



WESTTOWN GAZETTE

A Quarterly Newsletter to the Citizens of Westtown Township - Spring Issue #51



Crebilly Preserve - photo by Pam Packard

FIVE YEARS DOWN....ONE TO GO...A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

As the final twelve months of my six-year term serving on Westtown Township’s Board of Supervisors (BOS) commence, I have been reflecting on the two most intriguing, most challenging questions I was asked as a first-time candidate for elected public office:

“Why is someone like you, with your considerably different life and professional experiences and skill sets doing this?” and “Even if you’re elected (by no means a sure thing at the time), do you really think you’ll be able to look back someday and conclude with any degree of confidence it really made a positive difference for Westtown?”

Being neither politically partisan nor an adherent to some philosophical political orthodoxy, and instead strongly advocating for a fundamental change in the governing of Westtown, predicated on a deep conviction that fiscal responsibility and a “customer-centric” focus in the treatment of our residents need not be two solitudes, I fully understood the skepticism in the tone and line of questioning.

Change of any kind is never easy. It takes time. Commitment. A willingness to get beyond the ‘same old, same old - that’s the way it’s always been done.’ And it takes courage. Not only to make the decisions on the possibilities more immediately ahead. But to be prepared when, by circumstance, happenstance, or Providence, an opportunity arises to do the seemingly impossible for the benefit of generations to come.

There could not be two better testaments this past year alone than the extraordinary ‘makeover’ of Oakbourne Park and the signed final agreement regarding Crebilly.

Both are admittedly expensive long-term propositions. One that would have been considerably less so had it been dealt with iteratively over the past thirty years. And the other not even remotely possible until there was a willing landowner, the well-chronicled and highly successful referendum vote, and the public and private fundraising initiatives that followed. All of it within just a very short time frame.

Both were made possible by the tireless efforts of our management and administration and our outside advisors. Both fiscally doable through responsible, innovative financing. Both that have forever and dramatically changed Westtown for the better.

The first five years in their composite have been—in one word—“consequential.” Some due to concussive societal events such as COVID and the George Floyd situation. Both beyond our control, but nonetheless both highly controversial and impactful.

There have been many other changes as well, including changes in the makeup of the colleagues I previously did and presently do serve with on the BOS, as well as those on the WEGO Police Commission; and those formerly and presently in the employ of the Township and the WEGO Police Department.

There’s been as well a discernible qualitative change in the skill sets of those serving on Township commissions, committees, task forces, etc. And that doesn’t even include the magnificent makeup of Save Crebilly volunteers. Without whom the referendum would not have succeeded. Without which saving Crebilly would have remained a non-required pipe dream.

... Continues on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

Contact Information & Bulletin Board.....	2
Personal Perspective & Manager’s Message	3
The Legacy of Sarah Starkweather.....	4/5
Historical Commission 2025 Lecture Series.....	5
Friends of Oakbourne News	6
EAC & Westtown Community Garden	7

WEGO News	8
Safe Digging Awareness Month & Stormwater Management Tips	9
Important Dates & Parks & Recreation News.....	10
Trash and Recycling Information	11
Stream Cleanup	12



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

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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

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. Information on what each of these commissions does can be found on the Township website. 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 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, MasterCard, 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.

Certainly, though, as with anything in life, not every change proved to be as positive as one would have hoped for. Exemplified for instance when Thornbury Township surprised both Westtown and East Goshen as well as, apparently, Thornbury residents, by walking away during renegotiations with the WEGO Police Commission regarding re-upping what had been, for years, a long-held, very positive working relationship.

With effective, caring, thoughtful stewardship on the part of this (and future) BOS and the myriad of stakeholders professionally advising and/or residents doing so in a volunteer capacity, and the continuing admirable work of our management and staff at every level, whilst the next (my final) year and beyond are bound to have its share of challenges, there will be continuing successes to build on.

To this end, I will continue to serve as Westtown's Police Commissioner, working again with my two WEGO Police Commission colleagues, fully cognizant of the considerable

range of police related initiatives we already have on our docket. From receiving, very soon, the Police Staffing Study that's been underway since last summer, to commencing renegotiations regarding the WEGO Police Commission and the partnership between Westtown and East Goshen Township. From commencing the search for a new WEGO police chief, to the start of labor negotiations with the WEGO Police Association.

