capacity and style. The wide range of options gives each resident an opportunity to tailor their system to their individual needs.

The maximum performance of decomposers arises from a mixture of carbon-rich organic wastes ("browns") and nitrogen-rich ("greens"):

BROWNS	GREENS
Leaves	Vegetable Scraps
Straw	Grass Clippings
Paper	Coffee Grounds
Sawdust	Manure

Browns decay slowly and keep the pile of materials aerated. Greens decay rapidly and require agitation for aeration. Rapid decomposition requires optimum water content whereby the pile should be "as wet as a squeezed sponge." Composting additives can be purchased online to promote the process, as can the purchase of vermicomposting worms.

Turning the compost pile with a pitchfork or spinning the tumbler container helps aeration and reduces wetness. Active composting occurs in the temperature range of 55-155 F. Addition of grass clippings to a dry mixture is critical to generating heat for proper breakdown. Shredding dry leaves and chopping food waste speeds the process, but necessitates agitation as the smaller particles result in decreased airflow.



Compost Tumbler

In addition, there are two local companies that operate a residential exchange program whereby a 5-gallon tub of food waste is picked up every other week and replaced with a similar container filled with organic compost. These programs are ideal for those who are unable to compost waste on their property. Our Township is within their territories.

There are many ways that we can serve the community by reducing solid waste volume and benefitting the ecosystem while generating nutritious gardening material. Please feel free to reach out with questions by contacting me through the Township office.

The EAC will be hosting a composting seminar with hands-on experiences on Saturday, May 4 at 1116 Chateau Drive 19382 from 10am-noon. All residents are welcome to attend!

What Not About On-Lot: Who's Inspecting Your System?

Forty-two percent of properties in Westtown rely on an individual sewage disposal system, which will not work properly or may even fail without ongoing maintenance. The purpose of Westtown's On-Lot Sewage Management Program (SMP) is to minimize groundwater pollution and environmental degradation that result from a malfunctioning sewage systems by ensuring that all systems are well maintained. The SMP program began in 2016 with comprehensive initial inspections of all on-lot systems in the Township and continues today. Approximately 300-500 Westtown residents submit their pumping receipts and routine inspection reports by October 31st of each year that are reviewed for program compliance.

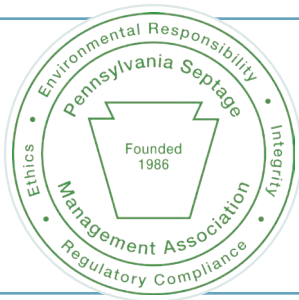
The Township requires a Pennsylvania Septage Management Association (PSMA) Certified Inspector to conduct inspections, because they have appropriate training and professional expertise on septic system components and operations. Only a PSMA certified inspector is able to complete a thorough assessment of different types of on lot systems to determine whether repairs are required to bring your system into compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and standards. The inspector may also provide you with maintenance tips to extend the lifespan of your system.



A Ruptured Septic Pipe



Failed Septic Drain Field



Before scheduling your inspection, ask your provider whether or not it will be completed by a PSMA certified inspector and verify that the provider is listed on this website: <https://www.pdma.net/locate-service-provider/>. Inspections completed by an inspector without PSMA certification will not be accepted by the Township.

Thank you for properly maintaining your systems and helping to keep Westtown a healthy community.

5 Easy Steps to Comply with the Sewage Management Program Requirements

1. **Check the date** of previous inspection, new system installation or waiver, and add 3 years - that's the year your **SMP Routine Inspection Report Due!**
2. **Find a PSMA certified inspector** and schedule the inspection of your sewage disposal system.
3. **Ensure the inspector fills out** a Westtown Township SMP Routine Inspection Report during the inspection.
4. **Submit a completed inspection report and a copy of your pumping receipt** (if pumped at the same time) to the Township within 30 days of a service date.
5. **Hire a Chester County Health Department licensed Liquid Waste Hauler** to perform pumping at least once every 3 years OR as recommended.

Report and pumping receipts MUST be submitted by October 31 | Phone: 610.692.1930 | www.westtownpa.org/onlot/

Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department

Congratulations to Lieutenant David Leahy

The Westtown - East Goshen (WEGO) Regional Police Department wishes to congratulate Lieutenant David Leahy on becoming the first WEGO Command member to graduate from the prestigious Northwestern School of Police Staff & Command (SPSC).