In the interim, as I am sure to reiterate on many different occasions throughout 2025, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for having been given the extraordinary honor to help enable Westtown to fulfill its potential "to be the best it can be."



Richard Pomerantz, Chair
WEGO Police Commission

Manager's Message - Congratulations on Crebilly Preserve!

Thanks to our residents and friends, Westtown Township is now the proud owner of 206 acres of open space, named Crebilly Preserve, which was financed with more than \$18 million of various grants, bond debt, and township funds. The land was primarily purchased with funds reserved for the purpose of conservation; therefore, the Township will steward activities that aim to promote the long-term health of the land, water, and wildlife. Such activities include removal of all buildings and structures, addressing of any environmental hazards, ceasing agricultural activity, planting hundreds of trees and natural vegetation, and restoring riparian buffers. Crebilly Preserve will be similar in design and use to many other preserves in Chester County, such as Stroud Preserve. It is envisioned to be a natural area of woodlands, meadows and streams, with carefully laid out trails and pathways that avoid sensitive environmental areas and wildlife habitats.

The land is required to be accessible to the public within three years from the date of acquisition. To achieve that, the Township is taking a comprehensive, multi-step approach that begins with demolition as required by land conservation provisions, subdivision of two acres of land housing an historic inn to allow for its adaptive reuse, planning for conversion of the agricultural fields to meadows, and developing a short-term maintenance plan. After these activities are complete, the Township will move forward with development of a Master Preserve Plan that outlines strategies to steward the land long term.

In addition to streams, forested area, and farmed fields, the acquired open space currently contains two single-family dwellings and a detached garage that need to be demolished. The demolition of these dilapidated buildings and the abandonment of associated oil tanks, wells, septic systems, and utilities is the first step in converting this land into natural

open space. Demolition will take place sometime this spring. About 135 acres of Crebilly Preserve was used to grow corn and soybeans for decades. This will cease after harvest in late summer, with the intent to convert the fields into meadows and forested stream buffers.

Approximately 102 acres on the eastern end of what was Crebilly Farm (along S. New Street and Route 926) was subdivided into four residential parcels that are subject to conservation easements, and which are listed for sale. Westtown Township contributed more than \$1 million to help conserve those parcels, but the Township has no ownership interest or property rights on that acreage. There are two other parcels adjacent to the Preserve: the Westminster Presbyterian Church property at the corner of Route 202 and W. Pleasant Grove Road, and a privately owned four-acre parcel off Old Wilmington Pike.

Money for the demolition and ongoing maintenance of Crebilly Preserve will come from the Township's Open Space Fund; however, due to limitations of how this fund may be used, the Township will need to pursue other funding sources for planning and improvements permitted as part of land conservation. The vast amount of planning will be focused on layout of trails and parking lot, engineering, and long-term maintenance so the public can enjoy the natural beauty of the preserve. In the future, the Board of Supervisors will be creating an advisory committee to lead the planning process. For now, take comfort in knowing that this iconic piece of Chester County has been preserved in perpetuity for all.

Sincerely,



Liudmila (Mila) Carter

The Legacy of Sarah Starkweather

By Pamela Boulos, Westtown Historical Commission

If you're reading this newsletter, you've likely heard the name Sarah Starkweather many times. You may even drop your children off every weekday at an elementary school that bears her name. But do you know who Sarah W. Starkweather was?

Sarah Wilder Starkweather was born in Connecticut in 1843. While little is known about her upbringing, it appears she began teaching in West Chester in the early 1860s. She got her start teaching at the High School, also referred to as the Church Street School. The school, which was completed in 1863 to accommodate increasing student population, was situated on the southeast corner of Biddle and Church Streets in West Chester Borough, the current site of the Washington Square Apartments. There, Starkweather taught higher mathematics, English, Latin, and Modern Languages. Her competence and noted 'splendid personality' got her a job as the assistant principal halfway through the school's first year.

By 1866, at the ripe age of 23, she was promoted to principal of the High School, which was highly unusual for a woman at that time. The first class graduated from the High School that year, consisting of five girls. The school struggled in 1867 and 1868 with no graduates due to students withdrawing before completing the prescribed courses. But through these difficulties, Starkweather succeeded in increasing enrollment at the High School, with higher attendance and graduates from 1869 and onward. Her annual reports were published in the local newspapers, and her dedication to maintaining high standards for her pupils is a common thread throughout her writing. In her 1867-1868 annual report, she lamented the need to prematurely promote younger students to the upper grades to prevent empty classrooms, and 'consequently the standard for admission was constantly being lowered.' Once the enrollment increased, "the standard for admission" was "elevated and sustained."

In 1870, Starkweather piloted a nascent special education program for students, creating a program where students "are not degraded, but placed where they can pursue just those studies which are absolutely necessary for transacting ordinary business without adhering strictly to the course of study prescribed for other scholars." This pragmatic approach was likely among the first programs of its kind in American public schooling.

Starkweather was a strong proponent of regular attendance of students, chastising parents for withdrawing their students for days or weeks for 'frivolous reasons.' She also argued against students skipping the younger grades at the Barnard Street School to join the High School at an older age, noting 'the importance of careful and judicious primary instructions cannot be overestimated.'

On May 3, 1881, the school board unanimously appointed Starkweather as the superintendent of West Chester schools, at a salary of \$1,300 per year. While she was not the first female superintendent in schools in the United States, she was among the first. During her tenure as superintendent, she oversaw the opening of the High Street School, located on the west side of High Street between Dean and Price Streets, to curtail overcrowding of schools.

One of the major hurdles she dealt with during her time as superintendent was the retention of male students. Locals expressed a need for the teaching of trades, citing the lack of skilled tradesmen available at the time. Starkweather was apparently hesitant to do so within the public schools, though she clearly recognized the importance of industrial arts training for boys. When asked her view on the matter, she stated, "If persons of liberal sentiments will note the number of young boys who linger about the streets by the hour, day and night, so destitute of resources for diversion that they can find nothing better than indulgence in cigarette smoking and ribald conversation... a hint may be found for inaugurating a movement that would be of incalculable benefit. These boys would be far less likely to become vicious, if not allowed to form habits of idleness, which lead to dissipation and crime. An industrial educational association, modeled after those which are now successful in cities, and organized outside of schools, might prove its efficacy as a saving power before the slow machinery of a complex system can be brought into full play." In January 1889, the decision was made by the school board and the Board of Trade to provide a room in the High School suited to the teaching of the industrial arts. West Chester became the third town in the state (after Philadelphia and Pittsburgh) to offer teaching of the trades in the public schools.



The High School, also known as the Church Street School, where Sarah Starkweather got her start as a teacher and eventually became principal.

After the 1889 school year, Starkweather resigned to marry Major William Streeter, a businessman in Rochester, New York, and a veteran of the Civil War. The loss of Starkweather was felt acutely by the community, with a member of the public stating to a reporter of the *Jeffersonian* in 1889, "I regard her resignation from her position in the schools as a public calamity. She knew every child in town and ruled them all by love." Sarah died in 1918, and the members of the community remembered her many contributions to the public schools. At the time, a memorial in her name was proposed. In 1991, an elementary school in Westtown Township was named in her honor.



Sarah Starkweather, superintendent of West Chester schools from 1881-1889.

SOURCES:

A Legacy of Learning: The History of the West Chester Area Schools, by Florence Sechler Miller, 1994.

"Manual Training", *Daily Local News*, November 21, 1888.

"Miss Starkweather's Resignation", *The Jeffersonian*, July 27, 1889.

"Friends Pay Tribute to Mrs. Streeter", *Daily Local News*, December 9, 1918.

Historical Commission 2025 Lecture Series

Talks are free and open to the public. They take place at 10 am on Saturdays in Stokes Hall at the Westtown Township building, 1039 Wilmington Pike.

APR
05

Chester County's War Generals

Led by local historian, lecturer and author David Walter, the presentation will highlight the careers of ten soldiers with Chester County connections who served in the American Civil War. Several were heroes, including a young man from West Chester who won the Medal of Honor. Come learn more about the courageous leaders who helped bind up the nation.

JUN
07

The Crebilly Farm Legacy

Westtown's expansive open space, its history, and possible future.

SEP
20

Westtown School and the Township's Quaker Tradition

How a prominent Quaker school evolved with Westtown, beginning in 1799.