The School of Police Staff & Command is an exhaustive 10-week program that provides experienced law enforcement professionals with the necessary leadership and management skills to be successful in senior command positions. The program is held in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and covers a variety of topics, including:

- Leadership and Management
- Contemporary Policing
- Decision Making
- Employee Relations
- Evaluating Products & Services
- Executive Image
- Grant Writing
- Human Resources
- Media Relations
- Organizational Behavior
- Planning & Policies
- Project Management
- Resource Allocation
- Statistics
- Traffic
- Problem Solving

Lieutenant Leahy graduated on February 16th from the 563rd class, comprised of law enforcement leaders from various police agencies across southeast Pennsylvania and Virginia. Lieutenant Leahy stated that attending and graduating from the Northwestern SPSC course was the most valuable experience of his 26-year career in law enforcement. He acknowledged that his class was taught by some of the most knowledgeable law enforcement instructors in the country, and he developed professional relationships with other law enforcement leaders in the region, which he intends to maintain throughout his career.



He would also like to express his gratitude to Chief Bernot, his patrol sergeants, his Staff Services Corporal, and his wife, Jackie, for their support during his NWSPSC program graduation. For more information on the program and its history, please visit <https://sps.northwestern.edu/center-for-public-safety/management/spsc.asp>.

Goshen Fire Company

Fundraising is critical to our success and we can't do it without our volunteers and YOU! Here are the events to watch for in '24.

Put These Events On Your 2024 Calendar!



Mother's Day Flower Sale
Firehouse
Boot/Greenhill Road
**or until sold out*



Goshen Country Fair
6PM - Fairgrounds
Parking and admission are free! Rides, games, food, music, livestock, bingo.



Fire Prevention Open House
6PM - Park Avenue Firehouse
Firefighting/rescue demonstrations, fire trucks from all over, police vehicles, snacks; a great event for the whole family.



Want to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer at the fair, we'd love to have you. You can contact us via the website <https://goshencountryfair.org/contact/> or email president@goshencountryfair.com.

Have a special skill you can share with us?

Our Fire, EMS, and Fire Police divisions always welcome new volunteers; training and equipment are provided at no cost to you! We also need volunteers to help with marketing, administration, finance, fundraising, and special events. Go to www.goshenfireco.org for information on how you can join us. Follow us on Facebook at Goshen Fire Company.

Stormwater Management Tips for Homeowners

In addition to municipal and commercial stormwater management efforts, Township residents can take steps to improve water quality in our community. Although many properties are under 1/2 acre, collectively they can produce significant stormwater runoff. Below are several simple yard care practices that 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 threaten our streams, drinking water, and ecosystems.

APRIL : Leave grass clippings; mulch properly

- Cut grass at 3 to 3.5 inches tall. Mow often enough so that clippings are not longer than one-third (1/3) of the grass blade, so they can decompose easily into the soil.
- Excess nitrogen and phosphorus from lawn fertilization is frequently a pollutant to streams, fostering the growth of algae which deplete oxygen levels, harming fish. Spare your stream by avoiding spring fertilization, and leave your grass clippings on your lawn instead. Grass clippings supply between 25% and 50% of nitrogen and phosphorus needs.
- Mulched beds help retain water, insulate the soil, and prevent weeds, but avoid volcano mulching. Remove excess mulch before adding fresh mulch. Spread mulch away from the base of trees and shrubs to a depth of not more than 4", making sure the root flare is exposed. Too much mulch blocks the roots from getting sufficient oxygen, and underlying roots can rot or girdle. Wet mulch holds moisture against the bark, which can damage the bark and underlying tissue, leading to fungus, disease, and eventual death of the tree.

MAY: Replace some turf with mulched beds, a rain garden, or pocket meadow

- Consider creating new focal points in your yard. Start a flower or vegetable patch, build a rain garden, or establish a pocket meadow to absorb rainwater from downspouts and paved areas. Mulch all bare soil in planted beds and under trees and shrubs with composted leaf mulch.
- Learn more by downloading the Rain Garden Brochure at: www.westtownpa.org/storm-water.

JUNE: Raise mower height; judiciously control weeds and pests

- Raise your mower height to 4 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 your property.
- Leave an unmowed edge (three feet or more in width) along streams, ponds, and drainage channels to prevent erosion.
- Late May or early June is a good time to spread biological controls on your lawn or garden, such as beneficial nematodes to control Japanese beetle grubs. Avoid use of chemical pesticides and herbicides if possible. They damage beneficial insects and soil structures. If weed problems develop, spot treat specific weed patches rather than treating your entire lawn or garden.

Improper Mulching



Proper Mulching



Volcano mulching suffocates surface roots of trees.