NOV
01

Dark History: Murder, Madness & Misadventure in Penn's Woods

This program features true tales from the mysterious history of Delaware and Chester Counties. Hear cases of witchcraft and natural disasters. Learn how one woman's murder trial in the 18th century changed the Pennsylvania legal system forever, and how the system of indentured servitude might have driven one young man to commit the most heinous of crimes.

Historical Commission Vacancies

If you have a passion for local history, then consider giving back to your community by volunteering for the Historical Commission. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Township Building. To apply, please send a brief resume and statement of interest to historical@westtown.org. Applicants must be current in all municipal obligations.

Friends of Oakbourne News

By Tom Bare, Friends of Oakbourne

Most of the articles I write for the Gazette have to do with the trees and benches we plant/install in Oakbourne Park's arboretum. However, there are lots of other tasks involved in the upkeep and maintenance of the trees that are planted.

For example, while last spring of was replete with lots of rain, mid and late-Summer was hard on our recently planted arboretum trees because of the hot weather and lack of rainfall. When this happens, FoO waters newly planted trees and shrubs weekly to ensure they are supplied with sufficient water to survive drought conditions. We use a utility vehicle with a 200 gallon water tank to water newly planted trees as well as our other relatively young trees that appear to be stressed. We also use 10 gallon tree water bags that provide water over a prolonged period on some trees. In spite of our efforts, we lost a newly planted weeping cherry tree that will be replaced next spring.

FoO not only prunes our trees as they mature, but we also maintain the tree's fencing to protect them from voracious deer. We've learned that we must remain vigilant with our fencing because we've lost a tree or two in the past from deer rubbing their antlers on trees with compromised fencing. Deer especially are fond of smaller diameter (1 - 2 inches) trees which, are the sizes of trees that we plant. We remove tree fencing when the diameter of the tree's trunk reaches 4- 5 inches.

And then there are unanticipated problems that arise. FoO recently designed a garden area at the back entrance of Oakbourne Park's stone water tower. The garden plan included two trees that would remain relatively small (mature size: 10 - 20 feet), so as not to overwhelm the garden. One of the trees is a Rising Sun Redbud, a variety of native redbud with leaves that first emerge as orange and then gradually, as they age, transform successively into peach, yellow, chartreuse, and finally a green color. We thought this would be a beautiful and ideal tree for the garden until rain and/or wind snapped several of the tree's main branches over the 3 years since planting the tree. We have yet to decide whether to replace this tree or try to save and reshape it so it is not lopsided.

Future projects for FoO include:

- Complete a witch hazel garden that was started near the Park entrance with the addition of four witch hazel trees. This garden will provide some early color and fragrance since witch hazel blooms in late winter/early spring.
- With the assistance of a professional garden designer and coordination with the Township, create plans for the garden areas on both sides of the Mansion's front entrance. These gardens have been in decline for years and are in need of renovation to provide a beautiful mansion entry area.



Rising Sun Redbud - south view.
**Notice full appearance from this side.*



Rising Sun Redbud - north view.
**Notice void on this side caused by broken limbs.*

Interested In Donating A Park Bench Or Tree?

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 and Arboretum to honor a special person or loved one or to commemorate an important occasion.

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

The Westtown Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) provides advisement to the Board of Supervisors on matters dealing with protection, conservation, management, promotion, and use of natural resources. The natural resources include air, land, and water resources, located within the Township. In addition, the EAC serves an important role in providing local community outreach and education through regular programming and scheduled events.

The EAC's approach to enhancing sustainability and preserving the environment is to demonstrate leadership by example at the personal level and to inspire action at the citizen level. To that end, the EAC conducted a number of activities in 2024 including invasive plant removal and riparian buffer restoration in the Plumly Open Space, and hosting residential composting demonstrations. The EAC was instrumental in having Westtown become the 52nd town in Pennsylvania to join Bird Town PA. EAC members also attend continuing education webinars and networking events, and partner with other organizations such as the Stroud Water Research Center and the Goose Creek Alliance. In addition, EAC members participated in the CRC Watersheds annual stream cleanup at the Goose Creek location. Information on this year's CRC Stream Cleanup on March 29 is on the back cover of this newsletter

Get Involved

Spring Cleanup At Crebilly Preserve

WHEN: Saturday, April 26, 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

WHERE: Meet at the Westminister Presbyterian Church parking lot located at 10 W. Pleasant Grove Road, West Chester

WHAT: Volunteers will be provided with safety vests and trash bags and work in teams. For more information and to register, please visit the EAC page of the Township website westtownpa.org/eac.



The EAC compost demonstration and coloring table at Westtown Day 2024 was a hit!

Down the Road!

The Westtown EAC plans to host at least two roadside cleanups in 2025. Keep an eye out for more information on the Township's website and in the Gazette.

Westtown Community Garden: Growing Together and Giving Back

By Tom Wittig, Garden Club Member

The Westtown Community Garden has been making a significant impact on both our local environment and community by donating over a ton of organic produce to the West Chester Food Pantry in the last few years. With a dedicated space for growing food specifically for the pantry and additional contributions from each gardener, the garden has become a key supporter of local food security.

We're also proud to share that two of our gardeners, Evelyn and Jane, won first place at the 2024 Goshen Country Fair, earning a blue ribbon for their stunning Juliette Tomato. Grown right here in their community garden box, this award highlights the dedication and talent of our gardeners.

The Westtown Community Garden isn't just about vegetables. We grow cutting flowers and herbs, adding beauty and fragrance to our space while encouraging biodiversity. Each fall, we open the garden to visitors on Westtown Day. It's a great time to come visit, meet our gardeners, and learn more about the work we're doing to grow and give back.

For more information about the garden or to plan a visit, please call the Township office at 610-692-1930 or email parkrec@westtown.org. We'd love for you to see what we're growing!

WEGO News

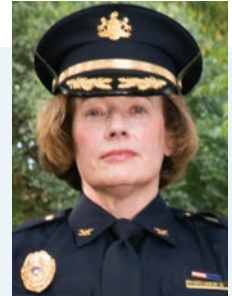
The Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department announces the retirement of Chief of Police Dr. Brenda Bernot, a distinguished leader whose commitment to public safety and community service has left an indelible mark on the department and the communities of Westtown, East Goshen, and Thornbury. After four decades in law enforcement service and having served as Chief of the department since 2013, Chief Bernot finished her service on December 31, 2024 and will retire on April 6, 2025.

Chief Bernot has been a trailblazer in modern law enforcement, advocating for initiatives prioritizing community engagement, officer wellness, and technological advancements. Under her leadership, the department has achieved numerous milestones, including department accreditation, crime reduction, and community programs. Her transparent and compassionate approach to leadership has strengthened the bond between the police force and the community.

Throughout her career, Chief Bernot has been recognized for her unwavering dedication to excellence and innovation in policing. Her retirement marks the culmination of a remarkable career characterized by integrity, accountability, and an unyielding focus on community well-being.

The Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Department is grateful for Chief Bernot's leadership and commitment, which have positioned the department as an effective and compassionate law enforcement model. As the department transitions to new leadership, it remains committed to upholding the high standards set during Chief Bernot's tenure.

The Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of Lieutenant David Leahy as Interim Police Chief, effective immediately. Lieutenant Leahy will step into the leadership role following Chief Brenda Bernot's retirement, bringing with him a wealth of experience, dedication, and a deep commitment to serving the communities of Westtown and East Goshen.



Key accomplishments during Chief Bernot's tenure include:

- **Enhanced Community Policing:** Launching numerous initiatives, such as a Community Services Officer, Coffee with a Cop, and a Citizen Police Academy to build stronger, trust-based relationships with the community.
- **Innovative Training Programs:** Advocating for and implementing cutting-edge training emphasizing de-escalation, cultural competency, and mental health awareness.
- **Modernized Policing:** Introducing advanced tools and data-driven strategies to enhance public safety and operational efficiency.

Recognizing Officer Ryan Benningfield

Officer Benningfield has served with WEGO since 2015 and is currently assigned to the patrol division. Officer Benningfield is a firearms instructor with WEGO and assigned to the West Chester Regional Emergency Response Team as a Tactical Operator. He has received extensive training in impaired driving enforcement and has been certified as a Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor. In 2020, Officer Benningfield was certified as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In September 2024, Officer Benningfield completed the rigorous courses involved to become certified a DRE Instructor, one of only 1600 in the United States.