Important Dates

APRIL, 2024

1, 15 - Board of Supervisors
3, 17 - Planning Commission
9 - Historical Commission
13 - Yard Waste Collection
16 - Parks & Rec Commission
18 - Friends of Oakbourne
30 - EAC

MAY, 2024

6, 20 - Board of Supervisors
8, 22 - Planning Commission
11 - Yard Waste Collection
14 - Historical Commission
21 - Parks & Rec Commission
27 - Office Closed
28 - EAC

JUNE, 2024

3, 17 - Board of Supervisors
5, 19 - Planning Commission
8 - Yard Waste Collection
11 - Historical Commission
18 - Parks & Rec Commission
25 - EAC

JULY, 2024

1, 15 - Board of Supervisors
3, 17 - Planning Commission
4, 5 - Office Closed
9 - Historical Commission
13 - Yard Waste Collection
16 - Parks & Rec Commission
18 - Friends of Oakbourne
23 - EAC

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

April is National Safe Digging Month

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. The 8-1-1 call center is available 24/7.



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

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 Department. 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.

Recycle Right. When in Doubt, Throw it Out!

Recycling RIGHT is more important than recycling MORE. 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. Clean, uncontaminated recyclable material improves marketability.

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 downtime. 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 helps prevent cups from leaking makes it difficult to process.
- Plastic straws, plastic utensils, or takeaway cup lids
- Shredded paper
- Styrofoam
- Scrap metal, hangers, aluminum siding, or metal cookware
- Mirrors, ovenware, flower pots, and window glass
- Oil cans or bottles, aerosol, or paint cans
- Drinking glasses, ceramic dishware

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





Code Corner – Open Burning

The weather has been uncommonly warm, and spring cleanup has already started, with residents trimming trees and cleaning patios, decks, and yards ready for the outdoor season. Grills and fire pits are being cleaned and ready for family gatherings and cookouts. The Township has recently adopted changes to Chapter 63, Open Burning, of the Westtown Code to prevent nuisances caused by outdoor burning, clarify the requirements for burning of leaves and tree trimmings, provide criteria and standards for recreational fires and bonfires, and to encourage the use of recreational fires by Westtown residents.

A bonfire is described as an outdoor open fire used in conjunction with a recognized ceremony of a community, educational, service, or scouting organization; it does not include family gatherings or celebrations. Recreational fire can be contained in the stationary or portable unit used to cook food, for entertainment purposes, or provide warmth. Such units include fire pits, fire rings, outdoor fireplaces, and chimineas, with or without a removable cover.

Bonfires

- Notify the Westtown Fire Marshall at 610-436-4700 at least 24 hours prior to bonfire.
- Burning area shall not exceed 5 feet in diameter and 10 feet in height.
- Shall be located at minimum 50 feet from the nearest structure, tree, vehicle, or utility equipment.
- Shall be located at minimum 20 feet from any property line.
- Shall be extinguished daily by 10:00 pm.
- Shall be no more than three bonfires on three consecutive days on a single parcel.

Recreational fires (including portable units)

- Portable units shall adhere to all manufacturer's guidelines and specifications.
- Burning area shall not exceed 44 inches in circumference and 2 feet in height (as applicable).
- Shall only be placed on a flat, noncombustible surface.
- Shall be located at minimum 10 feet from any structure, tree, vehicle, or utility equipment, and property line.
- Shall be extinguished before midnight.

DO NOT...

- ✗ Burn commercial/industrial waste.
- ✗ Burn trash and domestic waste unless contained as permitted by the Code.
- ✗ Burn on public roads or in proximity to utility poles and utility equipment.
- ✗ Burn leaves and other yard waste unless contained as permitted by the Code.
- ✗ Burn under any roof, awning, or other overhead covering.
- ✗ Use combustible or flammable liquid fuels to light or relight the fire.
- ✗ Burn between the hours of 4:30pm and 8:00am except as permitted by the Code.

DO...

- ✓ Attend until it is fully extinguished.
- ✓ Have a single ABC portable fire extinguisher or a water source for immediate use.
- ✓ Use clean wood, charcoal, or wood chips products.
- ✓ Maintain a 15-foot cleared area free of trees, shrubs, and other combustible materials for bonfires and burning of tree trimmings.

Any fire may be extinguished by the local fire company if, in the opinion of the Fire Marshal or a Westtown-East Goshen Police officer, the fire constitutes a danger to persons or property. Our residents include elderly, veterans, those with respiratory illnesses, and children, who are particularly sensitive to smoke inhalation. When burning, please be considerate of your neighbors.