DRE's are certified to perform the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP), which focuses on training police officers to recognize when an individual has been driving under the influence of drugs and to identify the type of drug causing impairment. Officer Benningfield plans to continue to use his training to keep the highways of Westtown and East Goshen safe by detecting impaired motorists. In addition, Officer Benningfield can be utilized by any agency that is investigating a drug-impaired motorist, at no cost to the Department or Townships that he serves. Officer Benningfield's expertise and response to assist any department is fully funded by the Center for Traffic Safety and PennDOT's Division of Highway Safety & Traffic Operations.



April Is Safe Digging Awareness 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.



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

The call before you dig process helps to prevent injuries, property damage, and inconvenient utility outages.

Call811.com

Spring Stormwater Management Tips

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.

- **Spring Is A Great Time To Plant A Tree:**

At maturity, a large tree can intercept over 1,000 gallons of rainwater each year. Its foliage reduces runoff by intercepting rain, and their canopies reduce the force of rain hitting the soil, reducing erosion.

- **Consider Creating New Focal Points In Your Yard:**

Replace grass with a rain garden or pocket meadow. Learn more at www.westtownpa.org/storm-water

- **Leave Grass Clippings:**

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. Grass clippings supply up to 50% of nitrogen and phosphorus needs, reducing the need for fertilizer, which can pollute streams.

- **Mulch Properly:**

Mulch beds help retain water and prevent weeds, but avoid volcano mulching. Remove old excess mulch before adding fresh mulch. Too much mulch prevents roots from getting sufficient oxygen, and underlying roots can rot or girdle. Wet mulch against the tree bark can damage the bark and underlying tissue, leading to fungus, disease, and eventual death of the tree.

- **Test Your Soil:**

Healthy soil grows healthy turf, which can absorb more rainwater. Visit the Penn State Agricultural Sciences website for soil fertility testing information and fees: <https://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/soil-testing/fertility>

Important Dates

MARCH, 2025

- 3, 17 - Board of Supervisors
- 5, 19 - Planning Commission
- 7 - Yard Waste Collection
- 11 - Historical Commission
- 18 - Parks & Rec Commission
- 25 - Environmental Advisory Council
- 29 - CRC Streams Cleanup

APRIL, 2025

- 4 - Yard Waste Collection
- 5 - History Lecture
- 7, 21 - Board of Supervisors
- 8 - Historical Commission
- 9, 23 - Planning Commission
- 12 - P&R Egg Hike
- 15 - Parks & Rec Commission
- 17 - Friends of Oakbourne
- 18 - Office Closed
- 22 - Environmental Advisory Council
- 26 - EAC Spring Cleanup

MAY, 2025

- 2 - Yard Waste Collection
- 5, 19 - Board of Supervisors
- 7, 21 - Planning Commission
- 13 - Historical Commission
- 20 - Parks & Rec Commission
- 26 - Office Closed
- 27 - Environmental Advisory Council

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

Parks & Recreation News

EGG HIKE AT OAKBOURNE PARK



Saturday, April 12th

10 AM to 12 PM*
1014 S. Concord Road

Get a map at the park pavilion and hit the trails to locate egg pickup stations. Keep your eyes peeled along the way for hidden golden eggs with special prizes! This is a rain-or-shine, BYOB (Bring Your Own Basket) event.

Registration will be required for this popular event. Details will be posted on the Township website in March.

**or while supplies last*



P&R COMMISSION VACANCIES

If you enjoy activities such as the Egg Hike, summer concerts and movies, and Westtown Day, or have ideas for other events and programs, then please consider volunteering on the P&R Commission to make them happen! We meet monthly on the third Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Oakbourne Mansion. To apply, please send a brief statement of interest or resume to parkrec@westtown.org. Applicants must be current in all municipal obligations.



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 and 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 pickup 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, TVs, 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's website.

ELECTRONIC WASTE

TVs, 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 TVs). 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 materials 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!





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

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Help clean a stream near you!

At CRC's 27th Annual...

Streams CLEANUP



Saturday, March 29, 2025

9:00-11:30AM

Register between February 10th
and March 21st



Find your site & register!

Join 1,000+ other volunteers
throughout Delaware &
Chester counties to remove
litter from our creeks.



www.crcwatersheds.org/what-we-do/streams-cleanup